



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH ARRIVE ALIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is here! A wonderful time to spend with friends and family. My hope is that you have a safe and healthy holiday, no matter how you celebrate.

Throughout the years I have noticed that holidays and alcohol many times go hand in hand. Maybe it's a beer when you are out with friends. Or it's a mixed drink during a holiday party. Or a glass of wine at dinner. Either way, once you drink you should give your car keys to someone else. Getting behind the wheel even after one drink is a recipe for disaster.

December is National Drunk & Drugged Driving Impairment Awareness Month. The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is described by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals as "one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America's roadways due to an increase in impaired driving".

My successful Arrive Alive program is back for Christmas and New Year's Eve. During our recent Thanksgiving holiday, over 130 people used our code for a FREE or reduced fare ride home from LYFT. And with your help, my hope is that more people will use the service during Christmas and New Year's Eve.

My office is providing 300 one-time use codes during the Christmas and New Year's Eve holidays. The codes give the rider up to \$20 in credit for a LYFT ride.

For Christmas, the codes can be used starting at noon on Christmas Eve through 6pm, Sunday December 26th.

You can enter the code—SUMMITXMAS to receive the discount.

For New Year's Eve, the codes can be used starting at noon on Friday, December 31st through 6pm on Saturday January 1.

For New Year's Eve the code is—SUMMITNYE.

I urge you not to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Not only is it illegal, but it puts you and everyone around you at risk. Accidents caused by driving under the influence are totally preventable. Besides using my Arrive Alive program, here are a few tips to remember as you attend holiday parties and other get-togethers this year.

- Always plan ahead. Designate a sober driver, and arrange for an alternative route home just in

case.

- If you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or even friend, talk to your loved ones and remind them how important it is to be responsible and stay safe.
- If you are the one hosting the party, always offer a non-alcoholic option for drinks for your guests so they can still have

ARRIVE ALIVE SHERRI BEVAN WALSH SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Celebrate the holidays responsibly!
Have a designated sober driver or use Arrive Alive.

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County

MERRY CHRISTMAS
From 12pm Friday Dec. 24
to 6pm Sunday Dec. 26

Use **lyft**
for a FREE ride home
in Summit County
(up to \$20)
Use Code
SUMMITXMAS
For Christmas
(Limit 300 one-time use codes)

HAPPY NEW YEAR
From 12pm Friday Dec. 31
to 6pm Saturday Jan. 1

Use **lyft**
for a FREE ride home
in Summit County
(up to \$20)
Use Code
SUMMITNYE
For New Years Eve
(Limit 300 one-time use codes)

The life you save may be your own!

For more information contact:
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Community Outreach Prosecutor
tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net
330.643.7751

a good time eating and drinking

A *Sherri B. Walsh*



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facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorAveryII

co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor



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ONLINE SHOPPING SAFETY

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

With the holiday season here, many of you are still shopping for that perfect gift. Going online might be the easiest and fastest way to cross shopping off your list.

But be safe when you click for those best deals! Here are some tips to remember when shopping online.

- **Beware of e-skimming while shopping online:** Cybercriminals can capture credit card and personally identifiable information by skimming your data online. Look for the “s” in “https” to ensure that a website is secure.
- **Make sure to research online reviews:** Watch out for generic names and profiles that do not include a photo. If you see consistent reviews on several online stores, it may add validity to the feedback.
- **Check return policies:** In Ohio, sellers can set their own return policies, including policies of “no returns,” but any retailer whose policy limits your ability to obtain a refund must clearly notify you of that policy before you complete the purchase.
- **Keep cybersecurity in mind:** When shopping for deals online, don’t use free public Wi-Fi when entering sensitive information such as a credit card number. Keep apps, software and operating systems up-to-date and use secure websites whenever you need to enter personal information.
- **Monitor your accounts:** Regularly check your credit card and bank accounts for unauthorized charges or unexpected activity. If you find problems, immediately notify your credit card provider or bank. The sooner you identify a problem, the sooner you can work to correct it.

Also, check those delivery dates. Shipping can be expensive and maybe even delayed.



