

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Man Guilty of Major Drug Charges and Gang Activity**

(March 24, 2009, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Ray Gaiter, 29, of Akron, Ohio, was found guilty late yesterday afternoon by a jury of Possession of Cocaine (with a Major Drug Offender Specification), a felony of the first degree, Participating in a Criminal Gang, a felony of the second degree, Failure to Comply, Tampering with Evidence and Having Weapons Under Disability, all felonies of the third degree, and Carrying a Concealed Weapon, a felony of the fourth degree. Judge Hunter found that the defendant was guilty of Possession of Marijuana and Speeding, both minor misdemeanors.

On April 16, 2008, officers were following Gaiter in his vehicle and saw him throw something out of the window. When an officer retrieved the item, 134 grams of crack cocaine was discovered. After throwing the drugs out of the window, Gaiter refused to stop and a pursuit ensued. He was later apprehended after a short foot chase. A gang charge was added later when officers from the Akron Gang Unit discovered that he was a member of the Kaika Klan.

While Gaiter was out on bond for the April 16, 2008 offense, he was pulled over for a traffic violation (February 11, 2009). At that time, officers found a loaded gun in the center console.

Gaiter will be sentenced by Judge Judith Hunter on April 21, 2009.