



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

SAFE ACCESS TO CHILD SUPPORT

I am always looking for innovative ways to help the community, fight for crime victims, and assist those who need access to services.

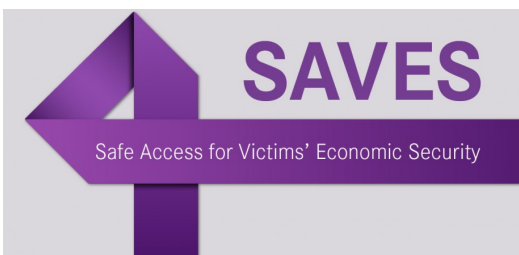
That includes people who are supposed to receive court ordered child support but are afraid that applying for child support will cause the non-custodial parent to become violent. October was Domestic Violence Awareness month—but my office focuses on combating domestic violence all year and finding new solutions to helping families.

That's why we have the Safe Access Program in Summit County. What is Safe Access? Last year, the Federal Government awarded grants for the "Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security" (SAVES) in Ohio. Even though Summit County did not receive any federal funding, immediately I saw a need in implementing the program here.

I want to remove or reduce barriers for families who desperately need these services which promote economic stability. It also protects their right to safely receive the support to which they are entitled, as well as educate the community about domestic violence.

So I put together a team of Child Support Enforcement Agency professionals who work directly with clients and follow their case until they are no longer eligible to receive child support. Advocates also provide information on supportive services. The team also includes an assistant prosecutor trained in these types of situations.

Research shows that domestic violence is under-reported, especially in the child support system and that many survivors of domestic violence do not attempt to get a child support order. However, 90-percent of domestic violence survivors say they would pursue child support if they could do so safely.



The Safe Access program assists survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence by providing them safe access to these services when they feel they are in danger.



If you have questions about the Safe Access program, reach out to Assistant Prosecutor Michelle Drago at summit_safe_access@jfs.ohio.gov. You can also call Michelle at 330.643.8121.

One in four women and one in seven men have been victims of severe physical violence.

You can also contact Summit County's Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center at the agency's website at - <https://hopeandhealingresources.org/battered-womens-shelter/>.

Or call Hope and Healing at 330.374.0740 or the agency's hotline at 330.374.1111.

As always, stay safe.

Sherri B. Walsh



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Prosecutor Walsh was honored to be the special guest speaker at the annual fall luncheon held by GASP (Guardians Advocating Child Safety and Protection).

Prosecutor Walsh spoke about her experience as a crime victim and the ways people can protect themselves and their family.

She also spoke about the Office’s Start By Believing program and how we can support friends, family, neighbors and anyone else who are victims of crime.



Summit County Prosecutor’s Office employees were also out and about in the community.

Several attended the recent awards ceremony held by the ADM Board of Summit County.



The organization “Better Kenmore” received the 2023 Innovation Award

for its approach to tackling substance abuse through neighborhood community support.

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office was proud to take part in this year’s 13th annual “Zane’s Trunk & Treat” in Silver Lake.



The fun, family event highlighted the mission of Zane’s Inc. to serve children and adults with special needs throughout Northeast Ohio.

GUILTY VERDICTS

October 2023

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

Ben Carro

Greg Peacock

Emily Hall

Chuck Roman

Amanda Koren

Jamila Mitchell

Josh Rau



GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

Deair Wray, 29

Thomas Foster, 56

- Murder
- **LIFE IN PRISON**
- Arson
- Cruelty to Animals

Bryan McCroskey, 34

14-to-16.5 Years

- Aggravated

in Prison

Robbery

Timothy Luna, 26

- Kidnapping

- Rape

18-to-23.5 Years

15-to-20.5 Years

in Prison

in Prison



ADAM'S CORNER!

EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hi everyone. Adam here again. I'm the new facility dog at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office. Avery is still here but easing into retirement.



I work with a bunch of wonderful hoomans. Recently they found out that Turning Point Tank, a furry four-legged friend of mine, was recovering from cancer treatment. So they held a bake sale to raise money to help with paying the bills. You can see me hanging out trying to get people to buy things!



We raised over \$760! Thank you to everyone who donated treats and helped set up the bake sale.

I got to meet Tank after the bake sale. He came by my office with his handler Jillian to say thank you.

Tank is great. He works with the court and helps support and comfort those battling addiction who are participating in the Turning Point program in the Summit County court.

Even though Tank is going through some tough times, you can never tell.



He has so much fun and is so nice to be around.

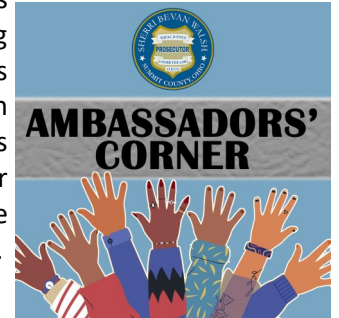
Follow Adam on Social Media at:

Adam—<https://www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP>

Instagram—@SCPOAdam



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.



November is generally known for two things—Thanksgiving and change. Thanksgiving is celebrated by family gatherings, food, parades, being thankful, and football. With change, it's out with the old and in with the new, represented by voting, the chill in the air marking the arrival of winter, and the colors of the leaves as they fall off the trees.

