



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

## A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Since I took office in 2001, I have been passionate about informing the public of ways they can be safe while in the community. Throughout my 17 years as Summit County Prosecutor, I have worked hard at connecting with people throughout the county.

As Summit County Prosecutor, I have made it my mission to improve our quality of life for our community. Prosecutors have a responsibility not only to prosecute cases but to help solve public safety problems and even prevent crime. A prosecutor's responsibility begins long before a crime occurs and continues long after a criminal case concludes.

That is why I have added a new division to the Prosecutor's Office-Community Outreach.

The mission of our Community Outreach Division is to work with the community in solving problems before they turn into a dangerous situation. In the past, my office has provided many of these services, but now we have specific employees dedicated to

working with the community to build better relationships. This will help us "re-engage" with residents.



Assistant Prosecutor Angela Walls-Alexander is our new Director. Angela has been with the office for nearly a decade, most recently prosecuting cases in our Domestic Violence Unit.

Travis Johnson joins Angie as our Community Outreach Advocate.

Travis has previous experience working in our Child Support Enforcement Agency and is an Akron native. He has extensive experience with the Summit County Fatherhood Initiative.

One of the goals of this newly formed division is to get a better understanding of what the community feels are important issues. The next step would be to have conversations about these issues and hopefully solve problems. I want to make sure the community knows that someone is actually listening to and addressing their concerns. I want to help Summit County residents understand why we do things or why a different approach was taken in one case versus another.

I also want to enhance the relationship between our office and the community by being open to ideas and sharing information so people are better informed. I want to strengthen the bond between the prosecutor's office and those we serve.

My hope is that we can all work together to improve our neighborhoods.

As always, stay safe!



*Sherri B. Walsh*



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# IN THE COMMUNITY

Our prosecutors and staff braved the frigid January weather to get out and about in the community!

**Prosecutor Walsh** was joined by several members of the Prosecutor's Office for a tour of the Northeast Reintegration Center in Cleveland.

The all-women minimum security facility houses about 630 inmates who are either serving a prison sentence of six years or less or have six years or less remaining on their sentence.



The facility's goal is to provide skills and training to help an inmate transition back into society. The Northeast Reintegration Center uses a variety of initiatives, including faith-based programs, support services, mental health programming, and leadership training. There is even a program to train and care for dogs and cats.

Thank you to the entire staff and Warden Brandeshawn Harris for their hospitality and great work!

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees were also out in the community, helping keep people safe.

**Margaret Scott**, Chief of our Criminal Division, and **John Galonski**, Chief of our Civil Division, led our most recent FREE Women's Self-Defense class at the Akron Downtown Public Library.

Those who attended learned vital moves which could save their life, like the arm breakaway and the trachea notch push off. These moves allow you to get away



from an attacker and find a safe place.



Also, a big thank you to **Tavia Galonski**, who represents the 35th District in the Ohio House of Representatives for her assistance.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is honored to help members of the law enforcement community stay up to date on the latest trends and laws.

We were pleased to bring in Keith Manning to speak about investigating officer involved shootings and use of force incidents from the prosecutor's perspective.



Mr. Manning is the deputy Maricopa County Attorney in Phoenix, Arizona.

He is currently the Maricopa County Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Liaison and is responsible for responding to all officer involved shootings in Maricopa County. He has significant training and experience in ballistics and shooting reconstruction. Mr. Manning has provided training to law enforcement officers and prosecutors across the country since 2003.

About 120 people from 17 different Northeast Ohio agencies attended the presentation.

We also love it when people come to visit our office.

Thanks to students from **Hudson High School** and **Western Reserve Academy** who stopped by the office for an annual visit to learn what we do and to talk about leadership skills and issues. The juniors and seniors are part of the **Hudson Junior Leadership** program.

They also got to meet Avery and learned about how he helps our crime victims!





# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

I also love going to Akron's Haven of Rest. I got to spend some quality time with the humans who work there.



They do a wonderful job. I have such a great time there.

I also love visiting people at other local agencies, including the Rape Crisis Center of Summit and Medina Counties.

That's me with my good friends Landyn, Hannah and Kelsea. Hannah and Kelsea are both educators and outreach advocates for the center.

I spent time with them and the center's youth volunteer group. It was a lot of fun.



I had a great time meeting with future officers. This group is from the most recent cadet class at the University of Akron.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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## GUILTY VERDICTS

### January 2017



Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial.

Joe Miller

Seema Misra (2)

Zachary Neumann

### GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

**Vester Morrison, 58**

- Attempted Murder
- **15 YEARS IN PRISON**

**Phil Mills, 34**

- Aggravated Burglary
- Aggravated Robbery
- **9 YEARS IN PRISON**

**Terita Bolar, 37**

- Burglary
- **8 YEARS IN PRISON**



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



# TOP COPS

## AKRON POLICE OFFICERS MICHAEL BRUARNY & KYLE CUNNINGHAM

NOMINATED BY SEEMA MISRA & ZACHARY NEUMANN

Law enforcement officers know that anything can happen when responding to a call. Being prepared for the unexpected is always in the back of an officer's mind.

