



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH GIVING VICTIMS A VOICE

Victims have a voice. I have spent most of my adult life fighting for crime victims. And making sure their voice is heard. There was a recent case out of California which is receiving national attention for two main reasons: The Victim's voice and how others tried to squash it.



The rape case involved Stanford University student Brock Turner. Turner was a star on the school's swim team. He was also arrested, charged, and convicted of raping a 23-year-old woman following a party both attended. Two grad students interrupted the attack after seeing Turner assault the unconscious, partially clothed woman. Turner ran off, but was eventually tackled by the students, who held him until police arrived.

But what grabbed my attention, other than the pathetic six month sentence in county jail Turner received, was the incredible impact statement the victim read prior to sentencing. Nearly 13 pages long, the woman described in vivid detail how the attack left her emotionally scarred and unable to function like she did before.

Search the internet and read her victim impact statement. She showed incredible strength amidst the anger she felt for Turner.

While reading her statement, the victim addressed Turner directly, describing everything, from the moment she woke up in the hospital, covered in bandages, dried blood, and pine needles covering her back and embedded in her hair to her observations during the trial.

"The consequences of sexual assault needs to be severe enough that people feel enough fear to exercise good judgement even if they are drunk, severe enough to be preventative," she said in court. The victim added "the fact that Brock was a star athlete at a prestigious university should not be seen as an entitlement to leniency, but as an opportunity to send a strong cultural message that sexual assault is against the law regardless of social class."

The victim not only fights back against her attacker, but fights back against those who felt Turner just made a simple mistake, including the probation officer who mentioned

Turner had surrendered his hard earned swimming scholarship. The victim writes, "If I had been sexually assaulted by an un-athletic guy from a community college, what would his sentence be? How fast he swims does not lessen the impact of what happened to me."

She even addresses attempts made by the defense to discredit her story. She was unconscious they said and therefore could not remember what happened. "To sit under oath and inform all of us, that yes I wanted it, yes I permitted it, and that you are the true victim attacked by guys for reasons unknown to you is sick, is demented, is selfish, is stupid. It shows that you were willing to go to any length, to discredit me, invalidate me, and explain why it was okay to hurt me "

"Someday, you can pay me back for my ambulance ride and therapy, but you cannot give me back my sleepless nights."

Victims have a voice. Listen to them. Help them. And give them a chance to have their voice be heard.

Stay safe,

Sherrri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office works hard in trying to make the community a better and safer place to live.

In June, we showed our support for Gun Violence Awareness Day on the 2nd. Dozens of employees dressed in orange, the color which signifies support for the day. The group picture outside the Summit County Courthouse showed just a small portion of employees who participated in the event.



We were also proud to stand with **Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan** on June 2nd as the Mayor and several



community leaders showed their support for stopping gun violence. Among those who gathered were **Akron Police Chief James Nice, plus Margaret Scott, Chief Counsel of our Criminal Division, John Galonski, head of our Civil and Tax Division and Joe Fantozzi, Chief Prosecutor of our Child Support Enforcement Agency.**



Members of the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office were also happy to show support for Alzheimer’s Awareness.



We wore purple as part of the Alzheimer’s Association’s Longest Day campaign. Throughout June, and specifically on the first day of summer, people were urged to wear purple to honor those living with the disease and their caregivers.

Akron is holding a Walk to End Alzheimer’s at the University of Akron on October 2nd. Head to www.alz.org/akroncantonyoungstown for more information

Our office was also pleased to spread the word about safety and self-defense.



Chief Prosecutors **Joe Fantozzi, Margaret Scott, John Galonski,** joined **Domestic Relations Magistrate Ron Cable** at the Fairlawn Kiwanis Community Center to provide tips on how to stay safe and not become a victim.



And a special thank you to Summit County Sheriff’s Deputy Sergeant Mike Walsh for his insight into crimes

against the elderly.

AVERY'S CORNER

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

Summer is here! I love this time of year. I get to go for long walks, and play at the park.



That's me and two of my favorite humans. **FOX8 Meteorologist Dick Goddard** and Summit County Domestic Relations **Magistrate Ron Cable** joining me at the 15th Annual **Pet Expo at Hardesty Park**. And that's my friend Trotwood, who helps Magistrate Cable in court.

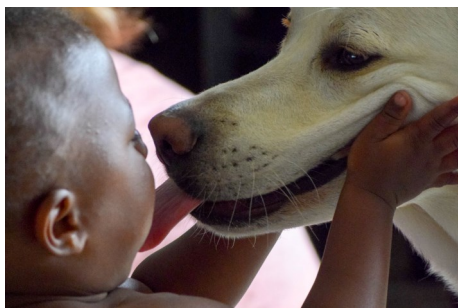
I also want to thank Mr. Goddard and congratulate him for his persistence in protecting animals. **Goddard's Law**, which makes it a fifth-degree felony to knowingly cause serious physical harm to a companion animal,

was just signed into law in Ohio. That means a human can face serious charges if they harm a pet, which includes depriving them of food, water, and shelter.



And in a month where we saw so much tragedy, I am proud to say that I was able to help ease the stress of people in difficult situations. This is me on my weekly visit to Akron's Haven of Rest.

The people there are so nice. I just love spending time with everyone there!



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Help Us Go Green!

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



GUILTY VERDICTS June 2016

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office had a 100% conviction rate for June. Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial. **GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!!!!**

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kassim Ahmed (3) | Angela Poth-Wypasek (2) |
| Jon Baumuel | Rachel Richardson |
| Nik Buckmeier | Dan Sallerson |
| Nick Buzzy | Jennie Shuki |
| Jon Hart (2) | Ryan Stickel |
| Joe Miller | |

OPEN M

We are very proud to take part in helping Akron's Open M provide meals for the community.

