

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Gang Member Pleads Guilty to Shooting Akron Woman

(October 18, 2013... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that William B. Dawson, 22, of Cuyahoga Street in Akron, pleaded guilty to Felonious Assault, a felony of the second degree, with a firearm specification; Participating in a Criminal Gang, a felony of the second degree; Carrying a Concealed Weapon, a felony of the fourth degree; Aggravated Menacing, a misdemeanor of the first degree; and Possession of Marijuana, a minor misdemeanor.

On the evening of January 24, 59-year-old Wylene Edwards was driving down Elma Street in Akron when she saw some young men walking down the middle of the road. Edwards flashed her high beams at the men to alert them there was a car driving toward them. Dawson, the leader of the FOG gang, responded by firing his gun at Edwards several times. One bullet grazed her right shoulder, a second bullet hit her left shoulder and a third bullet hit her windshield. The bullet is still in Edwards' shoulder because it is too close to a major artery to safely remove.

On March 6, before Dawson had been identified as the person who shot Edwards, Dawson pulled a gun on a United States Postal Service mail carrier. Dawson threatened to shoot the mailman for walking in "his" alley. The police were able to recover and test the gun from that incident. It matched the gun used to shoot Edwards.

The FOG gang is the same group responsible for the 2012 murder of immigrant Karma Tamang. FOG member Corey Hardison is serving a life sentence for Tamang's murder.

Judge Tammy O'Brien will sentence Dawson on November 21 at 1:30 p.m.