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Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Heroin Dealer Sentenced to Mandatory 16 Year Prison Sentence

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, October 18, 2017) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Paul Gallagher sentenced Ernest Bennett, 43, of Herberich Avenue in Akron, to 16 years in prison on two separate cases, one dating back to 2015. Bennett is not eligible for parole, and must serve the entire 16 year sentence.

On August 9, 2017, Bennett pled to the following charges:

- Trafficking in Heroin – a felony of the 1st degree
- Possession of Heroin – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Possession of Cocaine – a felony of the 3rd degree
- Having a Weapon Under Disability – a felony of the 3rd degree

In November of 2015, Akron Police pulled Bennett over while Bennett was driving along Reed Avenue. Officers discovered two baggies of heroin weighing a total of 58 grams hidden in the center console of Bennett's vehicle. Bennett was also driving without a valid driver's license. Then in February of 2017, while Bennett was out on bond for the 2015 incident, Akron Police searched Bennett's residence. Inside they found two guns, heroin, cocaine, and drug paraphernalia.

Bennett has a long criminal history dating back more than 20 years. He has been convicted of domestic violence, robbery, and aggravated robbery.

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“Criminals like Ernest Bennett are one of the reasons for our heroin epidemic. With the help of local police, we are doing everything we can to clean up our streets,” said Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott. “These grim reapers who peddle poison in our neighborhoods are going to be caught and held accountable and serve a significant amount of time behind bars.”