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Former University Professor Pleads Guilty to Meeting Underage Teen for Sex

AKRON, Ohio (Monday, July 25, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Willie Harrell, 45, of Arnold Avenue in Akron, pled guilty in connection with meeting an underage teen for sex.

Harrell pled guilty to the following charge:

- Importuning – a felony of the 5th degree

In August of 2015, Akron Police arrested Harrell in the parking lot of an elementary school. Harrell, who was a local university professor at the time, was with a 15-year-old boy. Harrell told police he met the boy through an online site and drove to the school parking lot with the intent of having sex.

While out on bond, Harrell attempted to flee into Canada. Harrell was turned away at the border, and was released back into the U.S. In March of 2016, Harrell was caught in Louisiana and extradited back to Summit County.

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Amy Corrigan Jones is scheduled to sentence Harrell on September 26, 2016 at 2pm.