

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

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### **Jury finds robber guilty**

(February 5, 2009) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that George Howe, 23, of Cleveland, was found guilty by a jury of Aggravated Robbery, a felony of the first degree with a gun specification, Robbery, a felony of the second degree with a gun specification, Failure to Comply with Order of a Police Officer, a felony of the third degree, and Receiving Stolen Property, a felony of the fourth degree.

Howe will be sentenced on February 24, at 2:00 p.m. in Judge Hunter's courtroom.

On October 23, 2008, Howe was arrested in Akron after leading officers on a seven minute high speed car chase through the Summit Lakes area. Officers initially tried to pull him over after recognizing the car he was driving as stolen. The Defendant eventually ditched his car after hitting a dead end and fled on foot. Officers caught up to him a few blocks away and arrested him.

At the time of his arrest, the Defendant was wearing a green jacket, with a distinctive tag on the back, dark pants and white shoes. A white t-shirt sleeve (ripped to be used as a mask) was in his pockets and a white plastic bag.

The description matched the suspect in a robbery that happened in Barberton at Rocky's Drive Thru just an hour earlier. A male wearing a green jacket, dark pants and a white mask covering his face entered a store, pulled out his gun and demanded that the individuals in the store put the money in his white plastic bag. The three individuals in the store at the time were the store owner, a high school student employee, and a customer. The Defendant got away with about \$20 in singles. After the Defendant left, the owner followed him outside in order to see the type of car the Defendant was driving and Howe began to shoot at the owner. The owner shot back. The Defendant threw most of the money in the air and ran away. No one was injured in the exchange of bullets.