



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Summit County Prosecutor's Office Receives Nearly \$500,000 in Victim Assistance Grants**

AKRON, Ohio Friday, October 27, 2017) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the Summit County Prosecutor's Office just received \$456,859.88 in Victims of Crime Act funding administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victim Services section for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

In 2016, our Victim Services Division assisted 2,001 victims of crime. The Victim of Crime Act grant will continue critical funding which enables us to provide every victim with a victim advocate. Victim Advocates provide information and support to crime victims as their case proceeds through the judicial process. Our Victim Services Division is the primary provider of court advocacy for victims of felony crimes within Summit County. Our Victim Services Division is a full-time unit with a director and multiple victim advocates who assist victims in the common pleas and juvenile courts. In addition to this, the funding allows us to conduct victims' rights awareness campaigns and produce literature with an emphasis on reaching out to underserved populations. We will also be able to provide professional training as well as comfort and support victims through our Facility Dog, Avery.

"The grant money is vital in continuing my office's mission of helping crime victims in Summit County and will go a long way in providing much needed services," said Prosecutor Walsh. "These additional funds will help inform crime victims of their rights, as well as help ease the stress and burden associated with being a victim of crime. I am very proud of our victim advocates. They do a wonderful job assisting crime victims and their families."

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According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Crime Victims Fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) and serves as a major funding source for victim services throughout the country. Each year, millions of dollars are deposited into this fund from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts, and the Bureau of Prisons. These dollars come from offenders convicted of Federal crimes not from taxpayers.