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Summit County Prosecutor's Office Transferring Officer Use-Of-Force Investigations to Ohio Attorney General

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, June 25, 2020) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that all current open reviews by her office of law enforcement use-of-force will be transferred to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The move follows Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's recent announcement of proposed reforms to law enforcement and officer use of force investigations.

During a Wednesday, June 17, 2020 news conference, Governor DeWine and Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost called on the Ohio General Assembly to mandate that qualified, independent investigative agencies review all officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths.

"The concept of internally investigating these incidents is outdated and does not inspire public trust," said Governor DeWine at his Wednesday June 17, 2020 news conference.

"Our law enforcement officers are sworn to protect us and they risk their lives on a daily basis to keep our community safe. I have always strived to be an independent voice in Summit County and hold criminals accountable," said Prosecutor Walsh. "While I am confident we have avoided conflicts in the past and that our methods were sound, I feel it is time to refer these reviews to an agency which does not work daily with our local law enforcement."

"Prosecuting Attorney Walsh is leading the way toward a more transparent process, seeking independent review and a just, trustworthy outcome," said Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost.

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In the coming days, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office will provide information to the Ohio Attorney General on two current officer use-of-force reviews. Those include the Akron Police Department's use-of-force involving Elijah Cade and Mohammad Isaifan.