



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Crash Which Seriously Injured Cuyahoga Falls Police Officer**

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, March 29, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Jason Wells sentenced Donald Watson, 47, of Cutler Parkway in Akron, to 20 years in prison for an incident which resulted in a Cuyahoga Falls police officer being severely injured.

On March 20, 2018, 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

In the early morning of July 23, 2016, the Defendant Donald Watson called the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department and told them he wanted to kill police officers. Minutes later, Watson hit an empty parked cruiser at the Police Department. The Defendant drove off and then swerved at a police cruiser traveling in the opposite direction. The officer turned around and chased Watson who swerved at multiple vehicles, striking a car full of four people. Watson then turned down Broad Street where he drove across a gap in the center median and slammed into a Cuyahoga Falls Police SUV, driven by Officer Ted Davis.

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Officer Davis suffered serious injuries as a result of the crash including broken ribs, a fractured pelvis, and a ruptured diaphragm.

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