



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH
ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

Every day 100 Americans are killed with guns.

Firearms are the 2nd leading cause of death for American teens & children.

The risk of suicide increases by three times if a person has access to a gun.

Horrifying statistics impact our lives and our communities every day. But there is something you can do about it. The first Friday of June is designated Gun Violence Awareness Day. It's also a day when people wear orange to show their support for ending gun violence.

But that support should not begin and end on that day. This is something we can and should do year-round.

According to the wear orange to end gun violence website, the idea to wear orange began in the hunting culture. Wearing orange acknowledges that America has a proud heritage of responsible gun ownership and reflects the value of human life. Orange is also the color friends of 15-year-old Chicago resident Hadiya Pendleton wore after she was shot and killed. After her death they wanted people to stand up, speak out, and wear orange to raise awareness.

My office works hard to keep our community safe. Part of that includes aggressively prosecuting people who illegally possess guns, or use them in crimes. We also work closely with local law enforcement and federal prosecutors to find solutions to gun violence and hold people accountable for illegally having a gun.

According to recent reports, Akron's Gun Violence Reduction Team has seized more than 500 guns in the five years since its inception. That does not include the hundreds of other weapons other Akron Police officers have confiscated over the same time.

Since 2016, Akron has had an average of about 440 shootings each year. This year, Akron is on pace to reach 500 shootings, as police seize more and more weapons from the streets.

So what can you do about it? One solution is simple, but takes courage.

Report gun violence in your neighborhood. Tell someone if you know a person is in possession of a gun illegally. You can and will remain anonymous.

That simple phone call to police could save lives.

Of the 29 murder cases my office is currently prosecuting, nearly half involved the use of a gun. But that's only the current murder cases my office is prosecuting. That does not count the unsolved murders or the countless assaults and robberies in our county.

We must work together to keep our communities safe. Law enforcement needs your help in tracking down violent criminals. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent on things that matter".

As always, stay safe

Sherri B Walsh



we can
end gun violence
wear orange



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IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office was busy in May, helping keep the community safe.

We had a great crowd at our FREE Women’s Self-Defense class at Akron’s House of the Lord. They were lots of fun as they learned potentially life-saving moves all focused on helping a person get away from an attacker.



Summit County Councilman David Hamilton helped with the instruction, and even got a few kicks in himself!

If you would like a self-defense class in your community, please contact Jennifer Watson at jennifer.watson2@jfs.ohio.gov

Prosecutor Walsh and several members of the Prosecutor’s Office were honored to take part in commemorations during the annual National Police Memorial Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day.

There were several events, including one hosted by the Akron Police Department, and another hosted in Cuyahoga Falls and Silver Lake.



The somber celebrations paid tribute to officers who died while serving and protecting our community.

Many speakers also highlighted the efforts of law enforcement who sacrifice to make our community better.

May also meant the return of one of our favorite events—the WAKR Senior Luncheon.

We provided safety information to close to 400 seniors who attended the event at St. George Fellowship Center.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table to say hi!



Congratulations to all the local students who received scholarships during the Akron Urban League’s annual meeting & scholarship luncheon.



The Akron Urban League distributed over \$140,000 in college scholarships. We were honored to attend the event and hear all the inspirational stories. We are proud to support an organization making an impact in our community.

Several Summit County Prosecutor’s Office employees got a chance to learn about the issues impacting the community—like those surrounding mental health.

They attended the annual luncheon put on by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Summit County.



Dr. Xavier Amador spoke about the impact of mental health issues and how to help people. You can learn more about the National Alliance on Mental Illness by going to their website—<https://namisummit.org/>



AVERY'S CORNER

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Did you see me on TV? I was very happy to sit down for my interview with WEWS News 5 Cleveland. I got to meet two nice humans, Kevin and Joe. And I got to see a very good friend of mine who I helped a long time ago.



They did a story about how I help people, especially children who are victims of crime. You can watch the story at the link provided.

<http://bit.ly/2KyhnH1>

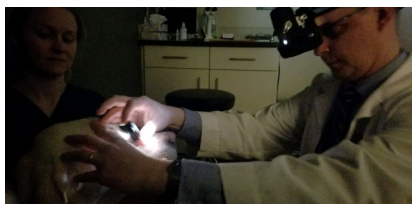
I had so much fun in May. I got to meet so many people at one of my favorite events.

It was the Humane Society of Greater Akron's big Bark in the Park fundraiser at Lock 3.

It was so nice being out in the sun and there were so many nice humans who brought their four-legged furry friends.



Thank you Dr. Bobofchak & Marissa at Eye Care for Animals in Akron for taking such good care of me.



I went there for my eye exam. I was a little nervous but everything went great. They said everything looked good!

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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GUILTY VERDICTS

May 2019

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office had a **100% CONVICTION RATE** at trial for May. Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining a conviction at trial.

