



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

**A MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH**

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you. Two words that mean so much to me. Thank you for supporting me as your County Prosecutor for the past 23 years.

If you have not heard, I am now retired. February 16 was my final day as Summit County Prosecutor. As I mentioned in a news release sent out last month, complications from contracting COVID-19 are not allowing me to continue at the pace the position of County Prosecutor requires.

When I was first elected in November of 2000, I knew this would be a difficult job. What I didn't realize is how rewarding it would be.

Back then I knew I wanted the office to fight for the rights of victims. That's why I created a Victim Services Division. I am passionate about making sure crime victims are not re-victimized and re-traumatized when they come to the Prosecutor's Office or to court. That is also why I decided to bring in a facility dog to assist with crime victims and their families. I saw first-hand the benefits of a facility dog and knew how beneficial one would be.

In 2013 we became the first Prosecutor's Office in Ohio to have a facility dog. Avery assisted over 250 people in his 10 years in the office.

Avery would sit with people either at meetings, during hearings, at trials, and sentencings.

He had the amazing ability to empower them, calm them, and allow them to tell their story. Having a facility dog in the office was so important that just last year we brought in Adam, our second facility dog.

My office has reached thousands of Summit County residents through our FREE women's self-defense classes and our numerous safety speeches.

Those events provide vital safety information to help people minimize their chance of becoming a victim of crime. We also send out through our social media pages alerts on the latest crimes and scams.

Most of all, I am so proud and honored to work with such wonderful and dedicated people. They work so hard in fighting for victims or those who may not have a voice.

Elliot Kolkovich is taking over as Summit County Prosecutor. You'll learn more about him in next month's newsletter. Elliot started his career as an assistant prosecutor over a decade ago and was most recently my Community Outreach Prosecutor.

I am so proud of Elliot and his dedication and passion to and for Summit County. I am very confident Elliot will do great work and continue the mission of making Summit County a safer and better place to live.

As always, stay safe.



*Sherri B. Walsh*



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

[co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor](https://co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor)



Follow us on Twitter  
[@ProsecutorWalsh](https://twitter.com/ProsecutorWalsh)

# IN THE COMMUNITY

As mentioned in the main article of this newsletter, Prosecutor Walsh listed establishing a FREE Women’s Self-Defense class as one of her biggest accomplishments.

These classes started in 2008, just a few years after Prosecutor Walsh took office. Since then several thousand women and girls have learned easy techniques to stay safe. Things like social awareness, how to break away if someone grabs your arm, and slaps and kicks to the groin.

Last month, Prosecutor Walsh assisted in the office’s self-defense class at Hudson High School.



Prosecutor Kolkovich will continue with these very important classes offered throughout Summit County. Our next FREE Women’s Self-Defense class is at Revere High School on Tuesday March 19 at 6pm. For locations of future self-defense classes please check our website at <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/pages/Self-Defense-Classes.html>.

The Summit County Prosecutor’s Office Ambassadors for Equity and Social Justice brought a little joy to the cold winter months by holding a “Winter Wonderland”.

Employees gathered for some sweet treats and great conversation among the wonderful decorations.

It was a wonderful event which the Ambassadors hope to do again.



## GUILTY VERDICTS

### January 2024

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

- Felicia Easter                      Jamie Morris
- Brian LoPrinzi                    Wyatt Nolker
- Jamila Mitchell (2)

## GREAT JOB PROSECUTORS!

## TOUGH PROSECUTIONS

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

- Dorrell Davis, 24**
- Aggravated Robbery
- **11-to-16.5 YEARS IN PRISON**

- Chris Johnson**
- Involuntary Manslaughter
- **23 YEARS IN PRISON**





# ADAM'S CORNER

# EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

I'm sad I won't be able to see one of my favorite hoomans as much. I will miss Prosecutor Walsh.

I'm glad I got to spend time with her and her family. I am so happy I was chosen to come to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office to help crime victims.

I will continue to do the great work Avery did before me. I wish both of them well in their retirement.



Follow Adam on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP0](http://www.facebook.com/AdamVIISCP0)



## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Each month there are plenty of ways to celebrate and bring awareness to certain causes and issues. February has plenty of those opportunities. Here are a couple of designations:

- **NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH**  
National Cancer Prevention Month focuses on the things we can control to lessen our odds of developing cancer.
- **NATIONAL HEART MONTH**  
Increases awareness about heart disease. Even small changes help make a difference. Reduce the amount of fast food. Eat more greens. Take the stairs. Walk the kids to school. Go outside and play with the kids or walk the dog.

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.



As we honor Black History Month, our Ambassadors take a closer look at one woman who made a significant impact in history.

Shirley Chisholm was born November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York. She was the daughter of immigrants; her father was from Guyana and her mother was from Barbados. Chisholm graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelors in Sociology and began teaching in a nursery school while serving as Director of the Friends Day Nursey School in Brooklyn. Chisholm then obtained her master's degree in childhood education from Columbia University in 1951.

In 1968, Chisholm was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she became the first African American woman elected to Congress. Chisholm advocated for social programs such as Head Start, school lunches and food stamps. Chisholm also helped found the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Women's Caucus.

