



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

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CONTACT: [Elaine Vilem](#)

(330) 643-8386

PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH HONORS SERVICE AND FACILITY DOGS THROUGHOUT SUMMIT COUNTY

Summit County Council Unanimously Passes Kolkovich's Resolution to Declare September 2025 as Service Dog Awareness Month



AKRON, OH – Yesterday, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich honored service and facility dogs during the Summit County Council meeting and introduced legislation that declares September 2025 as

Service Dog Awareness Month in Summit County. The resolution recognizes the 50th anniversary of Canine Companions, the National Service Dog Awareness Campaign, and working dogs throughout the county. Summit County Council unanimously passed Kolkovich's resolution.

“From Akron Children’s Hospital to our own office, service, facility, and therapy dogs are vital workers in Summit County. Our facility dog Adam makes an impact just by showing up and helping victims feel safer, empowered, and less alone. His superpower is simply being himself, and like so many other working dogs, he makes a difference that deserves to be honored,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

Multiple of Summit County’s furry workers were recognized at the meeting. The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office facility dog Adam VII, a black labrador retriever, attended with his handler Alyse Ziga, who is also a victim advocate. The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office was the first prosecutor’s office in Ohio to introduce facility dogs for victims and witnesses of crime. Since 2013, facility dogs Adam and his predecessor Avery II have supported 396 victims and witnesses in more than 300 cases, including 300 children and 87 adults, and have provided comfort during 57 witness testimonies in court.

“Trained facility dogs like Adam, as well as service and therapy dogs, provide crucial support to victims and survivors every day – not only in the criminal justice field, but in countless other lives and occupations. Seeing firsthand how Adam helps people during very difficult times is heartwarming,” said Ziga. **“Adam has the ability to bring a smile, even if it’s small, to the face of everyone he meets. While it’s especially important to acknowledge our furry friends during the month of September, these dogs work every day to bring joy, independence, and comfort to so many.”**

Additionally, owner and handler Geoff Auerbach brought Tater Tot, a border collie mix, who supports staff, visitors, youth in detention, and their families at the Summit County Juvenile Court. The Summit Emergency Communications Center also introduced Archie, an English labrador retriever, accompanied by his handler Nikki Vaughan. Archie helps support staff well-being and offers a welcome break during stressful moments.

Canine Companions pioneered the use of service dogs for people with physical disabilities in 1975 and continues to enhance the lives of people with disabilities, victims of crime, and survivors of trauma by providing expertly trained service, facility, and therapy dogs, along with ongoing support to ensure lasting partnerships, all free of charge.



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