



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh

The Battle over Encryption

It's a battle of epic proportions. The Federal Government versus Apple. And your safety, not your privacy, could be at risk.

The debate boils down to this. 14 innocent lives were taken last December when two people dressed in black masks and tactical gear, armed with long rifles and



pistols, walked into a San Bernardino, California building and opened fire. Investigators looking into last year's deadly attack have asked the courts to force Apple to let them access a cell phone belonging to one of the shooters. The belief is the cell phone possibly contains information which could lead to a motive as well as clues that may prevent future terrorist attacks.

But information on any iPhone is blocked by Apple's encryption codes. Investigators do not know the phone's password and are afraid that after multiple tries, the phone would lock and the information would be lost forever.

The federal government has filed

several motions to compel Apple to create a program which would allow access to the shooter's iPhone, something which right now does not exist. Apple has refused, saying doing

so would set a dangerous precedent and jeopardize the privacy of millions of people around the world.

But the privacy of millions of people would NOT be

jeopardized. ***The government is not asking Apple to release anyone's passcode or personal information, nor is it asking Apple to eliminate encryption universally.*** This is a very specific request—and would only occur when a valid search warrant exists.

Apple has asked a Federal Court to vacate a California magistrate's order which would force the tech giant to help FBI agents access the phone. Apple's CEO Tim Cook even wrote a letter to customers detailing why the company feels so strongly about not allowing the FBI to have access.

But Apple is wrong. Although our country was built on freedom, it is the government's responsibility to

keep us safe. The government is only asking Apple for permission to use a computer to "guess" the passcode on the shooter's phone.

For example, police get a search warrant for a safe deposit box at a bank because they believe it contains evidence of a crime. But they cannot open the box because the bank has thrown away its own key. The bank could, and most likely would, be able to make another key for that one specific box. Investigators would not have all the keys to all the safe deposit boxes. Just the one key to open the one box.

Drug dealers use cell phones to communicate with buyers. Child pornographers download and share pictures and movies using cell phones. Sex traffickers communicate with their customers via text messages. And terrorists use cell phones to plan their next attack. Simply stated, passcode-protected devices encourage criminals to act without fear of being caught. The ultimate losers in this equation are crime victims. Encryption does not protect privacy. It protects criminals.

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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In The Community

Every month the Summit County Prosecutor's Office spends time in the community, offering safety information and letting people know what we do. And February was no different!

Prosecutor Walsh was honored to be chosen by the Akron/Canton chapter of ASIS, the American Society for Industrial Security, as the organization's first speaker of 2016. Prosecutor Walsh described the ins and outs of the prosecutor's office, and some of the more unique challenges we face. Thank you to **ASIS Akron/Canton Chapter Board of Directors Chairman Phillip Rizzo and Tim Dimoff** for inviting us!



We also had a great time at our free women's self-defense presentation at Akron's **City of Joy Enrichment Center**. Those in attendance were fantastic and so enthusiastic! **Prosecutor Walsh and University of Akron Lt. Chad Cunningham** led the program which involved basic self-defense techniques.

About 60 people took part in the event. Not only did they have a lot of fun, but they learned potentially life-saving information, such as how to be more aware, and how to get away from a potential attacker. Thank you to everyone who attended. And please join us for our next self-defense class on



Tuesday March 8 at Open M in Akron, from 6pm-8pm. If you would like more information, or would like to schedule a self-defense class for your group or organization, please contact Jennifer Watson at 330.643.2800 or watson@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

We also want to make sure our county employees know how to protect themselves. We held our first ever county employee lunch-hour self-defense class in February. 50 county employees took part in the event, learning basic moves and key safety information. We plan on holding our next county employee self-defense class on Wednesday March 30 from 5pm-7pm. Hope to see you there!



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is very involved in keeping our community safe. One of our biggest concerns is the heroin epidemic. Prosecutor Walsh joined **Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan** at a recent roundtable discussion involving about 60 law enforcement and medical personnel from Summit, Stark, and Portage Counties.



Prosecutor Walsh discussed how the heroin epidemic has impacted

Summit County, as well as the challenges we face prosecuting these crimes. Congressman Ryan pledged to do what he can on a national level to help local communities battle this major issue.

One of our favorite events to attend is the annual **WAKR Valentine's Day Senior Luncheon** at St. George Fellowship Hall. About 200 people participated with many stopping by our table to say hi. It was great meeting everyone. We can't wait for the next WAKR Senior Luncheon in May!



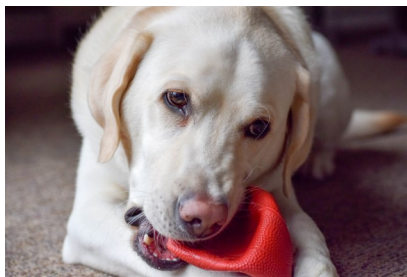
Avery's Corner

Keeping The Community Safe

I love the month of February! One of my favorite days of the year is in February—Valentine's Day! Everyone sends cards with love and hearts. And I love the smell of flowers. But I have to stay away from the chocolate. A moment on the lips, forever on the hips! I hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day with lots of love and chocolate!



I also got to spend time with some of my favorite people; the families at Akron's Haven of Rest. I had so much fun during my weekly visit.



I got a ball to chew on and I got to spend some quiet time with my very good friend. He loves it when I stop by. We have so much fun together.



And I even got to hang out with the men and women going through the Akron Police Department Academy. See why I absolutely love February so much?



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SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

GUILTY VERDICTS

February 2016

We are proud to announce that all completed trials in February resulted in guilty verdicts! Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining convictions at trial in February:

Kassim Ahmed

Nik Buckmeier

Brian LoPrinzi

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!



