



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
THANKING MY EMPLOYEES**

As Summit County Prosecutor, I work hard to protect the community and help keep people safe.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has made all of our lives a bit more challenging.

Just like you, we've had to adjust to different safety



protocols, work from home, and basically change how we do business.

I have a great staff of over 200 employees at the Prosecutor's Office in the Criminal, Civil, Juvenile, and my Child Support Enforcement Agency. I am very proud of them as they go with the flow and adjust to new challenges.

That is why I started something new to say thank you. For the past two months I've held a weekly raffle to help with team building and spread positivity.

I've asked employees a number of things—and the results have been fantastic! It has been great reading

the responses and sharing them with the office.

One week I asked what is a new thing you've learned as a result of the pandemic.

One employee shared that she has learned to appreciate blessings. Unfortunately the COVID-19 Pandemic has hit very close to her. She ended her email by saying don't forget to tell someone you love them.

Another week I asked my employees to share the name of their high school or college senior whose graduation was disrupted by the pandemic.

A number of people sent me the names of their children and loved ones who unfortunately missed out on a traditional graduation ceremony and party. It was heartwarming to celebrate them.

I also asked employees to nominate a co-worker who has done something positive.

The number of nominations was overwhelming! I had so many employees email me back with

stories about how their co-workers did something to brighten their day.

Whether it was offering a helping hand without asking or explaining new procedures, I had dozens of emails of how workers are spreading positivity throughout the office.

For a little fun, I recently asked employees to email a funny photo of themselves.



One employee talked about his love for college basketball and how he sometimes likes to let the refs know they've made a bad call!

Thank you to everyone who makes an impact on someone else! And as always, stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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GRAND JURY

JOSH MIKTARIAN

Prosecuting a person charged with a felony offense has several paths. The most common is when criminal charges are presented to grand jury.

Grand jury consists of nine people plus two alternates. After reviewing the evidence and information gathered by police, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office presents cases to the grand jury. In a typical year, around 4,000 cases are presented to a Summit County grand jury.



Nine of the jurors vote whether to indict the defendant on felony charges. At least seven members of the grand jury must agree that a defendant should be charged with a crime. That is called a true bill. If less than seven members of the grand jury vote in favor of filing charges, then there is a “no bill” and the defendant is not charged with a felony in County Court. The grand jury can also decide to send the case back to a local municipal court. The case is “remanded” to municipal court.

In Summit County, grand juries serve for 60 days. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, things are a bit different. The grand jury which was sworn in March just finished their term and stayed on through the end of June. That’s two months longer than usual. The extension was to limit the number of people who had to come to the Summit County Courthouse.

Jurors are also wearing masks and social distancing. The same goes for prosecutors, support staff, and those who testify at grand jury.

While that grand jury was serving its final month, a new group of grand jurors was being sworn in. This unusual overlap was to make sure things ran smoothly in case a juror was diagnosed with COVID-19.



Thank you to all the members of the grand jury for taking their role seriously and spending the extra time to help ensure justice is served in Summit County.

For the past 12 years, the month of July has been a time of sadness for this office and members of the local law enforcement community. On July 13, 2008, the community lost one of its heroes.

July 13, 2008 is when Twinsburg Police Officer Joshua Miktarian was shot and killed during a traffic stop. The man convicted of killing Officer Miktarian is currently on Ohio’s Death Row.



The community knew Officer Miktarian as a passionate public servant. But he was also a husband and father of a young girl. He was just 33-years-old when he was killed in the line of duty.

Officer Miktarian’s death was the first in Summit County in 17 years. His death has impacted us to this very day.

Officer Miktarian was an outstanding representative of the Twinsburg community. He spent his career dedicated to helping people throughout Summit County.



Officer Miktarian went by many names — “Captain Justice” or “Mr. Invincible” to many, “The Pizza Man” to others — and is missed by all of us.

Police officers put their lives on the line every day to protect our community. We give a heart-felt thanks for their work and sacrifice.

Thank you Officer Miktarian and our law enforcement community for keeping us safe.





AVERY'S CORNER

I'm sad that I can't see as many of my human friends as I usually do.

Thankfully humans created a new way to see and talk to each other. It's called video conferencing. I don't know what that means, but I guess humans sit in front of their computers and talk to them.

The humans at my office recently did just that—and talked about me and what I do.

You can see I was impressed!



But it was nice to hear everyone talk.



I did get a chance recently to visit some very special young humans. One of them has had a difficult time and wanted to meet me.

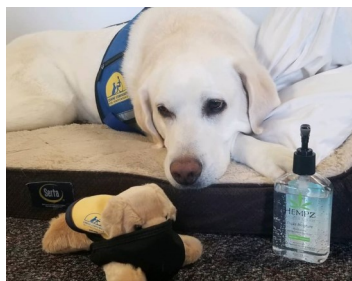
We had to meet in the park to make sure everyone was safe. You can't see, but they were wearing masks.

I want to make sure you all are staying safe.

Please wear a mask and wash your hands.

