



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**



# THE SENIOR NEWS

## Message from Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

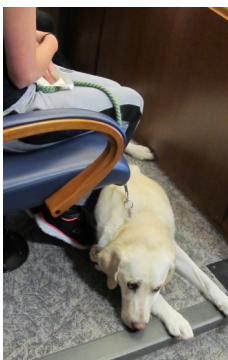


On August 14, 2023, my office welcomed our second facility dog to assist crime victims, witnesses and their families. My office is the first prosecutor's office in Ohio to have two facility dogs. Adam VII is a two-year-old Black Labrador-Retriever mix, specially trained by Canine Companions. Adam joins Avery at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office.

Avery just recently turned 12-years-old and will slowly ease into retirement after working at the Summit County Prosecutor's Office for over ten years. I have seen the tremendous work Avery has done over the past ten years. In Avery's ten year career with our office, he has helped 292 victims navigate the justice system; 229 of these victims were under the age of 18. Avery sat with 50 victims in court as they testified; victims held tight to Avery's leash as he laid at their feet for hours without moving.

Adam, as well as Avery, was trained and provided by Canine Companions at no cost. All of Adam's food, grooming, and other supplies are being donated by **Pet Supplies Plus**. Adam's veterinary care will be provided free of charge by **Stow Kent Animal Hospital**.

Adam's primary job is to provide emotional support to adults with developmental disabilities and children who are crime victims and witnesses. Because of the serious nature of the crimes we prosecute, the victims and witnesses who come to our office are typically severely traumatized. Adam calms these adults and children, helping to reduce the likelihood of them becoming traumatized again. Adam will accompany victims and witnesses to meetings with prosecutors, and numerous court appearances, including suppression hearings, competency hearings, trials, and sentencing.



Avery also attended two specialty courts in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. One is our drug court, called The Turning Point Program. The other is our Valor Court, which handles cases involving veterans. Avery helped to relieve the stress of both participants and their family and friends. When participants graduate, Avery would bring them a special treat. Adam will fulfill many of those same tasks.

We celebrated Adam's turning two-years-old on August 24 and we look forward to sharing many more great memories together. I look forward to watching Adam grow and help Summit County citizens.

**SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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AdamVIISCPO



@prosecutorwalsh



@prosecutorwalsh  
@averyscpo  
@SCPOAdam

**BEWARE**

**These scams are making their rounds again!**

The “Jury Duty scam” has been around for years, and is once again targeting Summit County residents. The jury duty scam works like many other phone scams. The caller claims that there is a warrant out for your arrest because you missed jury duty. The caller says you can get rid of the warrant by paying a fine with a gift card. You cannot pay fines or outstanding bills with store gift cards. Scammers hope to catch unsuspecting victims off guard with the threat of an arrest.

The “Grandparent Scam” is a common scam which targets the elderly. This is when a person receives a call from someone claiming to be their grandchild. The caller says they’re in trouble – either they were arrested or in a car crash – and need cash quick. They will usually ask to have the money sent by purchasing gift cards. The caller also asks to not tell “mom and dad”.

Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or Social Security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.

Many scams involve victims purchasing store gift cards. Utilities and companies will not accept payment with store gift cards.

**If someone calls demanding the purchase of a store gift card to pay a bill, it is a scam.**

**DID YOU GET YOUR 2024 CALENDAR?**



**Call my office at  
(330) 643-2787 if you  
would like a 2024 Senior  
Safety Awareness  
Calendar**

**Look for us at this  
Upcoming Event!**

February 7, 2024,  
11:00am-1:00pm  
WAKR Senior Lunch  
St. George Fellowship Hall  
3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron



**Update from the  
Senior Protection Unit**

My Senior Protection Unit has worked with 256 elderly victims of crime with 224 cases being indicted this year.

The Unit recently handled a case where Sherry Pierce was charged with stealing over \$24,000 from an 84-year-old victim. Thanks to the Summit County Sheriff’s Office and Adult Protective Services, the funds were recovered and returned to the victim.

We were alerted to the victim’s situation because someone reacted when they saw something suspicious. A referral was made quickly which enabled us to recover the stolen funds. **It is so important that you immediately report any suspicious activity to the police.**