



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

This month I am honored to be sworn in once again as Summit County Prosecutor. As I begin my 17th year as your county prosecutor, I am humbled and privileged to represent the citizens of Summit County and continue the mission of making our community a safer and better place to live. Thank you for electing me to a record setting 5th consecutive term!

Over the past 16 years, a lot has changed—from new laws helping to protect victims to technology making it easier to navigate the criminal justice system. But throughout it all, my passion remains the same: giving victims a voice and the strength to find justice.

I am also very proud of what my office has accomplished over the years. We are continually recognized as one of the top prosecutor offices throughout the state and the country. My office has received numerous awards and honors, including best performing Child Support Enforcement Agency in Ohio.

Just last year I was honored to receive the 2016 Model of Justice Prosecutor Award from the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center for our work in helping crime victims and their families. These are just a small example of the phenomenal work done by my staff.

One of the biggest changes my office has seen since I was last elected is a four-legged wonder dog named Avery. If you don't know, Avery is our facility dog, specially trained to assist crime victims. Being a crime victim can be extremely stressful, intimidating, and overwhelming, especially when you have to tell investigators details of what happened.

Avery eases that stress, making it possible for a person to tell what happened.



Avery came to us in August of 2013 and immediately made an impact. Since then, Avery has participated in 112 cases, helping

nearly 150 victims, most of whom are children—children who have gone through horrific experiences. My hope is that during their limited time with Avery, they know that they have the power to take back what was taken from them—their strength and dignity.

2016 was a busy year with my office prosecuting over 4,000 felony cases. We were able to secure a 97% conviction rate, thanks to the incredible work of my very talented staff.

But there is a lot of work to be done. Even after being in office for 16 years, my resolve and passion to help victims and hold people accountable for their actions has not wavered. In fact, it has only strengthened.

Thank you for your faith in me. The only way to make our community better and safer is to work together.

As always, stay safe!

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

With 2017 here, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is renewing its pledge to connect with the community and provide information to help people stay safe.



Prosecutor Walsh and Deputy Chief Assistant

Prosecutor Margaret Scott joined **Pastor Mark Ford**, Executive Director of the **Love Akron Network** to learn more about the organization and its impact on our community. The Love Akron Network's mission is to unite local Christian leaders to transform our community spiritually and socially.

If you would like more information or are interested in helping, you can learn more at www.loveakron.org.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was also very happy to be a part of **WAKR's Holiday Senior Luncheon** at Tangier. The holiday-time tradition is a highlight for our staff. We had a great time meeting new people and seeing old friends. Santa and Mrs. Claus even stopped by to say hi.



Attendees learned about ways to stay safe as outlined in our new 2017 Senior Safety Calendar.

We hope to see you at the next WAKR luncheon on February 15 at St. George Fellowship Hall.

It was our privilege to take part in the re-dedication ceremony, naming the Summit County DD Center in Barberton in honor of former Summit County Executive Russ Pry. Russ may have left us too soon,



but he left behind a legacy of inclusion, no matter one's ability. Pictured are **Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott** and **Jeff Wilhite, Director of the Summit County Family Promise**.

Thank you to Margaret and **John Galonski**, head of our Civil Division, for representing the Prosecutor's Office.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office handled more than 4,000 felony cases in 2016. Many of those cases involved families where children were victims of crime.

Each year, we raise money and collect donations for local families who were victims of crime.



Employees of the



Prosecutor's Office turned into Santa's elves and delivered the presents right before Christmas. We hope what was a difficult year became special with these gifts and the generosity of our employees and the community.

Thank you to everyone who helped this year!

And our pledge to help seniors stay safe continued. **Assistant Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich** joined Akron Police at the Lauer Apartments to give safety tips to seniors.

Here's to a new year filled with prosperity and safety!





AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

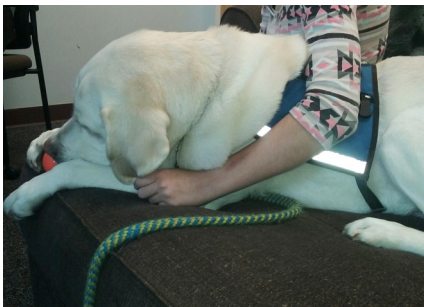
I just love the holiday season. The new year is a time of opportunity to make this year the best ever!



2016 ended on a high note as I helped pack gifts for members of the community. And by help, I mean I flopped down on my bed and took a nap! I hear my human friends say it's the thought that counts.

I am glad I work at a place where people care so much about the community.

I also recently spent a lot of time helping crime victims and their families. These are pictures of me recently sitting with some people who had a difficult time because of what happened to them or a family member.



I'm glad I was able to help. They seemed to feel better when I was there.

Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Mine is to help as many people as possible, take more naps and get more treats!

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII)

SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII



GUILTY VERDICTS

December 2016



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

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Kassim Ahmed | Justin Richard |
| Nick Buzzy | Dan Sallerson |
| Ty Graham | Jennie Shuki |
| Tom Kroll | Angela Walls-Alexander |
| Greg Peacock | |

GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| Zachary Meyerson, 26 | Antoine Bennett, 32 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape—victim under 10 • Felonious Assault • Endangering Children • LIFE IN PRISON | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involuntary manslaughter • 9 YEARS IN PRISON |
| Kerieda Beavers, 22 | Demetrius Ford, 18 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murder • Felonious Assault • LIFE IN PRISON | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felonious Assault • Child Endangering • 8 YEARS In PRISON |

Christopher Hunter, 27

- Murder
- Felonious Assault
- **LIFE IN PRISON**



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE MICHELLE PORTER NOMINATED BY ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR HEAVEN DIMARTINO

Elder abuse is a complex problem which includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. Elder abuse is rarely reported to authorities due to a variety of factors: fear, inability to report, social isolation, denial or a desire to protect the abuser, who is often related to the victim. Consequently, law enforcement officers are often the first to discover elder abuse.

