



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH COVID-19—ONE YEAR LATER

It has been one year. One year of struggles. One year of isolation. One year of sadness.

It has been one year since the Coronavirus hit Ohio and impacted our lives.

It has also been a year of positives. A year of overcoming overwhelming obstacles. A year of finding solutions to

problems we never thought we'd ever have to face. A year where some of us have faced our greatest fears and came through the other side.

Many of us, including myself, have received the COVID-19 vaccination. My hope is that this will soon allow us to get back together with family and friends without the fear of getting sick.

The past year has also shown me the resiliency of my staff. The past year has been difficult for all of us. But imagine if you were a victim of a crime. My office has tried to keep as many in-person meetings with crime victims as possible while still following covid protocols. However,

many typical in-person meetings have now been replaced by video conferences and phone calls. Unfortunately, those can feel impersonal. Even with the pandemic, my office continues our mission to fight for the rights of crime victims and ensure their voices are heard.

My staff has also looked for ways to still reach the community without putting people at risk.

One solution received a national award for its innovative way of solving a problem. My Child Support Enforcement Agency began drive-up DNA testing last May to assist families in establishing paternity. The solution received an award from the National Child Support Enforcement Agency during the agency's first ever Inspire Event. 840 people have been tested.

My office has also looked for other innovative solutions to the complex problems from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been providing safety information and speeches through video conferencing to help inform our community of ways to stay safe and minimize the chances of becoming a crime victim.

Another positive from the past year has been finding out more about the new things my staff has learned over the past year.

Employees have learned how to cook, bake, have started a new craft, and set aside time to read books. Many used the past year to refocus on things that were important to them. Being with family was a big theme for the majority of people who work in the Prosecutor's Office.

The biggest impact from the pandemic has been an increase in anxiety and feelings of isolation. If you feel overwhelmed there is help available.

The Summit County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADM) Board provides assistance to those who need treatment for mental health. There is a 24/7 hotline available—330.434.9144.

You can go to www.admboard.org for additional information. Or call 2-1-1 to reach Summit County United Way.

Here's hoping for better things to come! Stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office commitment to keeping our community safe remains strong, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

Employees continue to provide information to help minimize the chances of a person becoming a victim.

Last month, Community Outreach Prosecutor Tania Nemer provided safety information to members of **Hudson's St. Mary Church**. The presentation focused on ways for seniors to stay safe and avoid scams. Those in attendance were told to not answer the phone if they do not recognize the number. That way you can avoid a potential scam.

Other advice included notifying a store manager if you would like someone to escort you to your car after shopping, especially if you feel something isn't right. We tell people to **TRUST YOUR GUT!!**

If you would like our office to speak with your group about safety, contact Tania Nemer at 330.643.7751 or email at tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net.

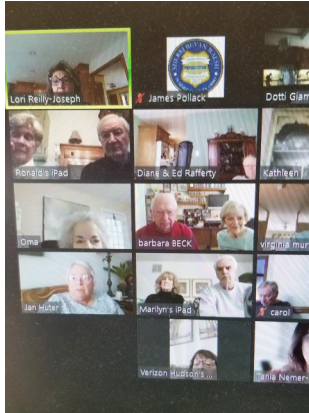
A new scam is now involving the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

According to the Department of Justice, scammers are impersonating DEA agents in order to steal people's identities and money.

One scenario involves a phone call where the scammer tells the person that their name was used to rent a vehicle which was stopped at the border and that the vehicle contained a large amount of drugs. The scammer then asks the person to verify their social security number.

Sometimes the scammers will demand a fine be paid by requesting the transfer of money or to help with resetting a bank account.

The Department of Justice reminds people that the DEA will never call someone demanding either money or for them to verify personal information.



AMBASSADORS' CORNER

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office "Ambassadors of Equity & Social Justice" was formed to work toward bringing people of different backgrounds and cultures together. Each month the Ambassadors will share thoughts in trying to make our community a better place to live.

One question asked is what can we do to build a bridge to eliminate racism? A quote by American author Anthony D'Angelo may provide a simple answer - "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community. We as a nation, community, group, and office just need to CARE!!"

That four-letter word sounds so simple yet, implementing CARE into society seems to be a challenge.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office has a wonderful Victim Services Division. The victim advocates, simply put, CARE. They try to make sure they limit a victim's exposure to the trauma that brought them to our office in the first place.

We as a nation should adopt this concept. Or we can adopt a similar program based on the Start by Believing Program to include the trauma people of color still encounter.

To CARE is to do the following:

C – Create a culture within your home, workplace, or other social organizations filled with good habits and a positive belief system. Then pass this system along to everyone you encounter.

A – Be Active and Accountable in your community. If you notice an injustice, address it or pass the information to someone who can fix it.

R - Research local issues.

E – Educate yourself on a movement.

If we really want change, then take the time to CARE.





AVERY'S CORNER

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

I was so sad when I heard one of my favorite hoomans left us. Dick Goddard was such a nice hooman and spent a lot of his time looking out for my four-legged furry friends. I know his furry friends who crossed the rainbow bridge welcomed him with lots of licks and tail wags.