This is the reason we chose Akron Police Officers Michael Bruvarny and Kyle Cunningham as this month's TOP COP.



In March of 2017, both officers attempted to pull over Carlos Gonzalez, who was driving a stolen vehicle. Once stopped, Gonzalez threw his car into reverse and nearly hit the officers. Officer Bruvarny was behind the wheel of the cruiser and was able to avoid being struck by Gonzalez.

A chase ensued and ended a short time later when Gonzalez jumped from his car. Officer Bruvarny followed the suspect behind a house. Gonzalez was hiding behind a bush when Officer Cunningham observed him pull out a gun. Officer Cunningham kicked the suspect, forcing

Gonzalez to drop the gun. Both officers eventually subdued Gonzalez.

The actions of both officers on the night of the incident and in preparation for trial, allowed the prosecutors to maintain a strong position in plea negotiations.

Officer Cunningham's actions also likely saved his partner's life.

Gonzalez pled guilty to a number of charges and is scheduled to be sentenced February 21st.

As this month's TOP COP, Officers Bruvarny and Cunningham receive gift cards to Rockne's. Thank you Rockne's for your support of law enforcement.

## Congratulations officers!

## WINTER SAFETY

Avery loves playing in the cold and snow. But the weather can also be dangerous for his furry friends.

Sometimes it's simply too cold for pets to be outside. They can get frostbite just like us! As much as they like to walk and run, you might need to shorten their time outside.

Check your pet's paws for signs of damage, like cracked paw pads or bleeding.

After a walk, wipe down or wash you pet's feet, legs, and belly to removed any chemicals.

Also, certain animals love to curl up inside a car's engine to stay warm. You might want to check your car or even bang on the hood to encourage certain hitchhikers to abandon their post before you start it up.



## FREE SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Get ready to stay safe! Our next FREE Women's Self-Defense class is almost here.

Join us at Samuel Bissell Elementary School at 1811 Glenwood Drive in Twinsburg on Thursday, February 22nd, from 6pm to 8pm for potentially life-saving techniques.

We provide common sense tips to help people become more aware plus simple self-defense techniques in case a person is attacked. Hope to see you there!



### FREE WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by

**Sherri Bevan Walsh**

Summit County Prosecutor

AND  
**Chad Cunningham**

Certified Instructor

No registration required!



Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a chokehold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps

**Free Giveaways!**

Thursday,  
February 22, 2018  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Samuel Bissell Elementary  
1811 Glenwood Drive  
Twinsburg, OH 44087



For more information, contact:  
Jennifer Watson  
330-643-2702 [JENIFER.WATSON@pc.ohio.gov](mailto:JENIFER.WATSON@pc.ohio.gov)

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## ANGELA WALLS-ALEXANDER

Recently, we began a campaign to inform the public about what it's like to be a prosecutor. Each month, an assistant prosecutor in our criminal division will explain why they chose to be prosecutors. This month, Assistant Prosecutor Angela Walls-Alexander opens up about why she chose to be a prosecutor.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I'm a prosecutor because I was first a victim. I am a survivor of domestic violence and when the opportunity came to be a prosecutor doing domestic violence cases, it was a perfect fit for me. As a prosecutor I'm able to use my life experiences and try to make things better for people going through something similar.



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

Coming in every day and knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of people. That can be making a difference in a very positive way when someone gets the treatment or the help they need but there are also times where making a difference means sending someone to prison.

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

Seeing and living the devastation that people suffer in their lives as part of being victims of crime. Everyone is impacted by the crimes we deal with.

Angie's full "Why I'm a Prosecutor" video is on our website and Facebook page.

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

# SECOND CHANCE VILLAGE

The winter months can be extremely difficult, especially for those who do not have a place to live. That's where Akron's Second Chance Village comes in.

The Broad Street facility is drug and alcohol free and offers a safe and stable place to put up tents as a way to slowly reintegrate homeless back into society.

Second Chance Village empowers people to take control of their community and take control of their lives. It is unique because it is run by the homeless for the homeless and seeks to meet the homeless where they are today to get them to where

they want to go tomorrow. Second Chance Village offers transitional support services that bridge the gap between street living and home living. The facility houses

free showers, bathrooms and laundry facilities for all area homeless as well as a computer lab with free wifi.

There is even a thrift store—**The Second Chance Store**—that offers free housewares, clothing, furniture and more for area low income and homeless.

### SECOND CHANCE



### VILLAGE

For more information head to their website—[www.patreon.com/secondchancevillage](http://www.patreon.com/secondchancevillage)

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