



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

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH**  
**ARRIVE ALIVE—DON'T DRINK & DRIVE**

Each July we celebrate our country's independence. People gather with family and friends at barbecues and watch fireworks. Those parties could also include alcohol.

Did you know each year about 400 people die on Ohio's roads because of a drunk driver. In 2017 there were 527 alcohol related crashes in Summit County alone! Drunk driving or driving while impaired impacts everyone, even if you're not the one who gets behind the wheel.

My office has recently prosecuted several cases where a drunk driver received significant prison time for causing a crash where someone died. In just the past few years, four teens have died at the hands of a drunk driver.

I have spent the majority of my professional career fighting for victims. That is why I feel so strongly that something must be done to keep

drunk drivers off the road.

Ten years ago I fought to strengthen Ohio's laws on fighting drunk drivers, specifically targeting repeat offenders. The new law provides stiffer penalties for repeat offenders—those facing their third offense in six years or sixth offense in 20 years.

25 people called our Arrive Alive hotline and got home safely. The program ran from the evening of July 3rd to the morning of July 5th. That number may not seem like a lot, but that's 25 fewer people who may have gotten behind the wheel impaired, putting themselves and others at risk.

My plan is to bring Arrive Alive back for future holidays, including St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve.

Remember to celebrate and enjoy the holidays responsibly and have a sober, designated driver the next time you go out and drink alcohol.

**ARRIVE ALIVE**

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**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

As we've seen, more needs to be done. That's why I recently launched a new program in Summit County called Arrive Alive. During the July 4th holiday my office provided FREE cab rides home in Summit County for people who felt they needed a ride home after drinking alcohol. We partnered with three local cab companies, Rides4Less, and City Yellow Cab, as well as AAA Akron who helped sponsor the program. Thank you for all your support.

Ask yourself this question. Is it worth the risk to get behind the wheel? Would you rather sit handcuffed in the back of a police cruiser and taken to jail, or get a free cab ride home? The decision is yours. The life you save might just be your own.

As always, stay safe.



# IN THE COMMUNITY

June was a busy month for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office as we helped keep the community safe.



**Prosecutor Walsh and her Chief**

**Investigator Ben Bergeron** recently became certified ALICE active shooter instructors. As certified instructors, the two can train organizations and businesses in the community to



become better prepared in the case of a violent intruder.

Recently, the two provided training to nearly 1,000 **JOANN Team Members** at the

company's corporate headquarters in Hudson. Leaders and Team Members learned how to react and respond to an active shooter incident. Unfortunately, violence in the workplace has become all too common. We have all seen the reports of shootings at schools, concerts, nightclubs, and office buildings. This is just one way to increase your chance of survival in this situation.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office also helps support local organizations. We were honored to take part in the Autism 5k Run & Walk. The event raised over \$100,000 for the **Autism Society of Greater Akron**.

Runners and walkers alike gathered at Akron's Firestone Stadium for the annual event.



One in 68 children born in the United States each day is diagnosed with Autism. More than 3.5 million Americans live with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

As part of our commitment to the community, the Summit County Prosecutor's office was pleased to attend the **Akron Branch of the NAACP's** annual life-membership and scholarship luncheon .

The luncheon honors local high school seniors and college students.



20 local students were celebrated for their accomplishments.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is also well respected across the country. Recently, the **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council** asked us to present information on how we battle the opioid crisis in Summit County.

**Brad Gessner**, Chief Counsel of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, travelled to French Lick, Indiana to speak to about 200 attorneys as part of the **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council** annual conference.



Brad spoke about the techniques the Summit County Prosecutor's Office uses to hold people accountable for selling these dangerous and deadly drugs.

Twinsburg was the scene of our most recent Senior Safety Fair.

About 80 people attended the event at the Twinsburg Senior Center and learned ways to avoid becoming a victim.



We are planning our next Senior Safety Fair for Hudson in September. Hope to see you then!



# AVERY'S CORNER

# KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

Summertime is here! This is one of my favorite times of the year.

Everyone is outside and I get to meet a lot of new people.



That's Joe, one of my favorite humans. He's with his own little human. I met them at this big event called a Pet EXPO. My good friends at WAKR 1590 put it together at Akron's Hardesty Park. It was a lot of fun.

June also had some difficult moments. I sat with two girls who came to the office to talk with the prosecutors.

The girls were very nice. We played and sat and they talked and I listened.



It was nice to help them.

I was exhausted! June was a busy month for me! I thought summer was a time to relax and take it easy.

I'll work on that in July.

Also, remember to keep an eye on your pets during the hot summer days.



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## GUILTY VERDICTS



### June 2018

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

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Nik Buckmeier | Matthew Kuhn   |
| Joe Dangelo   | Seema Misra    |
| Ty Graham     | Cletus Pulliam |
| Tom Kroll (2) | Jeff Puthoff   |

## GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!



## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Darshawn McCormick, 27</b> | <b>Jarvell Henderson, 27</b> |
| • Murder                      | • Murder                     |
| • <b>LIFE IN PRISON</b>       | • <b>LIFE IN PRISON</b>      |
| <b>Tyrell Davis, 29</b>       | <b>Natasha Boggs, 25</b>     |
| • Trafficking in Heroin       | • Involuntary Manslaughter   |
| • <b>8 YEARS IN PRISON</b>    | • <b>6 YEARS IN PRISON</b>   |



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 COP

## DET. MATTHEW WHITMIRE & SGT. DANIEL MARKS

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR JENNIE SHUKI

Crime is something police deal with on a daily basis. However, two shootings within hours of each other will certainly get attention, especially when an innocent man is killed.

