



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH SEXTORTION WARNING

My mission as Summit County Prosecutor is to provide you with information to keep you safe.

I've heard of a new, troubling trend which I find very disturbing, and it's putting our children in danger. It's called "sextortion".

It can happen on any website, social media site, or messaging platform. The underage victim is targeted by an adult who tricks, manipulates, or threatens the victim into producing and sending sexually explicit material.

That is when someone asks another person they're interacting with on social media to send a picture, usually partially or fully naked, then demands money be sent to prevent the picture from being released. This scam usually targets teens, who may not realize the dangers of sending the picture.

Once material is obtained, the perpetrator will blackmail the victim, and threaten to send the images to friends and family or even threaten to harm loved ones unless the person pays them.

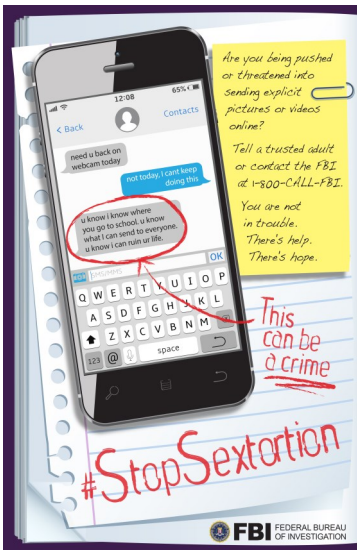
According to the FBI, in some cases, the first contact from the predator will be a threat. The person may claim they already have a picture or video they'll share if they don't get more pictures or money.

The victims often feel shame, fear, and confusion which prevents them from asking for help. They worry about punishment from their parents and caregivers, or prosecution from the law if their actions are discovered.

Sadly, these feelings can result in tragic results. In Ohio, we know of two incidents where the person targeted with sextortion took their own life, including a Streetsboro teenager.

Unfortunately, finding the person responsible is nearly impossible. Investigators say the scam is done by people living overseas who hide their identity.

The FBI has launched a campaign in middle and high schools to help stop sextortion. The Agency is alerting teens and families to let them know



predators can target victims by using devices used for gaming, homework, and communicating with friends.

It is important to have a conversation with your children about internet safety and the dangers of sending nude photos and videos. Always keep computers in a shared space within the home. It is crucial for your children to know they can always come to you for help. If you or your child suspect they are a victim of sextortion, notify law enforcement immediately.

As always, be safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

We love speaking with younger people—and potential future prosecutors. **Chief Counsel Brad Gessner** went back to school for the annual “Tell Tale Heart” program with students at Hudson Middle School.

The students learned what goes into prosecuting a case and related that to Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart”.

Mr. Gessner presented a real-life case involving a Summit County man who admitted to killing his mother and brother at their Hudson home.



Poe’s story is of a man who went insane after killing a friend and burying the body under the floor of his room. The character believes he still hears his friend’s beating heart, which eventually drives him crazy.

It’s great to see friends, new and old, when we are out in the community.

That’s the situation every time we attend the WAKR Senior Luncheon.

The holiday themed event had about 300 seniors. Many came to our table to say hi and receive safety information.



We have lots of great giveaways, including ways to minimize your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

And we also had a wonderful poinsettia plant which we gave away!

We hope to see you at the next WAKR Senior Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday February 4th at St. George Fellowship Hall.



2022 BY THE NUMBERS:

- 4998 TOTAL DEFENDANTS
- 4781 FOUND GUILTY OR PLED GUILTY
- 96% CONVICTION RATE
- 60 TRIALS
- 71 OPEN HOMICIDE CASES

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Kashmair Mingo, 23 **Jaemeir Gooden, 20**

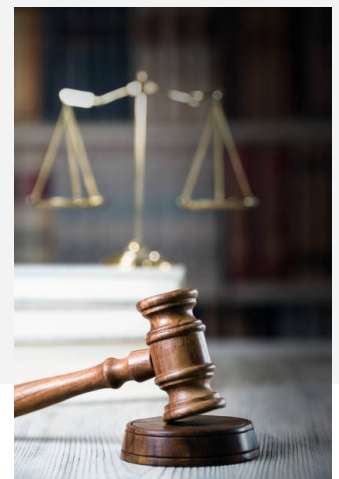
- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**
- Involuntary Manslaughter
- **15-to-20.5 YEARS IN PRISON**

Kavon Jackson, 18

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**

Leeric Campbell, 21

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**





AVERY'S CORNER

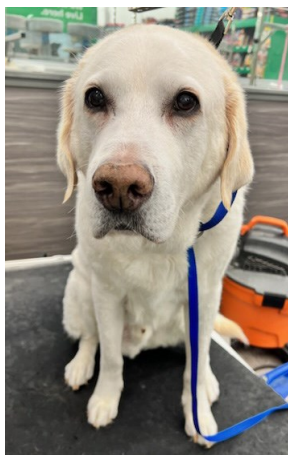
EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The holidays have come and gone and now it's time for making 2023 the best year yet!

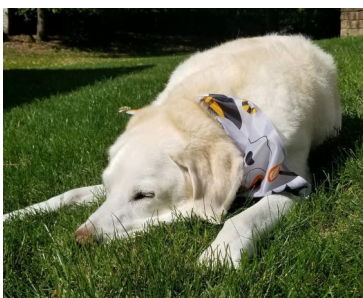
I started out the year by visiting my good friend Kelsie at Pet Supplies Plus.

Kelsie takes very good care of me and makes sure I look my best.

I hope you have a great start to the new year and make sure you find time for yourself!



I know it can be tough dealing with gray skies during the winter. As much as I love playing in the snow, I do miss the sun.



