**Michael C. O'Malley**
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

**Eddie Burns Sentenced to 27 Years
for Six-Month Violent Robbery Spree**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**March 21, 2019**

CLEVELAND – Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced that Eddie Burns, 17, was sentenced today to 27 years in prison for six robberies in Cleveland and Solon that occurred between August 2017 and February 2018.

"The defendant specifically targeted the elderly and victims who could not fight back. The level of violence he demonstrated is rarely seen in this community," said Prosecutor O'Malley. "He had numerous opportunities to change his behavior and never did so. Twenty-seven years is a fitting sentence."

On August 10th, 2017, Burns approached a 77-year-old man who was attempting to withdraw cash from an ATM at a convenience store in Cleveland near St. Clair Ave and E. 105th Street. He punched the victim in the face, robbed him of cash, and fled the scene. Later that night, Burns returned to the convenience store where he became disruptive. He was apprehended after the store owner recognized Burns from the earlier crime. Burns failed to show up for a scheduled court date at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court.

On November 13th, 2017, Burns and another male broke into the house of an 87-year-old man in Cleveland near St. Clair Ave and E. 99th Street. Once inside, Burns attacked the victim by repeatedly punching him in the face, head, and body. Burns and the other male then tied the victim to a chair with duct tape, stole the victim's credit cards and household appliances, and fled the scene. The victim was able to free himself the following morning, but suffered several injuries including bleeding on the brain and major bruising on his face and back. The victim's injuries required him to spend two weeks in the hospital and an additional two weeks in rehab.

On December 28th, 2017, Burns and two other males robbed a local news reporter and cameraman in Cleveland near St. Clair Ave and E. 99th Street. The victims were inside their station truck parked on the street reporting on a story when Burns and two to three other males attacked them. They pulled open the truck doors, pointed a gun at the cameraman, and demanded both victims' phones threatening to kill them before they ran away.

On January 6th, 2018, Burns and Courdell Walcott, 17, robbed a cable worker who was doing an installation job in Cleveland near St. Clair Ave and E. 101st Street. They stole the victim's tablet, spectrum meter, cell phone, and wallet. They pointed a gun at the victim, demanded his ATM pin, and

fled the scene.  Walcott pled guilty to multiple Aggravated Robberies and was sentenced yesterday to 13 years in prison.

On January 21st, 2018, Burns, Walcott, and two other males robbed an Amazon delivery driver in Solon near Longview Dr and Arthur Road.  The driver had pulled to the side of the road when the group pulled up behind him.  Walcott exited the vehicle and pointed a gun at the victim robbing him of his belongings before driving off in the delivery truck that contained approximately 65 packages.

On February 7th, 2018, Burns approached a 76-year-old woman carrying groceries into her house in Cleveland near St. Clair Ave and E. 99th Street.  He grabbed the victim's purse, pushed her to the ground, and used her walking cane to beat her.  When the victim's 81-year-old husband noticed the attack, he ran outside and threw himself on top of her to shield the blows.  Burns then hit him with the cane in his head and body multiple times and then began repeatedly stomping him in the head, body, and stomach.  Burns fled the scene until he realized he did not have the victim's pin number.  Moments later, he returned to continue beating the woman and threatened to kill her if she did not provide an accurate pin number.

A short time later, Burns was apprehended by Cleveland Police.  Officers had been tracing a stolen car to the area and saw Burns running across the street.  They followed him into a residence and arrested him after noticing several of the victims' credit cards and purse on the basement floor.

Both the 76-year-old and 81-year-old victims suffered multiple injuries.  The female victim had substantial facial swelling and lacerations that required multiple stitches.  Her husband suffered facial lacerations and eight facial fractures that required hospitalization for several days.  He died a few weeks later from natural causes as ruled by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Investigation by Cleveland Police 5th District detectives and Solon Police Department tied Burns to each crime.  Burns was identified by several victims and in multiple incidents he was identified by surveillance footage that showed him using victims' credit cards and attempting to sell victims' phones in nearby stores.

Eddie Burns was bound over from Juvenile Court in October 2018.  He pled guilty on March 14th to Attempted Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, Robbery, and Receiving Stolen Property.  He was sentenced today to 27 years in prison.