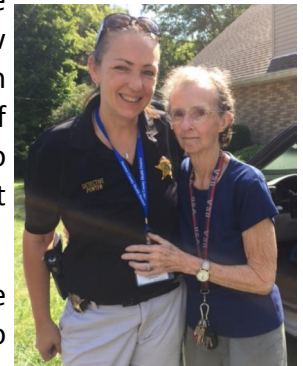


I nominate Summit County Sheriff Detective of Adult Protect Services Michelle Porter as a Top Cop for her tireless dedication to protecting the rights of the elderly.

Detective Porter was the lead investigator in a case involving sexual abuse allegations against the husband of an elderly woman's daughter. Despite facing numerous obstacles, Detective Porter pursued

the matter and ensured that Adult Protective Services were involved and a guardian was put in place to protect this victim from further abuse.

Detective Porter's commitment to protect and serve the community was also evident when she rallied volunteers to reconstruct the home of an elderly widow whose home was infested with wild animals. Because of Detective Porter, we are able to prosecute predators and protect the rights of the elderly.



As our TOP COP, Detective Porter receives a gift card to Home Depot. Thank you Home Depot for your continued support.

Congratulations Det. Porter!

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutor Joe Dangelo for being honored as the 2016 Summit County Prosecutor's Office Employee of the Year!

Joe has been with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office since 2012. In that time, Joe has tackled many projects, from civil cases to most recently volunteering for our Domestic Violence Unit. Joe's attitude and his "this is great" approach to any challenge is truly an inspiration.



This past year Joe was instrumental in lobbying our state legislature about our concerns over a new law.

Congratulations again, and thank you for your dedication to making Summit County safer.

STALKING AWARENESS

As we begin a new year, there is something which impacts millions of people in the United States but many times is ignored. STALKING.

January is Stalking Awareness Month. Each year 7.5 million Americans are victims of

stalking, often with devastating consequences. The hope is that by talking about stalking, people have increased understanding of the crime.

Stalking victims are often forced to move frequently in an attempt to escape and to avoid their stalker. Visit www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org to learn more about ways you can protect yourself.

**STALKING IS
A CRIME IN
ALL 50
STATES**

Stalking Resource Center

#NSAM

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

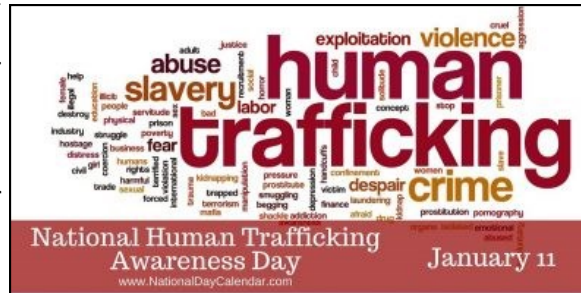
Ohio is 5th in the country when it comes to a disturbing activity—Human Trafficking. Each year, more than 1,000 young girls and women are thrust into this modern day slavery. Criminals target our most vulnerable, especially children. In Ohio, the most common age for someone to become a victim is 13.

Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, false promises, or other forms of control to keep victims.

But there is something you can do. You can become more educated about the issue.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is January 11. The hope is by talking more about the issue, people will understand it more and be more aware of the signs that someone is in danger.

In Summit County, the Collaborative Against Human Trafficking works to increase the community's knowledge of human trafficking.



On Saturday January 14, the Collaborative is hosting an awareness event at the Akron-Summit County Public Library from 10am-2pm. The event will include survivor speakers, a panel, and an opportunity to view the movie Chosen. There will also be activities for kids so

they can learn about the dangers of human trafficking and learn tips to stay safe.

You can also join in on the conversation by using #HumanTraffickingAwarenessDay when posting on social media.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

With a new year upon us, we want to remind people of those who may have fallen on hard times. Our Agency Spotlight for January focuses on the Summit County Family Promise.

Family Promise provides a safe place for up to four homeless families with children to stay and store their belongings

during the day. The agency's mission is to provide families a shelter where they can stay together, do laundry, shower and get food. Families are referred and have their own rooms to meet, do homework and keep personal belongings. There are also computers available and even kennels for family pets.

At night, families go to a local church to sleep. Family Promise also collaborates with other county agencies such as Project RISE and the Ohio Department of Job and

Family Services. When the families are ready to be placed in their own home, the agency also provides everything they need to set up housekeeping like linens, pots and

pans, and bathroom items such as soap and shampoo in a "going home kit". Their greatest needs are for socks, kids clothes and household items.



Family Promise is supported by grants and donations. The agency has a fundraiser coming up on February 3rd. You can also shop Amazon Smile on Amazon.com and a portion of the sale is donated to Family Promise.

If you would like more information about Family Promise, or to make a donation, head to www.familypromisesc.org/.

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