So here's a picture of me resting in the warm sunshine. Just dream of warmer weather just ahead!

Follow Avery II on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/

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



The Summit County Prosecutor's Office "Ambassadors for Equity & Social Justice" was formed to work toward bringing people of different backgrounds and cultures together. Each month the Ambassadors share thoughts in making our community a better place to live. Here is an article from one of the group's members.



In a world where equity and inclusion are a critical topic in every aspect of our lives, adults and children with disabilities are often left out of the discussion.

Beyond education, they have difficulty overcoming the misconceptions of others. It is important to remember there are specific differences between people with disabilities. We are doing them a disservice when assumptions are made based on facts unrelated to that individual. For example, if someone constantly wants to talk about and look at cars – this could mean that this person may have a disability or condition which causes them to intensely focus on one thing. But it could also mean that cars are simply a hobby. You have to take the time to get to know the person before making assumptions.

It is imperative to remember what others would like them to do could be the exact opposite of what that person may want for themselves. Please get to know a person with a disability because the experience can be inspiring. One organization which can help the public understand more about people living with Autism is the Autism Society of Greater Akron. Follow this link to learn more: <https://autismakron.org/>.

For those of you who love someone who may have a disability that prevents them from communicating, please take a look at our "Take Me Home Program." The program allows for the rapid identification and safe return of children and adults who have a difficult time communicating and may wander from home, including those living with dementia, Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, and Autism.

To learn more, check out our website: <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/programs/Take-Me-Home.html>

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Each month there are plenty of ways to celebrate and bring awareness to certain causes and issues.

January has plenty of those opportunities. Here are a couple of designations:

- **WORLD HEALTH ESTEEM MONTH**
An opportunity to appreciate ourselves for who we are now and the small choices we can make to enhance our lives.
- **NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**
Focus on how we can all work together to make sure young people in our communities have dependable people to look up to.



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COPS

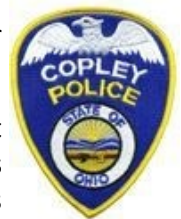
AKRON DET. ANTHONY SUTTON & COPLEY DET. MIKE YOVANNO

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. RIMMA AVANESYAN & JOE MCALEESE

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office handles a variety of felony crimes. Some of the more disturbing crimes involve sexual assaults. With the incredible work of local law enforcement, we are able to secure convictions on many of these cases.



Det. Sutton investigated a very difficult case involving an 11-year-old who was abused by a family friend. Det. Sutton discovered the defendant had committed the same crimes against other children in his past. That made it clear this recent behavior could not have been a mistake or accident. This assisted our prosecution team to secure a conviction.



That includes two recent cases with two separate departments — and why we nominate Akron Police Detective Anthony Sutton and Copley Police Detective Mike Yovanno as this month’s TOP COPS.

Det. Yovanno investigated a very difficult case involving a 16-year-old who was assaulted by a close family friend. This offender gave the victim alcohol and then took advantage of her while she was unable to consent. Det. Yovanno met with prosecutors, the victim and her family, and completed an investigation which led to a conviction by a jury.

Sexual assault cases are very difficult to handle for a variety of reasons: Vulnerable victims, lack of education in the community about sexual assault, and sometimes even critical judgment of the victim and *their* response to trauma.

**Great job and congratulations
Detectives Sutton & Yovanno!!!**

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutor Jamila Mitchell as the 2022 Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Employee of the Year.

Jamila is a dedicated, hardworking, tough prosecutor. More importantly, she always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude. Not only does she work diligently on her cases, but in her spare time she is the mother of six children and she somehow keeps it all together.

In 2022 Jamila had more jury trials than anyone else in the office. She was in 10 trials and obtained eight convictions. She has accomplished all of this with a positive attitude that is infectious when you are around her.



Congratulations Jamila!!

WOMEN’S SELF-DEFENSE



FREE WOMEN’S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sponsored by

Summit County Prosecutor

Sherri Bevan Walsh

**with Certified Instructor
Chad Cunningham**



**Thursday, February 2, 2023
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Barberton Library
602 W. Park Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203**



Learn simple techniques that could save your life!

- Verbal techniques
- Free yourself from a choke-hold
- Learn the wrist breakaway
- Escape if pinned to the ground
- Practice kicks and slaps

For more information, contact:
Tania Nemer
330-643-7751 or tnemer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

CHUCK ROMAN

"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.

As we begin a new year, their dedication to the community, and to finding truth, hasn't changed.

Assistant Prosecutor Chuck Roman, who works in our Criminal Division talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to him.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor because, as a law student, I had an idea of what it meant to be a lawyer and what I wanted my future legal profession to look like. I sought advice from professors and attorneys and many recommended starting out in prosecution because you learn invaluable skills. I eventually got an internship at the Summit County Prosecutor's office. After just a few days I realized this is what I wanted to do.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor include being able to fight for people who've been wronged. It's an unfortunate reality that members of our community will be victimized, including some of the most vulnerable. We can seek a remedy to help

these people. I'm able to serve my community and make a difference.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is being closely involved in people's tragedies. It's difficult to not be affected by the trauma experienced by other people.

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

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

This month marks the 19th annual National Stalking Awareness Month. The month brings awareness to the dangers stalking places on victims and the community.

Researchers found that nearly 70% of mass shootings from 2014 through 2019 started as either domestic violence incidents or the shooter had a history of domestic violence.

Examples of stalking include—

- Persistent, unwanted contact
- Using technology to monitor another person
- Threats of violence toward a victim, family member, or pet

Visit www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org to learn more about ways you can protect yourself.



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