If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer.

But be careful around pets. The alcohol in hand sanitizer could be harmful to animals.



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CELEBRATING FOOD!

We sure love food! Many of you probably have a favorite.

July is a unique month. The first full month of summer has lots of people spending more time outdoors enjoying the weather. July also has a unique list of special "food" days.

Here is a portion of days where we can celebrate certain foods:

- **July 4—National BBQ Spareribs Day**
- **July 5—National Apple Turnover Day**
- **July 6—National Fried Chicken Day**
- **July 9—National Sugar Cookie Day**
- **July 11—National Blueberry Muffin Day**
- **July 12—National Pecan Pie Day**
- **July 13—National French Fry Day**
- **July 13—National Beans 'N Franks Day**
- **July 14—National Mac & Cheese Day**
- **July 15—National Tapioca Pudding Day**
- **July 19—National Ice Cream Day**
- **July 21—National Junk Food Day**
- **July 22—National Hot Dog Day**
- **July 24—National Tequila Day**
- **July 25—National Hot Fudge Sundae Day**
- **July 27—National Scotch Day**
- **July 28—National Milk Chocolate Day**
- **July 29—National Lasagna Day**
- **July 30—National Cheesecake Day**
- **July 31—National Avocado Day**



SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



TOP COPS

AKRON POLICE OFFICERS THOMAS ABER & JOSEPH FILIMON

NOMINATED BY GREG PEACOCK

Each month, we dedicate this space to local law enforcement who go above and beyond in their investigation into a case we prosecute.

But police officers do so much more for the community besides gathering evidence, following leads, interviewing witnesses, and questioning suspects.

These dedicated men and women help keep our neighborhoods safe and protect our communities. They also save lives and help citizens in ways we don't often see on the news. That is why I am nominating Akron Police Officers Thomas Aber and Joseph Filimon.

The Officers recently responded to reports of a shooting. When they arrived, they found a young girl lying near her



house suffering from a gunshot wound. Amidst the chaos, these officers kept their cool and immediately began CPR on the victim, trying to preserve her life.

Unfortunately, their attempt to save the girl's life was unsuccessful. However, we believe their actions and commendable service deserve to be recognized.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Officers Aber and Filimon for your hard work and for doing all you could to save this young life.

Thank you Officers Aber & Filimon.

SENIOR SAFETY

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things. We hope you are staying safe, wearing a mask, and social distancing.

We've also done our part to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus by cancelling a lot of our in-person events, including our monthly FREE Women's Self-Defense classes and our various safety speeches.

But, thanks to video conferencing, we can still provide you and your group this potentially life-saving information.

Prosecutor Walsh is still speaking with groups about the latest scams and ways to stay safe—through ZOOM!

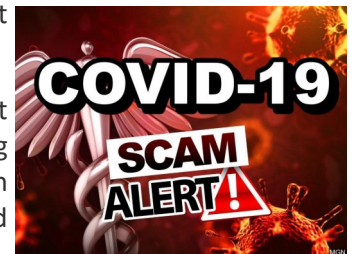


If you would like Prosecutor Walsh to present a safety speech to your group, contact Megan at mbogavich@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Criminals are using the Coronavirus as an opportunity to get your money and maybe steal your identity. But you can protect yourself and not become a victim.

- Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about checks from the government. They are more than likely fake.
- Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- Be wary of ads for test kits. Most test kits being advertised have not been approved by the FDA, and aren't necessarily accurate.
- Don't answer unknown phone numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

BRAD GESSNER

"Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives our prosecutors the chance to tell their own story and why being a prosecutor is so important to them. It also helps the public better understand how we approach our jobs.

Assistant Prosecutor Brad Gessner, who is the Office's Chief Counsel, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I decided to become a prosecutor after my mother was a victim of a crime while I was in law school. I helped my mother navigate through her case. Her experience with the criminal justice system made me realize I had the most to offer and could best help people by continuing as a prosecutor. What I've found is a prosecutor is the person who can bring back hope for someone and find justice. I've now been a prosecutor at various offices in Ohio for over 30 years



• WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The best thing about being a prosecutor is seeing a case all the way through and helping a crime victim realize that someone fought and stood up for them and believed them. There is no greater reward than having a victim come up to you and say thank you.

• WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is when people who witness a crime can help with the prosecution but don't come forward. To know that someone deserved to be fought for and you did not get that chance to fight for them.

You can watch Brad's complete video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

THE LONGEST DAY - ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees dressed in purple as part of The Longest Day to raise awareness and show support for people living with Alzheimer's.

The Longest Day coincides with the first day of summer - the longest day of the year - to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also provides assistance for families with people who battle Alzheimer's, dementia, and other conditions which increase the chances they might wander and make it difficult for them to communicate.



Take Me Home is a searchable and secure database which contains a picture, contact information, and identifying characteristics. It is accessible only by law enforcement, and is used to help reconnect caregivers with people who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home.



If you know of someone who could benefit from this program and is not registered, please have them contact Leslie at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.

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