

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Cuyahoga Falls Man Sentenced to Eight Years in Prison for OVI

(May 23, 2013...Akron)...Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today Judge Tammy O'Brien sentenced Edward South, 70, of Highpoint Lane in Cuyahoga Falls, to eight years in prison.

South crashed into a pole on December 26, 2012 in Cuyahoga Falls and walked away from the scene. No one was injured in the crash. Cuyahoga Falls police tracked South to his daughter's house. South later blew a .087 in a breath test. He was driving on a suspended license at the time of the crash.

"Mr. South was convicted of OVI 12 times over the past 25 years, but who knows how many times he risked the lives of himself and others by getting behind the wheel drunk," said Prosecutor Walsh. "For the sake of this community, I hope that Mr. South will spend these eight years realizing how lucky he was that no one was injured this time. The next time Mr. South has a few drinks, I hope he is smart enough to find a ride home."

On May 13, a jury found South guilty of two counts of Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence, both felonies of the third degree, as well as a specification for having five prior offenses in the last 20 years. South has a prior felony OVI conviction from Portage County.