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Barberton Man Sentenced for Starting Fire Which Killed Two Dogs

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, April 14, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Alison McCarty sentenced Justin Garrett, 29, of East Ford Avenue in Barberton, to ten years in prison for breaking into a neighbor's home and setting it on fire. Two dogs died as a result of the fire. As part of his sentence, Garrett must also register as an Arson Offender for the rest of his life.

On March 17, 2016, Garrett pled guilty to the following charges:

- Aggravated Arson – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Burglary – a felony of the 3rd degree
- Injuring Animals – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree
- Prohibitions Concerning Companion Animals – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree

On Christmas Day 2015, Barberton Police and Fire were called to a house fire on East Ford Avenue. Upon arrival, first responders noticed the home's rear door had been pried open. The home owners also discovered the family's two dogs had died in the fire. One was a companion dog for the couple's daughter, who has Downs Syndrome. Investigators observed the next-door neighbor, Justin Garrett, walking in his backyard and carrying a large flat screen television. As officers walked over to ask questions, Garrett took off. He was eventually caught a few blocks later. Officers searched Garrett's room and discovered other items which were reported missing from the neighbor's home, as well as a screwdriver believed to be used to pry the back door open.