SHOPPING SAFELY
 ~~~ ONLINE ~~~

## GUILTY VERDICTS November 2021

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

**Michelle Cordova**

**Lauryn Kitchen**

**Joe McAleese**

**Kevin Mayer**



## REMEMBERING JUSTIN

This time of year can bring a lot of emotions; joyous times being with friends and loved ones and pain from missing those gone too soon.

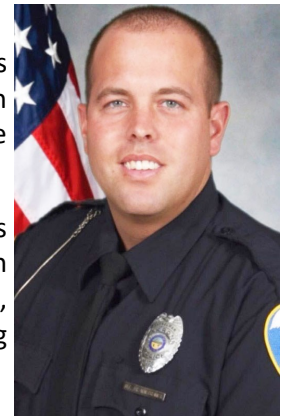
For the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office, this time of year brings both as we remember Akron Police Officer Justin Winebrenner.

On November 16, 2014, Justin was with friends at Papa Don’s Pub when another customer, Kenan Ivery, returned with a gun after being asked to leave.

After seeing the gun, Justin, along with two others, confronted Ivery and tried to get him outside and away from the crowd of people inside the bar. Ivery opened fire and shot Justin twice. Justin collapsed in the parking lot and died a short time later. But his actions undoubtedly saved the lives of others inside the bar. Ivery is now serving a life sentence with no eligibility for parole.

For many, that one moment and one sacrifice is how Justin will be remembered — as a hero.

Thank you Justin for your vigorous pursuit of justice tempered with reason and compassion. **EOW 11/16/2014**





## AVERY'S CORNER

## AMBASSADORS' CORNER

### Holiday Pet DON'Ts

I love this time of year so much. It's fun to see all the decorations while I play outside! I also want to make sure my four-legged and furry friends are safe during the holidays.

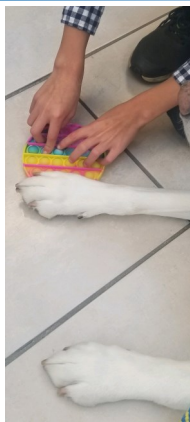
- Make sure your Christmas tree is anchored. That way one of my furry friends won't knock it over!
- Also, even though they smell nice, keep mistletoe and holly away from pets. They can cause tummy trouble and sometimes worse. Fake plants are the way to go!
- Who doesn't love the glitter of tinsel! I know my kitty kat friends do. They love to swat at it and chew on it. But it's bad for them. You don't want an emergency trip to the vet to ruin your holiday.



I got to spend time with a new friend. He's going through a rough time.

I got to play with him and he even let me play a game. That's a picture of us playing the game. I'm not sure I got it right but it was fun.

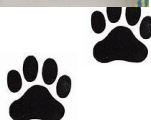
And he drew a really nice picture of me too!



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

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As 2021 comes to an end, the Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice want us to celebrate what is right in the world. Sometimes, in order to do that we have to "change our lens" or "widen our screen." Celebrating what is right with our world does not deny the pain and suffering that exists but it is a perspective that puts our problems into a larger, more balanced, framework. Behind all the difficulties that our world has faced, if we look a little deeper, we can find a light that shines within us. Below are some wonderful successes that have happened in our world in 2021:

In March of 2021, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala made history by becoming the first African and the first woman to serve as director-general of the World Trade Organization.

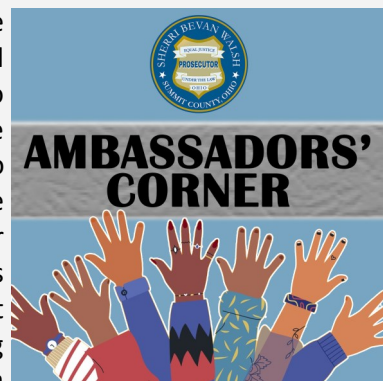
A Dutch Museum (the Rijksmuseum), for the first time in its two-century history, permanently features women artists.

A breakthrough for those with spinal cord injuries occurred when scientists at Brown University fully connected a human brain to a computer via a transmitter device. Trial participants with paralysis were able to move robotic limbs by simply imagining their movements.

Maria Clemente Garcia and Salma Luévano made history in Mexico as the first openly transgender lawmakers elected to the country's lower house of Congress.

Dapper Dan became the first Black designer to receive the CFDA's lifetime achievement award. He is widely known for introducing luxury fashion to the hip-hop world in the 1980s through his shop in Harlem. He is the first Black designer, as well as the first designer who has not had a solo runway show, to win this award.

Wishing you all the best as we enter the new year and remember to widen your lens for 2022!



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at [hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net](mailto:hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net) to receive this newsletter by e-mail



# TOP COP

## COPLEY POLICE OFFICER SARAH SHENDY

Being a police officer can be an extremely difficult job. Law Enforcement Officers put their lives on the line every day to help make our community a better and safer place to live.

Responding to crime scenes, gathering evidence, speaking with witnesses and victims, and tracking down criminals is vital to protecting the residents of Summit County.

Many go above and beyond the call of duty, as well as leave behind a legacy of having a positive impact on their community. That is why we are nominating Copley Police Officer Sarah Shendy.

Officer Shendy has been involved in numerous cases prosecuted by our office. She has been relentless in her pursuit of justice, is positive in everything she does, and is thorough in her work.

