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Akron Man Found Guilty of Raping Woman He Knew

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, July 13, 2021) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a Summit County jury found Stacey Roper, 29, of Brownstone Avenue in Akron, guilty of raping a developmentally disabled woman he knew.

Jurors found Roper guilty of the following charges:

- Six Counts of Rape – felonies of the 1st Degree
- Two Counts of Kidnapping – felonies of the 1st Degree
- One Count of Felonious Assault – a felony of the 2nd Degree
- One Count of Corruption of Another with Drugs – a felony of the 2nd Degree

In February of 2021, a co-worker of the victim contacted Cuyahoga Falls Police to have them conduct a welfare check. The woman had managed to email work telling them she needed help and that there was a man in her apartment who was being violent. The woman eventually told officers Roper repeatedly beat her. Investigators determined Roper struck her with a hammer and meat tenderizer. Roper also tied her up and forced her to ingest pills. When she passed out, Roper raped her. The victim needed to undergo surgery as a result of the attack.

At trial, Roper demanded to defend himself as the Constitution permits. Following the announcement of the jury's verdict, Roper spit in the face of the assistant prosecutor. Additional charges are pending.

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Avery, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office facility dog, sat with the survivor as the woman testified at trial. Avery was also with the woman every time she came to the Prosecutor's Office.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office received Avery II in August of 2013 from Canine Companions for Independence. Avery is a highly trained nine-and-a-half-year-old Labrador/Retriever mix facility dog, whose primary job is to provide emotional support to adults with developmental disabilities and children who are victims of crime. Since 2013, Avery II has been involved in 196 cases in Summit County.

Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Susan Baker Ross is scheduled to sentence Roper on August 20, 2021 at 8:30am.