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New Campaign Launched to Assist Victims of Crime

Summit County Prosecutor's Office Targeting Underserved Populations

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, March 22, 2017) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the Summit County Prosecutor's has begun a new campaign to assist victims of crime, specifically targeting underserved populations throughout Summit County .

The new campaign, titled "We Can Help", will include messages in multiple languages (English, Spanish, Arabic, and Nepali) on bus ads and billboards placed throughout Summit County, alerting people that there is help if they are a victim of a crime. The ads, on both the inside and outside of the buses, will provide contact information for several Summit County Agencies, including the Rape Crisis Center, the Battered Women's Shelter, the Victim Assistance Program, and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office website will also provide links to local agencies, as well as a summary of victim rights.

"I have been fighting for the rights of crime victims for much of my career. As Summit County Prosecutor for the past 16 years, I have found that many times, victims do not know where to go for help," said Prosecutor Walsh. "The emotional impact of being a crime victim can be overwhelming. Victims can feel isolated and alone. However, as our new campaign states, we can help." Prosecutor Walsh continued, "I am especially excited about this campaign which has us reaching out to people from different backgrounds and cultures who may not completely understand the law. Hopefully this will empower them to come forward and seek help."

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The outreach campaign coincides with April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Crime Victims' Rights Week which is April 2-8. The majority of the cost of the new campaign is being paid for by a Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award administered by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.