



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

The recent tragic shooting of an 18-year-old woman at a local nightclub highlights an increasing problem in our city: juvenile violence. I am sponsoring a forum on juvenile crime on May 25 (see the **Save the Date**). In the meantime, my office is working to help determine long-term solutions to this growing problem.

In partnership with the Summit County Sheriff's Office and other local organizations, we recently applied for a federal grant that would bring a Gang Resistance And Education Training program (G.R.E.A.T.) to Akron. This program has been very successful throughout the country, and Cleveland is often featured as a model G.R.E.A.T. city. Similar to the D.A.R.E. program, the G.R.E.A.T. grant will enable prosecutors and officers to teach a core curriculum to elementary and middle school aged students, giving them the tools to resist getting involved with a gang.

Take a look at these alarming numbers:

<u>Crime</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>*2006</u>
Aggravated Murder	0	1
Murder	5	4
Att. Aggravated Murder	1	0
Att. Murder	0	1
Felonious Assault	40	50
Rape	29	45
Sexual Battery	5	2
Gross Sexual Imposition	31	27
Aggravated Arson	3	5
Aggravated Robbery	29	22
Robbery	36	44
Aggravated Burglary	10	26
Carrying Concealed Weapon	84	90
Carrying Concealed Weapon in School	11	10
Criminal Gang	6	42

We have a lot of work to do and we're rolling up our sleeves to get going. We will hear if we are funded for G.R.E.A.T. by May of this year. I'll keep you posted.

*Through December 6, 2006

Tough Prosecution:

Larry Williams

Officers responding to a drug complaint searched a house belonging to Larry Williams' girlfriend. That search resulted in Williams' arrest for possession of cocaine and drug tools.

Three months later, police stopped Williams in his car. A search of his car uncovered 29 baggies of crack cocaine hidden in a hollowed-out can of fix-a-flat.

Williams was sentenced to eight years in prison.

In addition to the cases in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, the Defendant is currently under indictment in federal court for drug trafficking and other drug-related offenses. He is scheduled to appear before Judge John Adams in February.

Save the Date!

May 25, 2007

Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh will sponsor a forum on juvenile violence titled, "**Kids in Court: Confronting Juvenile Violence.**" "Save the Date" announcements will go out soon to law enforcement, prosecution, juvenile court and community organizations to attend this event. We are looking forward to hearing from the following speakers:

- **John Rosemond**, parenting expert, columnist and psychologist;
- **Attorney General Marc Dann**;
- **Akron Police Department's Gang Unit**; and
- Community leaders in a roundtable discussion facilitated by Prosecutor Walsh to include Peter Elliott, U.S. Marshal; Summit County Sheriff Drew Alexander; **Pastor Knute Larson**, The Chapel; Juvenile Court Judge Linda Teodosio; Don Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron; and a representative of the Akron Police Department.

IT'S THE LAW!!

Ten-year-old Nicole Robertson changed the law! In December 2005, Michael Hamblin exposed himself to Nicole in a department store. At the time, Hamblin was a sexual predator with a history of offenses against children. Within hours, he was out of jail after posting \$60 of a \$500 bond.

Nicole and her family worked with legislators to pass Senate Bill 245, which amends the public indecency statute to increase the penalties for exposing oneself to a minor.

For example, if a defendant exposes himself to a minor, the offense is now at least a misdemeanor of the second degree with a possible 90-day jail sentence. If the defendant has at least three prior convictions for public indecency, it is a felony of the fifth degree with a possible 12-month prison sentence.

If a defendant exposes himself to a minor who is a member of the defendant's household, Senate Bill 245 increases the penalty from a first degree misdemeanor to a felony of the fifth degree if the defendant has a prior conviction for public indecency.

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer:
cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net

We're on the Web!

www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/index.htm

Top Cops

Lt. Thad Hete
Officer Nicholas Matheny
Officer Larry Lane



As a result of the exceptional investigative and follow-up work done by these officers, Assistant Prosecutors **Greta Johnson** and **Becky Doherty** were able to achieve a guilty plea to two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Assault and one count of Aggravated Vehicular Manslaughter in the case of Jennifer Long. She was subsequently sentenced to three years in prison.

Matheny and Lane were the first officers on the scene of the crash and took detailed statements from all witnesses and the defendant. Lane's quick reaction in recording Long's statement was invaluable to this case.

When Lt. Hete arrived at the scene, he immediately re-routed a portion of the highway so the crash scene could be preserved. Johnson stated, "These officers never hesitated to help in any way that they were able. This is the kind of exemplary police work that prosecutors hope for."

Con Alert

"My car broke down! Can you loan me some money? I'll send it to you in the mail tomorrow."

Have you heard this scam before? It has actually happened to Prosecutor Walsh twice. Last week in a Wendy's parking lot, a well-dressed man approached her car and told her he was from out of town with his family and their car ran out of gas. He asked to borrow some money and would pay her back the next day.

Prosecutor Walsh told him she knew this was a scam. He feigned a look of surprise and walked away. She watched him cross the street and then disappear behind a church.

***This is a very common scam.
Don't fall for it!!***

Meet April Keller-Drumm



Duties: Assistant Prosecutor,
Criminal Felony Division

Hire Date: November 2006

Home Town: Tallmadge, OH

Personal: Married, two children

Law Degree: University of Akron School of Law

Years Prosecuting: Two

Little Known Fact: April makes handmade quilts in her "spare time."

Most Memorable Case: In Mahoning County, where I worked prior to joining the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, I tried an aggravated burglary case that became more and more bizarre as time went on. The alibi witness, who was the mother of two of the Defendant's children, stated on cross-examination that she was also the Defendant's biological first cousin. After his conviction, the Defendant's mother, who almost had to be removed from the courtroom several times for disrupting the trial, later accused the defense counsel of driving to Pittsburgh to find witnesses for the State.

WANTED



Ronald Nesby, 38, of E. Crosier Street, Akron was found guilty on December 4, 2006 of Possession of Crack Cocaine, a third degree felony. After the verdict was read in court, Nesby bolted from the courtroom and still has not been located.

If you have any information on Nesby, please contact the Summit County Sheriff's office immediately.

Outrageous Crime of the Month

Be sure to cast your vote!

Jess Brown has had 20 DUI's. Chester Callebs has had 16 DUI's. Randy McFadden has had 11 DUI's. Roger Simms has had seven. All of these men refused to take a breathalyzer test and Brown, Callebs, and McFadden were driving on suspended licenses.



Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh is leading an initiative to strengthen Ohio's DUI laws on how they apply to repeat drunk drivers. Currently, individuals with several convictions for driving while intoxicated often refuse to take a breathalyzer or blood alcohol

level test which record an individual's level of intoxication. These tests provide a very important element for the prosecution.

Prosecutor Walsh would like to change the law to make such tests mandatory for repeat drunk drivers. She is surveying Ohio residents on how they believe the law should be changed on repeat drunk drivers. **Cast your vote by going to our Web Site at:**

<http://www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/>

Help us strengthen Ohio's DUI laws! Cast your vote!

Now that is outrageous!