



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Pleads Guilty to Crash Which Seriously Injured Cuyahoga Falls Police Officer**

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, March 20, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Donald Watson, 47, of Cutler Parkway in Akron, pled guilty in connection with an incident which resulted in a Cuyahoga Falls police officer being severely injured.

Watson pled guilty to the following charges:

- Attempted Murder – a felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- Felonious Assault – a felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- Aggravated Arson – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Vandalism – a felony of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree
- Seven Counts of Attempted Aggravated Vehicular Assault – felonies of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree

On July 23, 2016, the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department received several calls from a man saying he was going to kill them. As the calls were coming in, officers observed a red truck in the parking lot striking a parked cruiser. Officers chased the truck, which was driven by Donald Watson. During the chase, Watson swerved at several vehicles, including a police cruiser. He also struck another car. Travelling at a high rate of speed, Watson was on Broad Street when he drove across a gap in the center median and slammed into a Cuyahoga Falls Police SUV, driven by Officer Ted Davis. Officer Davis was seriously injured as a result of the crash.

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Earlier in the day, Watson set a fire in his home and suffered burns to his legs. The home had minor damage.

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Jason Wells is scheduled to sentence Watson on March 29, 2018 at 9am.