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Akron Man Sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for Rape

James Walters Pled Guilty to 2019 Sexual Assault

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, December 8, 2021) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Susan Baker Ross sentenced James Walters, 46, of East Buchtel Avenue in Akron, to LIFE IN PRISON for rape. Walters will be eligible for parole after serving 10 years of his sentence.

Prior to sentencing, Walters pled guilty to the following charge:

- Rape with a Sexually Violent Predator specification – a Felony of the 1st Degree

Walters was declared a Sexually Violent Predator, which increased his sentence to a life sentence based upon his sexual assault of another woman in 2001. Judge Baker Ross also designated Walters a Tier III sex offender. If released from prison, Walters will have to register with the local sheriff every 90 days for the rest of his life.

In April of 2019, Walters convinced the then 27-year-old woman to go back to his house. While the two were at the house, Walters became aggressive. The woman attempted to escape through a bathroom window. Walters broke into the bathroom, grabbed the woman and raped her. The woman ran out of the home and was eventually taken to Akron General Medical Center where nurses gathered evidence for a sexual assault kit. Investigators found Walters' DNA on the woman.