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## **CRIME ALERT!**

**FROM: PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

**DATE: APRIL 15, 2008**

### **83-Year-Old Woman Carjacked in Broad Daylight!**

Recently, an elderly woman was the victim of a carjacking in broad daylight. On March 25, a man approached the window of a 1994 Chevy Impala as the 83-year-old driver was backing out of her parking space at a Cuyahoga Falls Acme. The man tapped on the woman's window and informed her that she had struck him with her vehicle. He then reached into the car and grabbed the woman's purse. As the woman struggled to keep her purse, the man pulled her from the car. The man then jumped into the driver's seat and, in his effort to escape, he struck the woman and another vehicle as he drove away.

The elderly victim was taken to Akron City Hospital for treatment for her injuries, which were not life-threatening. The car was set on fire and abandoned behind an apartment building in Akron. The suspect has not yet been located. Unfortunately, this type of scam often gets the intended target off their guard, out of concern that they may have injured someone.

If someone should approach you, seeking assistance for any reason, keep your guard up. Criminals can be very convincing actors in order to get what they want – your money, your car, or, in some cases, to assault the victim. Being in your vehicle doesn't mean you are safe. Keep your doors locked at all times and do not roll down your window for anyone. If someone approaches you, either drive away or offer to call the police for them on your cell phone. If you don't have a cell phone, still offer, as they don't know whether you have one or not. If they are truly in need of assistance, they will have no problem with you calling the police.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list to receive alerts and other useful information from my office, please call (330) 643-2796.

Please feel free to call my office anytime if there is any way we can assist you.