



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH PROSECUTING DURING A PANDEMIC

This is an unprecedented time. Never in our lifetime have we experienced what we are experiencing now. The global pandemic has definitely put a strain on our lives.

Working within the constraints of COVID-19 has also impacted how my office does business. We are used to the hustle and bustle of court—reviewing cases, speaking with victims and witnesses, conferring with co-workers, filing motions, and discussing cases with defense attorneys. The Criminal Division of my office typically prosecutes about 4,000 adult felony cases each year. Currently, my office is working on close to 1,500 cases, with dozens more coming in each week.

Yes, prosecutors are still working hard to keep our community safe. We are working closely with the court as well as law enforcement to be innovative in how we handle cases while physically distancing. The Court has postponed trials and all face-to-face interaction on cases until further notice. This is vital to ensure everyone's safety.

Video conferencing has become a vital part of our work. We hold hearings with judges and defense attorneys, conferences with victims and their families, as well as meetings with officers through video conferencing. This is our new normal.

I know many of you are battling the same constraints. We are human. We need that face-to-face human interaction. But we want to make sure our community is safe and healthy while still working within some of the deadlines involved with criminal cases.

The Prosecutor's Office remains temporarily closed to the public for face-to-face meetings and interactions. But we are still here helping survivors, victims, and their families with their cases.



For inquiries about criminal, civil, or juvenile cases, you can either call 330.643.2800 or email info@prosecutor.summitoh.net. Please make sure to include defendant's name, case number, and contact information.

My priority is to keep the community safe. That includes my employees. We wear masks in the office and make every effort to stay six feet from one another. Many of my employees are also working remotely most of the week, coming into the office only a few days a week. That enables my office to continue much needed work while also working within ever changing health guidelines.

As always, and especially now, stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK

CHILD SUPPORT CHANGES

Local law enforcement work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. Officers put their lives on the line everyday to ensure your safety.



Although we thank officers throughout the year, time is set aside during May to honor those who have paid the ultimate price.

May 10 through May 16 is National Police Week. In 1962, President Kennedy declared May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week.

Each year, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office attend various local memorials to pay tribute.



Unfortunately many of those services and events have been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We've attached some pictures from last year's memorial at various locations throughout Summit County



Each year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund holds a national gathering and candlelight vigil in Washington D.C. This year, because of concerns over the Coronavirus, that event, originally scheduled for May 13 is instead now being held virtually at <https://nleomf.org/>.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office sends a heart-felt thank you to all members of the law enforcement community and their families for their hard work and dedication to making Summit County a great place to work and live.



Working within the confines of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to changes at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Child Support Enforcement Agency.

While still fighting for families, the **Child Support Enforcement Agency** has temporarily suspended face-to-face interactions at the office in downtown Akron. If you have a question about your child support case, you are urged to call 330.643.2765 or leave a message through the Ohio Child Support Customer Service Portal <https://ifs.ohio.gov/Ocs/CustServWebPortalWelcome2.stm>.

We know thousands of Ohioans are currently out of work because businesses have closed as a result of the pandemic. We are willing to work on possible solutions, including the possibility of modifications to your child support order.

Also, beginning the week of May 11, 2020, the Child Support Enforcement Agency began drive-up DNA testing to establish paternity on current child support cases.



DNA testing will be conducted by **DRIVE-UP** and **APPOINTMENT ONLY** and will abide by state health guidelines issued for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Establishing paternity is critical in order to protect the legal rights and privileges of parents, caretakers and children. Once paternity is established, it can protect important legal rights and privileges, such as inheritance, medical and life insurance benefits, and access to social security and veterans' benefits This is a quick, easy, and most importantly, safe way of conducting DNA testing.

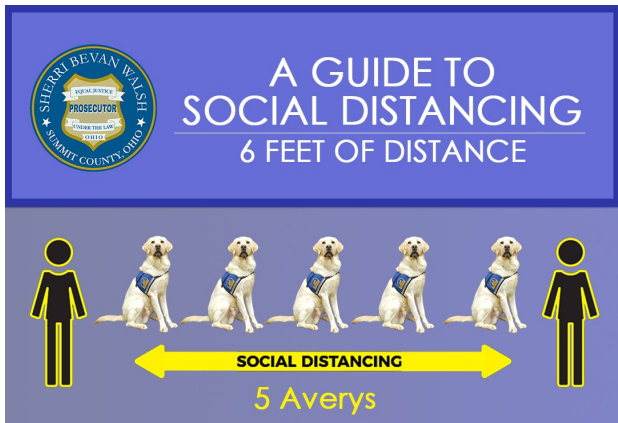
For current child support cases, CSEA will notify people of their scheduled date and time for their test.

DNA testing will take place on the M1 level of the Summit County Parking Deck. A designated area will be blocked off specifically for genetic testing and clients will not need to leave their vehicles. Upon completion of the testing, clients will be provided a parking voucher, with a limit of 30 minutes, which will allow them to leave the parking deck free of charge.



EVERY'S CORNER

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



Hi friends. I hope you are all safe and healthy. I miss you. But it's best if we keep our distance. Here's a reminder of how far apart we need to be to help stop the spread.

I wish there were five of me! I would have so much fun.

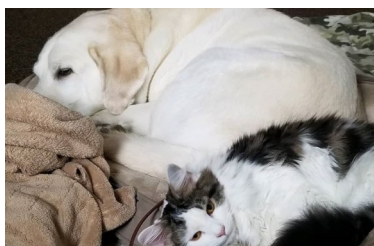
This can also be a very stressful time for your four-legged furry friends. I recently took a trip to see my friends at Stow-Kent Animal Hospital. They were so nice.



