



## **SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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**-ALERT-**

# **Carjackings On The Rise!**

We have noticed a disturbing trend recently and out of concern for your safety, I wanted to make you aware that carjackings are on the rise. Recently, Akron Police announced a 58-year-old woman was able to escape a carjacker along West Market Street near downtown. Cuyahoga Falls Police also recently announced a woman was carjacked on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street after she was rear-ended. There have been reports of at least two more recent carjackings in the area. Cities throughout the country, including Akron and Cleveland, have seen a jump in this crime.

Police report the carjackings start when the victim is stopped and/or rear-ended by another vehicle. The victim gets out of their car to check the damage and is confronted by one or more suspects who have a gun. The suspects then jump in the victim's car and drive off. Victims have also been carjacked in public parking lots as well as their home's driveway.

There are ways you can protect yourself and minimize your chance of becoming a victim.

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Park in well-lit areas and close to either a store's entrance or exit.
- When walking to your vehicle, pay attention. Don't look at your phone or other distractions.
- If someone bumps your car, drive to a well-lit area and call 911. Do not get out of your car.
- Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, don't put yourself at risk.
- When stopped at a light or stop sign, make sure you look around and check your mirrors to see if someone is approaching your vehicle.
- When stopped, make sure you leave space between you and the vehicle in front of you in case you need to quickly drive away.

If you notice something unusual, try to get a good description of the suspect and their vehicle and call 911 as soon as possible.

Stay Safe,

**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**  
Summit County Prosecutor