



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



THE SENIOR NEWS

Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh



Prosecutor Sherri Walsh being sworn into office for her first term in January 2001 by Judge Carol Deszo with her father and husband by her side.

In 2001, I was elected to the position of Summit County Prosecutor and in 2020, I was re-elected to my sixth term. I am the longest serving prosecutor in Summit County and after 20 years of serving the citizens of Summit County, I can say I still love my job.

My mission as Summit County Prosecutor is to fight for the citizens of Summit County. Whether you are a crime victim or someone who is supposed to receive child support payments, my office works hard to get you help.

I ran for Summit County Prosecutor in 2000 because I believed victims of crime deserved to be heard within the criminal justice system. Within the first months of my term, I created the office's first ever Victim Services Division. The Victim Services Division works with over 5,000 victims each year. Victim Advocates are assigned to each courtroom and notify victims at every stage of their case, accompany them to court and meetings and give them referrals to agencies for additional support.

My office has received over 55 national and statewide awards including: 2019 Marsy's Law for Ohio Victims' Rights Champion; Ohio Child Support Director's Association Best Overall Performance (2016-2020); 2017 Victim Assistance Program Community Service Award; 2017 Harvey Sterns Award for Distinguished Service to Seniors; 2016 Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center Prosecutor of the Year; 2011 Ohio Public Images Elected Official of the Year; and 2006 Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association Prosecutor of the Year.

As I begin my sixth term, I pray for an end to this pandemic so we can all be together again in person. I truly miss seeing all of you. Please stay safe and keep practicing social distancing.

CONNECTING WITH SENIORS DURING COVID



This past year was one of many challenges. While practicing safe distancing, we needed to be creative in connecting with our senior community. Our 2021 calendar was sent to all senior groups - hopefully you received yours. We were also able to distribute over 3,000 bags to senior high rises and senior homes with a calendar and other office information and goodies.

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

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Visit our Senior Safety Website:
www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



If you belong to a group and would be interested in a ZOOM crime safety presentation from Prosecutor Walsh, email Bogavich@prosecutor.summitoh.net or call (330) 643-7915.

The Prosecutor's Citizen's Academy



In 2019, I launched our first Citizen's Academy devoted to educating residents of Summit County about the criminal justice system. We have successfully completed our second annual class and are preparing for 2021. The Academy offers insight into how the Prosecutor serves the community and how the justice system works. Citizens in the community are invited to a ten week experience where they learn how charging decisions are made, gain insight into plea negotiations, learn about human trafficking, body cameras, and much more. Citizens will have the opportunity to learn from experts in their field and ask questions in a virtual forum. This program is free and open to the public. If you would like an application to participate in our 2021 class, email Tania Nemer at tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net or call (330) 643-7751.

Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice Committee

Fresh ideas and new ways to communicate with the many cultures that make up Summit County are the tools necessary to respond to the needs of our community. I have created an Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice Committee within my office designed to promote open communication about topics such as race, gender, sexuality and other important issues. Thirteen individuals with varied life experiences and positions within the office were selected to be a part of this committee. I am anxious to share the committee's accomplishments in future newsletters.

Latest COVID-19 Vaccine Scams!

Summit County has begun vaccinating the general public with the COVID-19 vaccine. Thousands of doses are coming to the County every day. With the distribution, of course, comes new scams.

Be aware of these new vaccine scams:

- You are asked to pay to get your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You are asked to pay to get the vaccine early.
- Callers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine directly to you.
- Callers offering to schedule you for a vaccine but ask for your credit card number. Social security numbers, bank account number and credit card numbers are not required to get your vaccine.

For more information on Summit County's plan to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, go to <https://www.scph.org/>. Summit County Public Health has also set up a registry for people to receive information on how to schedule an appointment for the vaccine. That website is <https://www.scpo.org/covid/vaccine>. You can also call Summit County Public Health at (330) 926-5795.



In August 2020, my office was able to continue its support of OPEN M by providing free lunches to the community. We followed safety guidelines by wearing masks, gloves and running packed lunches to cars.