

## MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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### **Drug Dealer Found Guilty of Felonious Assault on a Police Officer**

(June 18, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Jesse Gooden, 29, of Akron, was found guilty of **Felonious Assault on a Police Officer**, a felony of the first degree, **Failure to Comply**, a felony of the third degree, and **Vandalism**, a felony of the fifth degree. He will be sentenced by Judge McCarty on July 2, 2009.

Undercover Police observed Gooden in October of last year after they perceived a drug transaction occurring inside Gooden's car in the parking lot of a McDonald's restaurant. An officer in an unmarked police car pulled behind Gooden's car in the parking lot, blocking it as two officers approached both driver and passenger side doors. Gooden put his car into reverse, gunning it into the police car behind his. After backing as far as possible, he pulled forward, driving directly at a police officer. The officer narrowly escaped, firing four shots at Gooden. At least two of the bullets struck the defendant. After the shots, Gooden fled at a high rate of speed onto the expressway; he was later discovered while being treated at a hospital for gunshot wounds.

After his capture, Gooden told police he was the passenger in the vehicle and he did not know who the driver was, who he referred to only as "dude." Police investigation later matched his DNA to the blood in the car, found only on the driver's side. Ballistics proved he could only have been the driver of the vehicle.

He faces a maximum of 16 years in prison.