



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It is a time when my office refocuses our efforts in providing support for survivors of sexual assault and informing the community on how to best respond if someone tells you they were sexually assaulted.

Over 80-percent of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement. **THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE!**

In 2019 I launched the Start By Believing campaign in Summit County. Start By Believing started by End Violence Against Women International. It was created to end the cycle of silence and change the way society responds to sexual assault.

In the past, my office has designed a public awareness campaign, which includes billboards and bus ads. An example of those ads is seen in this article. This year the message on those ads is simple—when someone tells you they were sexually assaulted, what will your reaction be?

Your reaction should be one of support. Also, avoid asking “why” questions like “why did you leave your door unlocked?”.

“Why” questions can blame the survivor and cast doubt on what happened.

Research shows that many sexual assault survivors tell friends or family members first. That is why it is so important to understand how to respond. Start By Believing builds a foundation of belief and support, rather than doubt, shame, or blame. This is vital in order to conduct a complete, evidence based investigation and prosecution.



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



I urge you to learn more about the program by heading to the Start By Believing section of our website—<https://bit.ly/3vvKjqx> or by going to www.startbybelieving.org.

Also, if you are a survivor of sexual assault and need assistance, reach out to Summit County Hope & Healing at 330.434.7273 or Summit County Victim Assistance at 330.376.0040.

Please remember to be supportive, patient, and do not judge or question. Ask how you can help—and as always, be safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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COMMUNITY FORUM

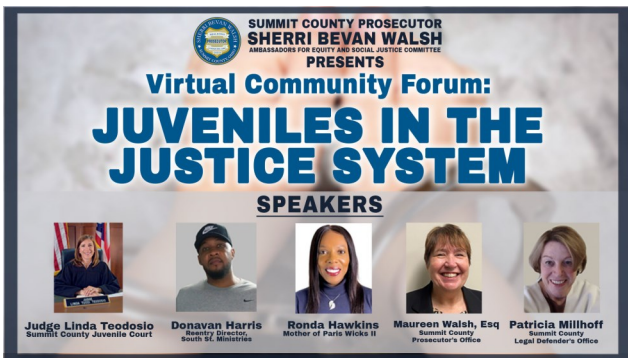
CRIME & PUNISHMENT

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Ambassadors of Equity and Social Justice conducted its first community forum last month—focusing on Juveniles in the Justice System.

Panelists included Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Teodosio, Donavan Harris, re-entry director at South Street Ministries, Ronda Hawkins, mother of murder victim, Assistant Prosecutor Maureen Walsh, who supervises the Juvenile Delinquency Division, and Patricia Millhoff from the Summit County Legal Defender’s Office.

The lively discussion focused on a number of different topics including finding solutions to end violence among the youths of our community. Many ideas were brought up, including the support of grass-roots organizers who provide services for at-risk children and families.

Stay tuned as the Ambassadors are planning the next community forum as a way to engage our neighbors in learning more about the justice system and finding potential alternatives to preventing crime.



TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Corey Jemison, 41

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

William Norman, 30

- Rape
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Marqualle Clinkscales, 24

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Timothy Williams, 31

- Att. Rape
- Kidnapping
- **20 TO 25.5 YEARS IN PRISON**

ARRIVE ALIVE—RESULTS!

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

As part of that mission, the Office brought back the Arrive Alive program. Arrive Alive provided 400 codes for a FREE or discounted ride home via LYFT during the St. Patrick’s Day holiday. The goal was to keep drunk or impaired drivers off the road by providing an alternative to get home.

181 people used the code for a FREE or reduced fare home.

Thanks to Summit County Sheriff Kandy Fatheree for co-sponsoring the event.



SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF
KANDY FATHEREE



Present

ARRIVE ALIVE

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

A FREE Ride Home in Summit County





AVERY'S CORNER

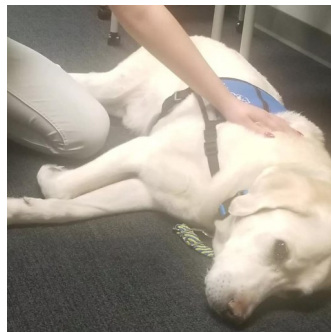
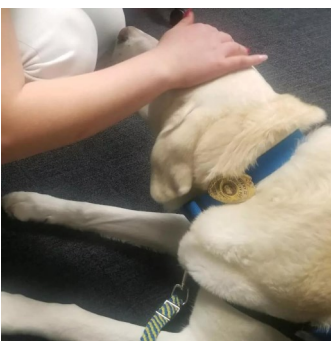
EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

This time of year is filled with ups and downs. I just wish the weather would make a decision!!!

It can also be tough for many of my hooman friends. I got to meet a new friend recently.

They had some bad things happen to them. But I got to sit with them and let them pet me.

It was really nice to be there and help. I'm so glad I was able to provide comfort.



I haven't been feeling great lately so I went to my good friend, Dr. Paroff at Stow Kent Animal Hospital.

They take such good care of me. I knew they would be able to figure out what was wrong.