Volunteers from our office helped serve lunch to those in the area who are in a time of need.

Open M's mission is to break the cycle of poverty and improve the health of our community. The agency does that by fostering health wellness and nutrition for the body, education for the mind, and hope, joy and spiritual growth for the soul.



For more about OPEN M log on to www.openm.org.

LOOKING FOR LOVE? NOT HERE!

Working in the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office provides us with insight into the criminal world. Many times the cases we prosecute involve some horrible activity.

We’ve seen it all. Murderers, rapists, child molesters. The picture to the right is of Christopher Butts. Prosecutor Walsh and now retired chief counsel Mary Ann Kovach personally prosecuted Mr. Butts in 2008 for 20 counts including Rape, Robbery, Kidnapping, and Burglary. After being convicted by a jury, Mr. Butts was sentenced to 94 years in prison.



But even this story came as a surprise. Now Mr. Butts is apparently trying to find love from behind bars. There is a website called “love a prisoner”. It’s a dating site for people convicted of crimes.

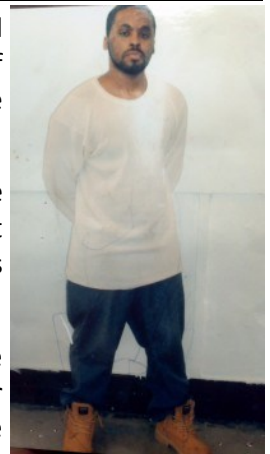
We were alerted to Mr. Butts’ profile, where he’s looking for someone to accept him and overlook his flaws. This is

a man who kidnapped and raped several women near the University of Akron and is expected to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

This is someone who cannot be trusted. Christopher Butts is a violent serial rapist. He broke into the homes of his victims and assaulted them.

And now he is looking for “love”. We find this absolutely ridiculous. After hearing about Mr. Butts’ profile, we immediately contacted the prison system which is now keeping a very close eye on this prisoner’s activity.

As much as we all want to find someone to love, this is not the person. Mr. Butts is a very dangerous criminal who is spending the rest of his life in prison. Whatever you do, swipe left on this guy. There is no reason to even give it a second thought. Our goal is to keep the community safe and prevent Mr. Butts from committing any crimes in the future.



VIOLENT CAREER CRIMINAL LAW

Good news to help keep you safe. Prosecutors now have a new tool to keep violent career criminals behind bars longer—“the worst of the worst”, thanks to state lawmakers. Senate Bill 97, which targets repeat violent criminals, was just signed into law.

Senate Bill 97 does several things. First, it classifies any adult convicted of at least two violent felonies in the past eight years as a “Violent Career Criminal”. If any person designated as a “Violent Career Criminal” commits another felony, that person would be subject to an additional mandatory prison sentence of two to 11 years. And if a firearm was used in that additional crime,



the new law increases prison time by 50%.

The bill also prohibits a person designated as a violent career criminal from legally buying or using a firearm or other



specified dangerous device.

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office found that people with two or more violent felony offenses commit nearly 60% of crimes in the state but make up

less than one percent of Ohio’s adult population. The study also found that

more than half of all of Ohio’s violent felony convictions happened in Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Summit, and Franklin counties.

This new law targets a very small portion of the state’s population who commit the most violent crimes. And it keeps these violent predators behind bars longer, leading to safer communities.

This new bill also provides prosecutors with the necessary tools to ensure these violent criminals are put behind bars and are held accountable for the crimes they commit.

The bill was co-sponsored by State Senator Frank Larose, who represents parts of Summit County.

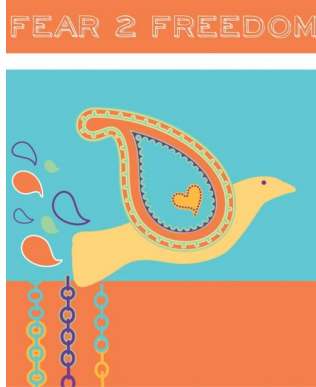
HELPING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

FEAR 2 FREEDOM KITS

The trauma of being a survivor of sexual assault can last for years. But one organization is trying to change that, one victim at a time.

Many times a victim's personal items, including clothes, are taken as evidence. Victims leave the hospital in either borrowed clothes or paper scrubs.

Fear 2 Freedom was founded in 2011 to help bring hope and healing to survivors of sexual assault. The organization provides kits to victims. The Fear2Freedom kits contain items like clothing, soap,



toothbrushes, resource information, and a personal handwritten note.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was honored to help in a special event. Our **Victim Advocates** assisted employees at **Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital** in assembling aftercare kits for survivors of sexual assault.

Overall, volunteers at three Cleveland Clinic locations put together 600 kits. To date, Fear 2 Freedom has provided over 9,000 Kits to victims of sexual assault.



ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS

June 15 was National Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The day is set aside to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

If you suspect someone is the victim of elder abuse, please contact your local police department.

According to the Ohio Attorney General's Office, elder abuse affects an estimated one in nine people age 60 and older.

Also, beware of scams which target the elderly - including the IRS scam and the Grandparent scam. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office recently released information warning people about scammers asking victims to purchase iTunes gift cards as part of the scam. If someone calls and asks you to buy hundreds or thousands of dollars in iTunes gift cards to pay off a debt, IT IS A SCAM! Unfortunately a Norton resident recently was a victim of this scam.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suspect Elder Abuse, call the **Summit County Adult Protective Services 24-Hour hotline 330.643.7217**

SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and depression
- Sudden changes in financial situations
- Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss
- Belittling threats, and other uses of power by family members

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