Officer Shendy has also provided a helping hand to victims and has assisted in tracking down and finding their belongings following a case.



But it's the legacy Officer Shendy is leaving behind which sets her apart. Officer Shendy is currently the administrator for Ohio's recently created Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment.

Her goal is to not only bring in new officers, including women and minorities, but to help agencies keep the officers they have. Officer Shendy is also looking at creating a statewide mentorship program for police officers.

In a recent blog post, Officer Shendy focuses on working with people, even in the most challenging of times. She writes "we are judged by the decisions we make during rough times, not when things are easy." She goes on to say officers are leaders, healers, advocates, teachers, mediators, and peacekeepers.

Thank you Officer Shendy for your dedication to Copley and to Summit County.

**Great job and congratulations  
Copley Police Officer Sarah Shendy!**

## PROSECUTOR HIGH 5!

We like to celebrate the positives in our office, especially as we navigate through living in a global pandemic.

Assistant Prosecutor Angela Walls Alexander, who works in our Criminal Division, is giving a big prosecutor high five to Amanda Burnette. Mandie is one of the Prosecutor's Office investigators.

Angie wants to recognize Mandie for her assistance with law enforcement officers. Officers are stretched thin and Mandie does a lot of the follow up work an investigating officer may not have the time to do. Mandie verifies criminal records, gets jail calls, finds witnesses, helps retrieve evidence off phones, takes photos of victims as well as many other tasks.



Thank you Mandie and all employees of the Prosecutor's Office for all their hard work! Way to go!

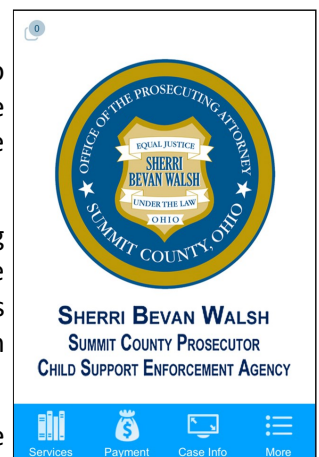
## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our Employee Spotlight this month focuses on Annie Spitali, who works in the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Child Support Enforcement Agency.

In 2019 Annie was asked to temporarily take on the responsibility of supervising the Paternity/Establishment team.

Annie's enthusiasm in learning her new role is contagious. She recognized where improvements could be made as well as took on additional responsibilities.

Annie's continued focus on the improvement and development of her team members is inspiring. She provides assistance and encouragement to her co-workers and is an essential part of the agency's continued success! Way to go Annie!



# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## ASST. PROSECUTOR LAURYN KITCHEN

Each month one of our Assistant Prosecutors discuss why being a prosecutor is so important to them. "Why I'm A Prosecutor" gives them a chance to tell their own story.

Assistant Prosecutor Lauryn Kitchen, who works in our Criminal Division, provides insight into why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

When I was in law school I had an opportunity to work for a law firm that did municipal prosecutions. I hadn't thought about criminal law until that point. It was a pretty complex menacing by stalking case. As I started looking through the case, I realized my brain just clicked with criminal law. I also love working with victims and guiding them through the criminal process. I learned that I enjoyed teaching them how to present their case at trial. That's when I realized I needed to become a prosecutor. Ever since that day I started looking for opportunities and that's why I'm here today.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor right now is we achieve justice. But justice comes in a variety of forms. It's not just winning at trial and going to sentencing. It's also being a facilitator of accountability. Sometimes the justice system allows someone to confront an

addiction, with accountability and responsibility and I get to be a part of that.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is sometimes not being able to prove your case. Someone is always impacted by that decision, and it's usually the victim. We have a great justice system but there are times we cannot prove our case because we just don't have the evidence.

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

## IN THE COMMUNITY

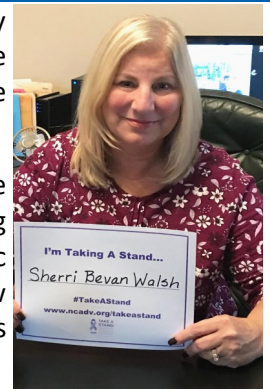
Congratulations to the Akron chapter of the NAACP for serving the Akron community for over 100 years. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office was honored to attend as well as be a sponsor of the recent Freedom Fund Banquet.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees Judith Lee, Tania Nemer, Jamila Mitchell, Emily Williams, Yvonne Johnston, Meka Purdie-Moore, and John Galonski represented the office at the event.



In October, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office took part in the annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign.

Summit County Prosecutor's Office employees wore purple to bring attention to the issue of domestic violence and bullying and to show continued support to survivors everywhere throughout the year.



To learn more head to <https://ncadv.org/2021DVAM>

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