In 1972, Shirley Chisholm declared her candidacy for the U.S. Presidency, making her again the first African American woman to run a major party campaign. Chisholm was unable to garner support from her peers, significantly her male counterparts. She is quoted saying "between being black and being a woman, the biggest problem was being a woman." Shirley's presidential run was also causing a rift in the Congressional Black Caucus, whose male members resented Chisholm for taking away their chance at nominating prominent black leaders. With little support from her colleagues, voters were not sold on her candidacy and her ability to beat then President Richard Nixon. After her loss, Chisholm continued to serve in Congress until 1983 and continued her work and advocacy until her death, January 1, 2005, in Ormond Beach, Florida.



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

## NORTON POLICE SGT. BRETT MCSHANE

### NOMINATED BY ASST. PROS. CHARLES ROMAN

When law enforcement responds to a scene, officers many times can also be in danger.

This month's TOP COP focuses on a local police officer who became a victim of an assault and why Norton Police Sergeant Brett McShane is this month's TOP COP.



Sgt. McShane was the supervisor on duty when Keith Partin punched Norton Officer Jonathan Travis during an unprovoked attack last year. Upon hearing Officer Travis call out the incident on his radio, Sgt. McShane arrived within minutes and placed Mr. Partin under arrest. Sgt. McShane also directed Officer Travis to get checked out.

As the Norton Fire Department transported Officer Travis his condition quickly declined and he was rushed to the hospital. Sgt. McShane went directly to the hospital and stayed there with Officer Travis late into the night. The next day Sgt. McShane woke early and returned to the hospital until he had to start his next shift.

When it came time to prepare for trial, Sgt. McShane was instrumental in connecting prosecutors with all of the necessary witnesses. He also met with prosecutors for several hours to recount what happened, go over testimony, watch body camera video, and review other evidence.

Jurors found Keith Partin guilty. Partin was sentenced to nine to 13.5 years in prison for his assault on Officer Travis.

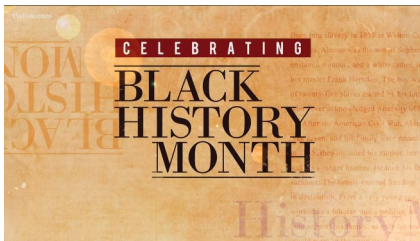
During the victim's testimony, members of the Norton police and fire departments, and other local departments, were present in the courtroom, because Sgt. McShane had reached out to them to ensure Officer Travis had support.

**Great job and congratulations  
Sgt. McShane!!!**

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Black History Month, we would like to recognize Carter G. Woodson (December 19, 1875 – April 3, 1950) who is known as the "Father of Black History."

In February of 1926 Mr. Woodson launched the Celebration of "Negro History Week" the second week of February. It was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Mr. Woodson believed education and increasing social and professional contacts could reduce racism.



In 1976, President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance. Ford said in his message, "We can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

There is nothing normal about violence in a relationship. However, many people do not realize this can also impact teens. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Did you know that about 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner? And 75% of parents have never spoken with their children about domestic violence.

You can break the cycle of violence. Abuse includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. Visit [youth.gov](http://youth.gov) and [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org), for conversation starters and resources.



# WHY I'M A PROSECUTOR

## SONIYA LONG

"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 continue a new year, their dedication to the community, and to finding justice, hasn't changed.

Assistant Prosecutor Soniya Long, who works in our Child Support Enforcement Agency, talks about why being a prosecutor is so important to her.



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

Children are some of our most vulnerable and being in the Child Support Enforcement Agency really hits home for me. My mom received child support so I know it helped us. Anytime I can help others it's rewarding because the money will go a long way in providing food and clothing.

### • WHY DID YOU BECOME A PROSECUTOR?

I passed the bar in 2022 and began a career in corporate law. I then chose a prosecutor as my mentor because I just knew that was what I was supposed to do. I became a prosecutor because I want to help people. I liked corporate law but I wanted to do something more purposeful and I've always lived a faith filled life so my whole life is about service and being a prosecutor fills that, so it just fits.

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

The most difficult part of being a prosecutor is sometimes the consequences of someone's actions fall on me. I sometimes feel like people blame me and others for their actions. That can be difficult.

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

# NALOXONE BOXES

We know the drug epidemic has significantly impacted Summit County. For years the Summit County Prosecutor's Office has worked hard to hold drug dealers accountable for poisoning our communities.

Also, having life-saving devices nearby can make all the difference. That is why we had five "Nox Boxes" installed in our offices throughout the County. These boxes have a couple of doses of Naloxone, which can help save the life of a person in the middle of an overdose. These boxes also have other life-saving equipment and are easily accessible.

We are also going to start providing Naloxone at events throughout Summit County. We hope to never have to use them, but have them in case of an emergency



Office of Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh

53 University Avenue

Akron, Ohio 44308

330-643-2800

# Elliot Kolkovich

**Summit County Prosecuting Attorney**  
**53 University Avenue, 6th Floor**  
**Akron, Oh 44308**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Search: SummitCountyProsecutorElliotKolkovich

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



**@proskolkovich**



**@proskolkovich**

**@scpoadam**