And they did! Dr. Paroff and his team were able to figure things out and give me the care I need to feel better.



Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

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

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



Each month, members of our Ambassadors of Equity and Social justice focus on a specific topic for this newsletter. This month, the Ambassadors take a closer look at celebrating diversity.

April highlights multiple things during its 30 days such as, Sexual Assault Awareness, Keep America Beautiful and Financial Literacy. Though these are great things to celebrate - I choose to Celebrate Diversity.

Diversity is a substantial part of how America functions. There is nothing like driving through the city and being able to pass by different types of markets, restaurants, and people.

Having the privilege to have access to someone else's traditions and culture is something we should celebrate.

By human nature we tend to surround ourselves with people like us. Embracing a broad range of people can help us learn about different races, cultures and traditions. This humanizes people we are unfamiliar with and aids in awareness and appreciation for their ways of life.

The current climate in the world where there has been much division – we hear a lot of “we’re the human race” or “we’re all in this together” – these statements can come off as positive and heartwarming but for these statements to actually hold weight, we as a people must learn to embrace every human and the differences we have. We may not live the same way or conduct ourselves in ways others may deem as normal, but we all are affected by things that happen on earth, in our government and in society.

Enjoying different foods, hearing stories from different cultures, and witnessing their traditions can show us that we all aren't really that different. We are lucky to be able to experience the differences we have and see other people's cultures by traveling to these places or simply watching videos on social media. Diversity is needed and will help continue pushing our way of thinking forward while expanding the possibilities of how we operate around the world.



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON POLICE OFFICER BRIAN FLOHR

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROSECUTOR GREG PEACOCK

Sometimes criminals do a good job of hiding their identity and providing investigators little to find when trying to solve a crime.

Other times, they leave behind a key piece of evidence. But finding that key piece of evidence, and knowing what to do with it, is vital to bringing justice. That is why I am nominating Akron Police Officer Brian Flohr as this month's TOP COP.



Flohr surmised that the suspect must have dropped something, like his keys or phone. Officer Flohr began walking into the wooded area between the shooting and the location of the suspect's car. That is where he spotted the key fob to Khalfani's car as well as his debit card in the snow under a tree. Had Officer Flohr not found it the murder would have gone unsolved.

This involves the case of 21-year-old Osiris Khalfani, who was just sentenced to LIFE IN PRISON for the murder of 47-year-old Antwaine Bethune.

Because of Officer Flohr's keen eye and ability to deduce why the suspect had stopped, we were able to secure a conviction and significant prison sentence.

Officer Flohr reviewed security footage of the area where Bethune was killed and saw where Khalfani parked his car. The video showed Khalfani return to his car after the murder, pause, turn around, and go back towards the murder scene.

Congratulations Officer Flohr & great job!

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

April is Autism Acceptance month. The nationwide effort was launched over 25 years ago to promote awareness, inclusion, and ensure that each person on the Autism Spectrum is given the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

It's also a good time to remind you about our Take Me Home program.

Take Me Home is a secure database, accessible only by law enforcement, which is used to help reconnect caregivers with children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home. If you know someone who could benefit from this program and is not registered, please have them contact Leslie at knoblauch@prosecutor.summitoh.net, or 330-643-2800.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. During the month of April extra emphasis is placed on working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office works closely with Summit County Children's Services to build a strong community for children and families.

President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1984 to raise awareness of the issue.



WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

AMANDA KOREN

"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.

Amanda Koren who's an assistant prosecutor in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



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

The best part of being a prosecutor is that I know that I can have an impact on all sorts of people, whether it's the victim, their family, society or the defendant. I take that responsibility very seriously. I also try to have a very positive impact on as many people as I can.

• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I always knew that I wanted to work in public service and serve the community, but I didn't know that I wanted to be an attorney or even a prosecutor. I was living in New York during college and took the exams for local law enforcement. However, there was a two to three year wait list. One of my undergrad professors recommended that I consider going to law school. So I took the LSAT and ended up at the University of Akron's Law School. While in law school I interned at a couple of prosecutor's offices and realized that was where I wanted to be and haven't looked back!

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is when I have to tell a victim we didn't get the outcome they were hoping for. Also, when a victim is disappointed or upset. I do my best to explain the process and what happens next.

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

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office is collaborating with the Summit County Victim Assistance Program, the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties, and the Summit County Rape Crisis Center on a new campaign for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. You might have seen the billboards or bus ads around town.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week this year runs from April 24 through April 30. Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week has brought attention to the needs of crime victims and has attempted to remove barriers to achieve justice for all.

This year's theme is **RIGHTS, ACCESS, EQUITY, FOR ALL VICTIMS**. The Summit County Prosecutor's Office will fight to enforce victims' rights, provide access to services, and ensure equity and inclusion for all.

MANY DOORS TO HEALING

National Crime Victims'
Rights Week

April 24-30, 2022

RIGHTS, ACCESS, EQUITY, for all victims
Help crime survivors find their justice.



24 HOUR HOTLINE
330.376.0040



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