A quote by Morgan Harper Nicholas represents both aspects of November and has changed how we might look at the month. "Let this be the November you always remember. The November you chose to believe there was more to your future than you were able to see. The November where you learned to trust that after everything happened, in time, you would grow in the courage to open again. And you could look forward to these new unknowns, believing that no matter what would happen, you would still grow. You would still be worthy of love, even though you were made to feel you were not good enough. Let this be the November you chose to rise above. Let this be the November where everything changed, and you decided you were free to heal and never be the same."

This quote can be a challenge to be more open to change and be more open to healing. It might make you want to learn how to love more, seek information on new things, and become more aware of issues greater than our own.

November is more than just voting, Thanksgiving and football. It is also the month of several awareness campaigns. There are five which get a majority of the attention. Native American Heritage Month, Diabetes Awareness Month, Epilepsy Awareness Month, Movember – Men's Health Awareness Month, and National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

So, take a moment to investigate these campaigns and see if you can help make a change.



Help Us Go Green!

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



TOP COP

AKRON FIRE INVESTIGATOR MICHAEL HAUSE

NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. RIMMA AVANESYAN

Solving arson crimes can be a dubious task. Tracking where the fire originated and then how the flames spread takes years of training to understand. That training was essential for a recent case—and why Akron Fire Investigator Michael Hause is this month's TOP COP.



Hause, joined by Akron Fire Investigator Gabriel Cotrufo, investigated an intentional fire set on Santee Avenue in Akron. The two people charged schemed revenge against the resident by setting fire to the victim's vehicle which then spread to the house.

The fire was set in the middle of the night by one person with the other acting as getaway driver. Thankfully, the victims were awake when the crime took place and were able to gather their pets, call 911, and escape the flames.

Video cameras captured the incident, but because it was at night, the image was very dark and it was difficult to determine who the suspects were at the time of the crime.

Due to the diligent efforts of Fire Investigator Hause, officers were able to identify the two suspects. Investigators interviewed witnesses, canvassed the neighborhood, and obtained video surveillance which led to the arrests. Both co-defendants have been convicted of arson and are lifetime arson registrants.

Tiana Parnell was sentenced to three-to-four-and-a-half years in prison. Co-defendant Elexus Smith was sentenced to nine-to-36 months in prison.

We also want to thank Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearm Officer Clay McCausland for his assistance in this case.

**Great job and congratulations
Akron Fire Investigator Hause!**

VISIT FROM BRAZIL!

Summit County Prosecutor's Office Chief Counsel Brad Gessner had an opportunity to visit with representatives from the law enforcement community in Brazil.

The group was invited to Akron as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program and Global Ties Akron.

The group of around a dozen Brazilians observed policing practices in our area, examined the balance between combating crime and balancing the rights of individuals, and providing security for the community.

Brad discussed the role of the prosecutor's office in the legal system and how we work with the citizens of Summit County.

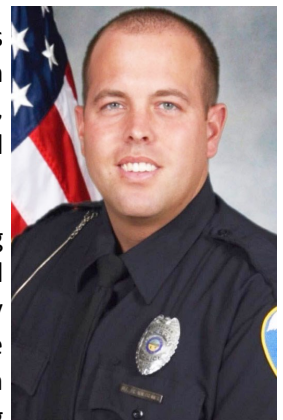


REMEMBERING JUSTIN

This time of year brings a bit of sadness 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.



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

WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

AMANDA HATHAWAY

"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.

Their dedication to the community, and to finding justice, hasn't changed.

Assistant Prosecutor Amanda Hathaway who works in our Criminal Division, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



• WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I became a prosecutor in a roundabout way. I lived in Florida where I was a defense attorney. There, I met my future husband who was from Ohio. We decided to move here where I tried my hand at the prosecution side. I wasn't sure how I'd fit in but to my surprise I love it!

Being a prosecutor and a defense attorney in the public sector and helping others has been the most rewarding in my career. I have found here that as a prosecutor I've been able to help a lot more people than when I was a defense attorney. I have found where I'm supposed to be.

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

The best part of being a prosecutor includes a number of things. There is a huge thrill of being in trial. But the main thing is just being able to help people. People who come to our office have been through the most difficult time in their life. Although we can't fix that, by doing our job we can make them feel a little safer, give them a little peace, and maybe provide them a little closure.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor for me is that I have young children and it is incredibly difficult when I have cases involving children. I never really imagined what people can do to children and it's difficult to separate myself from that. It can be emotionally taxing.

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

ARRIVE ALIVE FOR THANKSGIVING!

It's time to Arrive Alive for Thanksgiving!

The Summit County Prosecutor's Office and the Summit County Sheriff's Office are once again teaming up to offer FREE or reduced fare rides home within Summit County for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The code SUMMITTHANKS23 will get you a \$20 credit on LYFT which can be used between 6pm Wednesday November 22 through noon on Saturday November 25.

You can also click on the QR code to the right to find out more information.

Don't drink & drive or have a designated driver. Have a happy Thanksgiving—the life you save might be your own!



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