They said I was very healthy and doing great!

It was great seeing everyone, especially Dr. Paroff. Thank you for all you do.

Remember to stay home and cuddle up with your best bud.



We will all get through this together even though we are apart.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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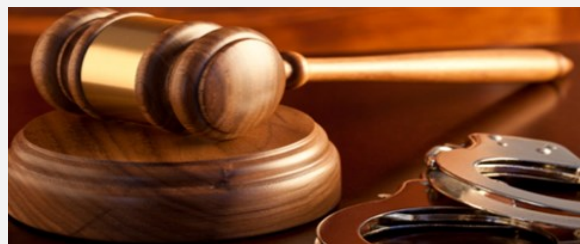


TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

This defendant will be locked up for a lengthy period of time thanks to our dedicated Assistant Prosecutors:

Jaylin Preston, 19

- Felonious Assault
- **22-to-26 Years in PRISON**



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on many of us. From sickness to job loss, the impact will be felt for months, and potentially years to come.

Mental health is also a concern during this unprecedented time. May is National Mental Health Awareness month—a time to bring greater attention, support, and education about the impact of mental illness.

While we focus on our physical wellbeing, the food we eat, exercise and getting regular check-ups for vision and dental care, we often forget to take stock of our emotional and spiritual needs. Everyday demands take their toll.



For more information on how to get involved visit nami.org.



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Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COPS COMMUNITY THANK YOU!!

Each month, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office honors a member of the local law enforcement community who’s outstanding work on an investigation led to a positive resolution on a case we prosecuted. It’s our TOP COP!

However, since the Summit County Court of Common Pleas has limited face-to-face interaction as well as postponed certain hearings, our office’s interaction with law enforcement has been limited as well.

We have, however, noticed a tremendous amount of support from the community. For instance, a big thank you to the Rotary Club of Green which provided 350 customized masks for the Summit County Sheriff’s Office. The club was also able to donate 250 bottles of sanitizer for the men and women of the Sheriff’s Office. Thank you for your support!



We also want to send a special shout-out to retired Cleveland Police Sgt. Margery Slatkovsky. Margery lives in Sagamore Hills and according to the Sagamore Hills Police Department’s Facebook page, Margery usually makes something for the department. This year Margery made special “blue-line” face masks for every member of the department, including their unit number.



What a great way to help those who work so hard to keep our community safe. Thank you Margery!

Families from Bissell Elementary in Twinsburg put together a wonderful video to thank local first responders. According to the Twinsburg Police Department Facebook page, Police Chief Noga said the video was put together by Mrs. Miller and the members of the Bissell Elementary School Council and the Safety Patrol. You can watch the video by visiting <https://bit.ly/3cNGlXr>. Thank you to everyone who support local law enforcement!!

HAMBURGER MONTH

As May arrives, the month brings warmer temperatures and thoughts of summertime activities.

It also brings something very near and dear to the hearts of Akronites. National Hamburger Month!



As the legend goes, Akron natives Charles and Frank Menches developed the hamburger at a fair in Hamburg, NY, a town just outside of Buffalo, in 1885.

National Hamburger Month kicks off some of the busiest grilling and barbecuing season of the year.

We love burgers. At least we can still order from some of our restaurants and pick up. Hopefully soon we’ll be able to sit on a patio and chow down!

FLASHBACK FUN!

Time for some Flashback Fun!

In October of 2016 Prosecutor Walsh took part in one of our many FREE Women’s Self-Defense classes. She’s with our main instructor, former University of Akron Police Lt. Chad Cunningham, at Kimpton Middle School in Munroe Falls.

Although we can’t do our FREE Women’s Self-Defense classes because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are planning some great safety information for our Facebook page. Just search for Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh



on Facebook. We hope to see you in person soon for our safety events throughout Summit County.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

HEAVEN DIMARTINO

"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 Heaven DiMartino who works in our Appellate Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because I wanted to help children. My undergraduate degree is in elementary education. When I did my student teaching two of my students already had interactions with the justice system. That made me realize maybe the better way to serve kids would be to get involved before they have a problem and get into trouble. I started in Juvenile Court and worked with the Children Services Board to help families so the kids would have a safe place and wouldn't be involved in the justice system.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor is not only do I get to help people, I get to be part of a team which serves the community. In addition to being in a courtroom or doing research, we also work with community leaders with the same goals to help victims as well as defendants.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is seeing the horrible things people do to each other. Sometimes it's difficult to forget these situations, like a parent abusing their child. That's why I am thankful every day that I have a job that can do good things for the community.

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

CHILD SUPPORT & STIMULUS CHECKS

Our Child Support Enforcement Agency has received a number of inquiries concerning the federal government's stimulus check and how it impacts child support.

Per Ohio law, if you are eligible to receive a stimulus check from the federal government AND owe more than \$500 in back child support, the full amount of the economic impact payment may be intercepted, up to the full amount of the past due child support. If you have questions about child support offsets of the Economic Impact Payments, please review the FAQs available at: <https://bit.ly/2LopLbr>

Those who are current on their child support will receive the full amount of their eligible stimulus check.

If you have a question about your child support case, you are urged to call 330.643.2765 or leave a message through the Ohio Child Support Customer Service Portal <https://ifs.ohio.gov/Ocs/CustServWebPortalWelcome2.stm>.



Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

53 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44308

330-643-2800

Sherri Bevan Walsh

Summit County Prosecuting Attorney

53 University Avenue, 6th Floor

Akron, OH 44308

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summitcountyprosecutoroffice

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