Joe Dangelo Amanda Hall
Ty Graham Kevin Mayer

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Andre Warren, 28

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Dean Davis, 29

- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Devon Williams, 22

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

David Callaghan, 53

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Paul Randall, 35

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
- **30 YEARS IN PRISON**

Lamarr Jackson, 26

- Involuntary Manslaughter

• **21 YEARS IN PRISON**

CQuincey Chatman, 18

- Involuntary Manslaughter

• **20 YEARS IN PRISON**

Crystal Bruce, 34

- Voluntary Manslaughter

• **15 YEARS IN PRISON**



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPER RYAN HERSHEY NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR GREG PEACOCK

Unfortunately we see our share of strange and disturbing cases. Murders, rapes, assaults—many times it's people doing horrible things to other people.

This was one of those cases, and the reason why I nominate Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Ryan Hershey.

At 1am on the morning of August 18, 2018, Trooper Hershey found himself at the center of a homicide investigation and a manhunt to find the killer of Scott Reichard.

Mr. Reichard was killed at the I-77 rest stop in Bath Township. The suspect viciously attacked Mr. Reichard, knocked him to the ground, then stole his car and sped away while running him over.

Two hours later, Trooper Hershey learned fellow officers located the victim's truck in Cleveland. Trooper Hershey eventually issued charges against the suspect, Paul Randall, who was found later that night in Guernsey County, Ohio.

Working on no sleep but dedicated to finding the killer, Trooper Hershey drove to Guernsey County and arrived

nearly 24 hours after Mr. Reichard was killed. Trooper Hershey instinctively knew that he had to interview Randall before he was transferred back to Summit County. Trooper Hershey, with the assistance of fellow troopers, interviewed Randall and obtained a full confession to the crime.

Even after Trooper Hershey obtained a confession, he continued to work this case and left no stone unturned as he locked down every witness statement, cell phone records and social media communications between the suspect and his friends. Because of this exemplary investigation, Paul Randall pled guilty and received a sentence of 30 years in prison.

Trooper Hershey's dedication and thoroughness are a shining example of the best kind of police work.

As this month's TOP COP, Trooper Hershey receives a gift card to the Peanut Shoppe in Akron.



Great job and congratulations Trooper Hershey!!

NEW LAW PROTECTS PEOPLE

We always warn people to be careful of what you post. But what happens if someone gets a hold of a more personal, embarrassing picture of you—and puts it on social media without your permission? Now there's a new Ohio law making that illegal.



It is now a Misdemeanor of the 3rd degree for someone to post an image of a person over 18, without their permission and if the intent was to harm the other person.

Ohio lawmakers also added a provision allowing victims to sue the person responsible for violating the new law.



ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. It's also a good time to remind you about our Take Me Home program.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect caregivers with people who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home. This includes people who may suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

The database contains a photo, contact information, and identifying characteristics if a person is reported missing or is found wandering.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this program, please contact Leslie Knoblauch at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR COLLEEN SIMS

Over the past year, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office has provided insight into how we approach our jobs by producing videos highlighting our assistant prosecutors.

"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.

Assistant Prosecutor Colleen Sims, who currently works in our civil division, tells us why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF BEING A PROSECUTOR?

The best part is being part of something much more important than yourself. I get the honor of being an advocate for victims. I get the benefit of being part of the judicial process. This is all bigger than just one person and I'm lucky enough to be a part of it and advocating for justice.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I didn't know specifically that I wanted to be a prosecutor when I graduated law school but I felt the sense that I wanted to advocate for some just cause, whether that be criminal or some other area of the law. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is the perfect fit for me.

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

What we do on a day to day basis can be the subject of intense public scrutiny. Also, the job can affect you. We see domestic violence cases, child abuse cases, sexual assault cases, sometimes it's difficult to see through that.

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

HIGH POINT AWARDS

Each year, Summit County honors employees with the annual High Point awards. This year, four Prosecutor's Office employees received awards for their work in making Summit County a better place to live.

Crystal Baker, Director of Victim Services, received the award for her tireless work in helping victims who come to our office. Crystal has worked on several victim awareness campaigns as well as applying for grants to keep our programs running.

Jennifer Watson, with our Child Support Enforcement Agency, was honored for her kindness and compassion as well as being instrumental in collecting nearly \$200,000 from legal settlements from parents who were significantly behind on their child support.



Carolyn Wilson, a Child Support Specialist in the Child Support Enforcement Agency, is a High Point recipient for her work ethic and her assistance with several large statewide projects.

Leslie Knoblauch, who oversees our Take Me Home program, was honored for her role in helping keep some of Summit County's most vulnerable citizens safe. Take Me Home is a secure database for people who have a tendency to wander and have a difficult time communicating including children with developmental disabilities like Autism and Down Syndrome, as well as adults with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Congratulations to all the winners!

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