One happened at a gas station, the other at a convenience store. Who was the shooter? Finding that answer was the responsibility of Akron Police Detective Matthew Whitmire and Sergeant Daniel Marks and why I nominate them as TOP COPS.

Both conducted a comprehensive investigation and found one person, Jarvell Henderson, was responsible.

59-year-old David Dzatko was shot and killed outside an Akron convenience store. Det. Whitmire and Sgt. Marks viewed the store's surveillance video. The video was very clear and provided a detailed description of the suspect. Detectives subsequently found a Missouri state ID with Jarvell Henderson's picture left on the ground behind the store's counter.

Linking Henderson to the Marathon gas station shooting



proved more difficult. Although the shooter and victim were caught on the station's surveillance video, the victim was not injured, drove away and was never identified. Whitmire and Marks believed the clothes Henderson wore during the murder matched the clothing worn by the shooter at the gas station. Also bullet casings at both crime scenes were fired from the same gun. A final piece of evidence was Henderson's

cell phone. Whitmire and Marks searched the phone and found a video of Henderson wearing the same clothes he wore at both crime scenes and holding the gun used in the shootings.

Henderson was left with little choice but to plead guilty to murder, aggravated robbery and felonious assault. He is now serving life in prison.

As this month's TOP COPS, Whitmire and Marks receive gift cards to Waterloo Restaurant. Thank you Waterloo for your support of local law enforcement.

**Congratulations Det. Whitmire & Sgt. Marks!**

## JOSHUA MIKTARIAN—EOW JULY 13, 2008

Each month, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office honors a member of local law enforcement with the TOP COP award. It's a way of saying thank you for a job well done and for going above and beyond.

This time we would like to pay tribute to someone taken far too soon. This July 13 marks ten years since a tragedy struck our community. July 13, 2008, Twinsburg Police Officer Joshua Miktarian was shot and killed during a traffic stop.

Miktarian was just 33-years-old when he was killed in the line of duty, leaving behind a wife and young daughter.

The Summit County Prosecutor's works closely with all our law enforcement partners around the county. This was different. This time we lost one of our own. 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. Looking back on his high school yearbook, he even wrote that one of his ambitions was to be "the best law enforcement officer this side of the Mississippi." He spent his career dedicated to achieving that goal and 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 appreciate their work and sacrifice.

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

# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR CLETUS PULLIAM

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has a new campaign to help inform the public about what it's like to be a prosecutor. Each month, an assistant prosecutor in our criminal division explains why they chose to be a prosecutor.

This month, Assistant Prosecutor Cletus Pulliam discusses the reasons why he is a prosecutor.

## • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

The main reason I became a prosecutor is that from a very young age I knew I wanted to help my community. I grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, surrounded by a lot of crime. I saw how that crime impacted the community and I wanted to play a role in keeping the community safe. As an assistant prosecutor, I am able to impact communities in a positive way by holding people accountable for their actions. That means I get to help make neighborhoods safer. I get a lot of personal satisfaction by making a difference in Summit County.



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

The role of the prosecutor is to seek justice. To me that means holding a person accountable for the crime they committed. Seeking justice also means there are times when we do not prosecute an individual because, evidence is uncovered which proves the person did not commit the crime. Our job is to seek justice, not win cases.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is that no matter what result you get, the survivor of the crime may never receive total justice. The impact of what happened will stay with them forever. Our wonderful victim advocates stay with the case to the end, and even beyond, and help the victim and their family.

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

# NEW OHIO DRIVER'S LICENSE ID CARDS

There are big changes to Ohio's Driver's Licenses in an effort to keep you safe and protect your identity.

Starting this month, Ohio is issuing new driver's license ID cards. The move is to comply with new federal security requirements.

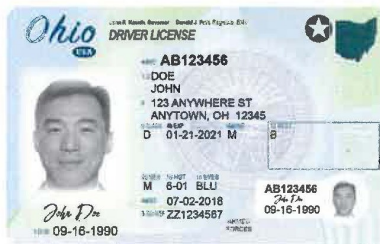
You will have two choices the next time you go to the BMV—either a Standard ID or a Compliant ID. Both cost the same.

Starting in 2020, you will need the new Compliant ID to get on a plane or onto a federal facility

and military base. A Standard ID is still legal, but it will be stamped "NOT FOR FEDERAL ID". The Compliant ID's will have a star stamped in the corner. You will also have to bring more documentation to get the new Compliant card, such as your birth certificate and two proofs of Ohio residency.

BMV officials suggest getting the new ID's soon to avoid long lines as 2020 approaches.

### COMPLIANT OHIO DL-ID



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