I was able to take part in a celebration of Mr. Goddard. The City of Green recently named a dog park after him!



There were lots of other hoomans who were there to help celebrate.

I can't wait until the weather warms up so I can go to the park and run and play. It looks like it would be so much fun!

One of my favorite things is to help hoomans. I haven't been able to see a lot of my hooman friends because of the bad virus everyone talks about.

But I met a new friend recently. I was able to sit with her and help her.



She had some bad things happen to her and had to come to where I work to talk with some of my hooman co-workers.

We sat together and she rubbed my back. I think it helped. She was able to say what happened.

I'm glad I was able to sit with her and help.

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Hedy Moss, 52

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

Craig Stubbs, 34

- Aggravated Burglary
- Kidnapping
- **18 TO 22 YEARS IN PRISON**

Diquan Hall, 27

- Rape
- Robbery
- Felonious Assault
- **37 YEARS IN PRISON**



March 22 National Goof Off Day

Take a Pause for the Cause, America!



Mix a little foolishness with your prudence: it's good to be silly at the right moment --Horace



March 22 every year



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

TWINSBURG DET. ERIC HENDERSHOTT

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTORS ELLIOT KOLKOVICH & RIMMA AVANESYAN

A crime scene can be chaotic. Sifting through what happened can be a difficult, and many times dangerous, situation.

Now add to that a tragic crime scene on a busy highway with two severely injured individuals and debris scattered from the impact of a crash. One person died from their injuries.

Determining who was at fault can be a very daunting task.

That is why we nominate Twinsburg Police Detective Eric Hendershott. In November of 2019 Det. Hendershott was working with the Summit Metro Crash Response Team and responded to a serious crash on Route 8 in Cuyahoga Falls.

Working with Cuyahoga Falls Police to secure the area, Det. Hendershott and the Summit Metro Crash Response Team worked to figure out what happened.

Det. Hendershott produced a detailed crash scene report that determined which driver was travelling the wrong way on the highway and ultimately caused the deadly crash.



The report showed 42-year-old Katy Hite was travelling at approximately 100 miles per hour and going north in the southbound lanes when her car collided with a tractor trailer, went airborne, then smashed into a car driven by 23-year-old Tyler Williams. Williams died as a result of the crash.

Hite was sentenced to the maximum five years in prison and her driver's license was permanently suspended.

Without Det. Hendershott, and the incredible work of Cuyahoga Falls Detective Brandon Good and several other Cuyahoga Falls officers, it would have been difficult to determine who the wrong way driver was because of the crash scene as well as some eyewitnesses incorrectly reporting that the victim was driving the wrong direction.

Thank you Twinsburg Police Det. Hendershott and the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department for your hard work and dedication in helping our office secure a conviction.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

April is fast approaching and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office is getting ready!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Watch for an awareness campaign to help survivors of sexual assault.

WHEN SOMEONE TELLS YOU THEY WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

What will your reaction be?

Start by Believing

Rape Crisis Center Hotline: (330) 434 - 7273

PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
CO.SUMMITOH.NET/PROSECUTOR

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) www.startbybelieving.org

Beginning in April these billboards will pop up throughout Summit County asking what will your reaction be when someone tells you they were sexually assaulted.

Do you Start By Believing? Your reaction makes a difference.

Watch our Facebook and Instagram pages throughout April for additional information about Start By Believing.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Each year, the first week of March is dedicated as National Consumer Protection Week. The week focuses on ways to help people understand their consumer rights and make well-informed decisions about money.

Even though it's just one week, you should spend time to focus on protecting your money and identity throughout the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a series of new scams to our area.



In recent editions of this newsletter, we've showcased COVID-19 vaccine scams, scams offering fake cures for the coronavirus, and scams targeting people purchasing items online.

Remember to never give out personal information including your bank account number or social security number.

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

BEN CARRO

"Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives our prosecutors the chance to tell their own story and why being a prosecutor is so important to them.

Ben Carro, who's an assistant prosecutor in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



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

There are two things which are the best parts of being a prosecutor. One, you can have a tremendous impact on people's lives, whether that's a victim, a witness, or a defendant. The second part is trying cases. As a prosecutor we

have the burden of proof and I enjoy how complicated that can be.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because I wanted to help others and also do as much good as possible. When I was a defense attorney I was always helping defendants. Being a prosecutor allows me to help as many people as I can, including victims, society, and even defendants. I felt becoming a prosecutor would give me an opportunity to help as many people as possible.

I initially went to school to become a psychologist. I even did some teaching. But eventually I decided going to law school and becoming an attorney would provide me a greater opportunity to help people.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is that you see the worst of people in society. You meet people at their lowest points and their worst moments and it's difficult to be in those situations. It can also change your view of the world.

You can watch Ben's complete video on our website, Facebook and YouTube page.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

National Women's History Month in March annually encourages us to honor the women who came before us and fought for equality among all races and genders.

Following years of Presidents issuing proclamations declaring the second week of March as National Women's History Week, Congress in 1987 passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month".

While America is full of influential women today, hundreds of women came before to pave the way. Women's History Month serves as a way to not only remember them but keep carrying their torch onward.



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office salutes women trailblazers, past, present, and future!

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