

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Lisa Holdt
(330) 643-2800

Man sentenced in home invasion that resulted in dog's death

(December 29, 2009, Akron) ...Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced that Melvin Prince, 18, of Akron, was sentenced today to four years in prison on charges stemming from the Burglary of the Hixenbaugh family and the beating of their dog.

On November 24, 2009, Prince pled guilty to Burglary, a felony of the second degree, three counts of Grand Theft, felonies of the third degree, Grand Theft, a felony of the fourth degree, two counts of Theft, felonies of the fifth degree, and Cruelty to Animals, a misdemeanor.

In February 2009, Prince and Napoleon Lewis broke into an elderly couple's home. Once inside, the two were greeted by the victims barking five pound, eight-year-old Shih Tzu. In an attempt to quiet the dog, they kicked the dog against the living room wall and then continued to hit the dog on its head and body.

The two then ransacked the victims' house stealing a desktop computer, two shotguns, cash, jewelry, prescription drugs, a checkbook, several collectible German beer steins and liquor bottles. They then stole the victims' pickup truck.

Napoleon is scheduled to stand trial on February 18, 2010. The dog eventually had to be put to sleep due to the extent of her injuries.