Tough Prosecutions

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

Deandre Baskerville, 29 **Renardo Owens, 21**

- Murder
- Felonious Assault
- LIFE IN PRISON
- Involuntary Manslaughter
- Trafficking in Heroin
- 8 Years in Prison

Tiffany Powell, 34

- Aggravated Murder
- Obstructing Justice
- LIFE IN PRISON



Help Us Go Green!

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



March Top Cop

Akron Police Detective Mark Hockman Nominated by Assistant Prosecutor Kevin Mayer

On November 15, 2015, one of the largest pit-bull dog fighting rings in Northeast Ohio was raided on Cordova Avenue in Akron. 48 people were arrested. Akron Police Detective Mark Hockman led the investigation.

His passion about getting to the bottom of what happened was key to the prosecution. Acting on information received prior to the dogfight, Detective Hockman secured a search warrant for Alvin Banks' home. A large tactical team comprised of 52 law enforcement personnel including members of the FBI, Summit County SWAT, Akron Police SWAT, Akron



Gang Unit, Narcotics, patrol, and the Humane Society of Greater Akron was assembled. The tactical raid was the largest single SWAT raid performed in Akron. It included an armored personnel carrier which was used to breach the home's outer perimeter.

Shortly before 11pm, the raid on Mr. Banks residence commenced. Upwards of 60 suspects who had gathered to take part in the spectacle took off running in all directions. Money and drugs were thrown all over the place as the participants ran off. In all, 48 suspects were arrested and eight pit-bull dogs were rescued, two of which were severely injured due to the dog

fighting operation. Over \$52,000 was seized, along with weapons and a sophisticated marijuana grow operation.

Of the 48 suspects, nine were from out of state. Several traveled thousands of miles, from as far away as California, North Carolina, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Indiana. 10 individuals were charged in federal court with dogfighting and related crimes. All 10 pled guilty. The remaining suspects made their way through the Summit County court system. During trial, Detective Hockman was determined to be an expert on dogfighting. His expert testimony helped secure guilty verdicts on all of the trials.

Great work & congratulations!

National Poison Prevention Week

Each year, over 2-million people are poisoned in America, with 90% occurring in the home. The majority of these potentially deadly incidents can be prevented.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office would like to remind you the week of March 20th is National Poison Prevention Week.

Young children are at the highest risk of poisoning because of their natural curiosity and tendency to put almost anything in their mouth. Please keep all cleaning solutions and medication locked up and out of reach.

Please take note of the toll-free number, and keep it handy in case of an emergency. You can even save it in your cell phone to have it at a moments notice. You can also visit webpoisoncontrol.org for more information.



Beware of Tax Scams

It's tax season, with the deadline to file your taxes about a month away. This is also the time of year when criminals look to take advantage of you, and potentially steal your identity and money.



AVOIDING TAX SCAMS

- File your return promptly—less likely an imposter will file a return in your name.
- Don't respond to threatening robocalls—remember, these are most likely scams.
- Check a tax preparer's credentials—on the IRS online directory <http://irs.treasury.gov/rpo/rpo.jsf>.
- Protect your information online—use a secure internet connection.

Employee Spotlight

Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Scott

Hire Date: December 15, 2003

Title: Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor

Hometown: Morgantown, West Virginia

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Marshall University
Juris Doctor, Ohio Northern University

Fun Fact: Has survived a Paintball Zombie Apocalypse and has received approval for over \$2 million dollars in grant funding for our Domestic Violence Unit!



Margaret Scott joined the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in 2003 after nearly a decade of legal experience, in private practice handling civil cases, and as a public defender dealing with criminal cases. She began her tenure with Prosecutor Walsh as a courtroom prosecutor assigned to the Child Abuse Unit. She was later promoted to the position of a supervisor in the Violent Crimes Unit. After having tried over 100 jury trials, Margaret was promoted again in 2009 and currently serves as Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor overseeing the Criminal and Juvenile Divisions. She also serves as the Program Coordinator for the felony Domestic Violence Court and was instrumental in helping that program become the first felony Domestic Violence Court in Ohio to be certified by the Supreme Court. She is a member of the Akron Bar Association and serves on the Bar Association's Commission on Judicial Candidates which determines the qualifications of candidates for Judge in Summit County. Margaret is a graduate of Class XI of the Child and Family Leadership Exchange. She is award winning! She was awarded a Summit County Highpoint Award by Prosecutor Walsh in 2006, and in 2014 she was named the Prosecutor of the Year by the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties.

Haven of Rest—Hope Totes for Easter

Haven of Rest Ministries and the organization's programs have been mentioned in our newsletters in the past.

Haven of Rest is one of the largest private social services agencies in northeast Ohio. Haven of Rest provides more than a safe, clean place to seek shelter; it offers countless programs and services for the homeless and poor men, women and children. In fact, our facility dog Avery visits families there weekly.

Haven of Rest makes the most of the Easter season by collecting thousands of items like toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, soap, and toothbrushes, which are donated by families, schools, churches, clubs, and organizations. The items are placed into purple Hope Totes bags and given to families in



need, beginning Easter Sunday. Last year Hope Tote bags were distributed to over 2400 families. This year, Haven of Rest has increased that goal to fill over 3000 totes.

These families barely have enough money to cover food, rent, utilities, and other necessities. They often forego purchasing needed personal care items. This is something most of us don't regularly consider. But, we can help.

The Mission's annual Hope Tote campaign is currently collecting personal care items to distribute. Even a small amount can make a big difference. To learn how you can help, please call 330-535-1563 or email khenry@havenofrest.org for more information.

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