

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Two Cases: Six year sentences

(Akron, January 7, 2009) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that **Marquita Ross**, 22, of Akron, was sentenced today by Judge Elinore Stormer to six years in prison for her role in the car jacking of a pregnant woman at Summit Mall. Judge Stormer also sentenced **Jemar Simmons**, 18, of Akron, to six years for Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, Robbery, Felonious Assault, Obstructing, and Possession of Marijuana.

Ross pled guilty on December 9, 2008, and attempted to downplay her role in the robbery. She also claimed that she did not know her co-defendant, Antony Jeffries, 29, also of Akron, who is now serving 10 years for his role in the same crime.

On December 17, 2007, Ross helped Jeffries by approaching a female Victim and demanding her car keys as she was unlocking her vehicle in the parking lot at Summit Mall. The woman said no and got in her vehicle. Jeffries then brandished a gun at the Victim, tapping on the car window and telling her to get out of the car and leave her purse. As the Victim was forced out of the car, she threw her keys at the Defendants, and ran into the mall for help.

Ross was sentenced three years for the Aggravated Robbery and three years for the gun specification, consecutive.

Jemar Simmons was convicted by a jury on October 20, 2008. The Defendant and another unknown male attacked a male Victim while he was at another person's apartment. The Defendant had what appeared to be a hammer and the other man had a knife. They beat the Victim in front of his four-year-old daughter. The Victim had to climb out a window to get away. When the police were called by neighbors/witnesses, Simmons and the unknown man began to walk off with the four-year old girl. The Defendant was identified as the one holding the girl's hand as she was crying to go back to her dad. When the police showed up, he let go of the little girl and ran. The second man was never identified and the Defendant refused to give information about him (he claimed he didn't know him, only by a nickname).

The Victim received two stitches above his eye for a laceration and 11 staples in his head. Simmons admitted he was there and stated he was trying to "help the little girl cross the street," but denied any involvement in the attack despite several witnesses who identified him.