



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

May 2007

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherrri Bevan Walsh

Our forum on juvenile violence, *Kids in Court: Confronting Juvenile Violence*, held on Friday, May 25, set a record at Children's Hospital for the number of individuals attending an event at their facility. We could not have been more pleased with the interest and attendance.

The challenge now is to maintain the momentum we started. We heard from speaker after speaker that we have a lot of work to do – law enforcement, the courts, educators, social workers, community organizations, faith-based leaders and members of the community – to fight the growing crime rate among Summit County youth. We now have to get organized and start working.

First on the agenda is to work with the National District Attorneys Association's (NDAA) team of experts to develop a gang response model for Summit County, which will be part of a larger task force my office is organizing to address juvenile violence. I was pleased to learn just last week that Summit County is one of six jurisdictions in the nation chosen by NDAA to work with their team. We are now pulling together local individuals who want to work with us on this task force.

Another major area that needs strengthened is that of positive places for young people to go. Most juvenile crimes occur between the hours of 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. I awarded two \$5,000 checks to two community faith-based non-profit organizations, the Youth Excellence Performance Arts Workshop and Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.), that represent the hard work by our community to provide positive educational and artistic enrichment to youth in our community.

Friday was day one of a long road ahead of us. I will have a lot of help, as I was approached by so many attendees who told me how excited they are and that they want to keep the subject alive. I'm all for that and am ready to get started.

If you would like to serve on the **Summit County Juvenile Violence Task Force**, please contact Laurie Cramer at cramer@prosecutor.summitoh.net or (330) 643-8386.

Panelists at *Kids in Court* discussed the impact of juvenile violence on their agencies and how to solve the growing problem.



From left: John Rosemond, parenting expert and columnist; Peter Elliott, U.S. Marshal Northeastern District of Ohio; Linda Teodosio, Judge, Juvenile Court; Sylvia Trundle, Captain, Akron Police Department; Joey Johnson, Bishop, The House of the Lord; Don Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron; Drew Alexander, Summit County Sheriff

Tough Prosecution: Richard Murphy

After three trials, another child rapist has been taken off our streets.

Richard Murphy, 62, and his wife helped out a neighbor, a single mother with two



young girls, by babysitting. Murphy quickly took advantage of his trusted position by molesting the 8-year-old child. In addition to raping the child, he also took nude photos of her. It was only after reading her daughter's diary two years after the abuse began that the mom became aware of what Murphy was doing.

Two previous trials resulted in a mistrial and hung jury on the rape charge but on May 11, 2007, a jury convicted Murphy of rape. On May 17, he was sentenced to life in prison. Murphy will not be eligible for parole until he is 77 years old.

Nice job Assistant Prosecutor Greg Peacock for your hard work on this case!

Did You Know?

In 2005, there were nearly 148,000 individuals in Ohio convicted for Driving Under the Influence. Approximately 20,000 drivers charged with DUI refuse to submit to a breath or blood alcohol test each year.



I have drafted language that is now part of Senate Bill 17. If this Bill becomes law, it would require offenders with two or more prior DUI convictions to take a breath test and if they refused, they would be subject to a mandatory blood draw.

Offenders cannot refuse to give their fingerprints and cannot refuse to give DNA. Should drunk drivers be given a choice?

Please cast your vote at:
<http://www.co.summit.oh.us/Prosecutor/index>.

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. Sean McAleese
Det. Kaija Jeantet



Lt. McAleese and Det. Jeantet, along with fellow officers, responded promptly to the tragic crime scene in Hudson where **Joseph Gorospe** had attacked his wife Marci Gorospe after an apparent domestic dispute on October 23, 2006. Marci had to be resuscitated three times and never regained consciousness. She was placed on life support and died three days later.

From the outset of the investigation, Lt. McAleese and Det. Jeantet preserved evidence at the crime scene, enlisting the aid of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification. Through numerous interviews with medical personnel, friends and family and retrieval of computer and email documents and correspondence, they were able to obtain information to explain the cause of Marci's injuries and a motive for the killing.

Lt. McAleese and Det. Jeantet also dealt with safely retrieving the couple's two young daughters who were upstairs in their bedrooms at the time of the assault. They immediately reached out to the DOVE Program at Summa Health Systems and DOVE nurses were able to see Marci while she was in the hospital and document injuries before her death. Their professionalism and use of community resources in their investigation was impressive.

Thanks Top Cops!

IT'S THE LAW!!

Effective April 2, 2007, Revised Code Sec. 2921.38 currently defining the crime of harassment by an inmate is amended to define the crime of harassment with a bodily substance. The amended law will prohibit any person who knows they have AIDS, hepatitis or tuberculosis from causing or attempting to cause another person to come into contact with a bodily substance of the infected person with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm or threaten the other person. Violation of this part of the amended law is a third degree felony. The amended law will also prohibit any person from causing or attempting to cause any law enforcement officer to come into contact with a bodily substance of the person with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm or threaten the law enforcement officer. Violation of this part of the law is a fifth degree felony.



Meet Assistant Prosecutor Teri Burnside

Position: Assistant Prosecutor, Supervisor, Juvenile Division



Hire date: December 5, 2005

Home Town: Eastlake, Madison and Geneva

Personal: What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas

Law Degree: University of Akron

Years prosecuting: Almost 13 including my legal intern certificate; recently promoted (May 2007) to Supervisor, Juvenile Division.

Little Known Fact: I have never been to Vegas. I served in the U.S. Army as a Polish Interrogator and I worked with mentally disabled adults prior to attending law school.

Most memorable case: I prosecuted a mentally disabled man who engaged in sexual imposition of a mentally disabled female co-worker. Both worked at the protected work shop. Needless to say all of my witnesses were also mentally disabled. The challenge was adapting to each individual's way of communicating and presenting their testimony to the judge. The defendant was found guilty. This case was important to me because it demonstrated and affirmed that even though you may have some limitations in life, you can be held accountable for your actions as well as participate in the process and receive justice.

Outrageous Crime of the Month



On November 5, 2006, **John Westry**, 44, broke into the home of a 71-year-old woman. He didn't just want her money, he also waged a brutal attack against the woman. She had a plastic bag stuffed in her mouth, was choked with a purse strap, beaten and dragged up the stairs by her feet for \$400 and a \$32 bingo voucher. The victim said she could hear the bones breaking in her face as she was beaten. Shortly after Westry left her home, the victim called her son who lived nearby. He and other neighbors chased Westry until he was caught trying to hide in a backyard pond.

It wasn't until this incident that Westry was linked by DNA to a crime he committed a year earlier where he kidnapped a pregnant woman and her child. The victim was forced to withdraw money from an ATM. He disappeared with \$60 but not before leaving his DNA on a juice bottle at her home. He pleaded guilty in this incident to kidnapping and robbery.

Westry was sentenced to 23 years in prison for his attack on the 71-year-old woman and five years for the prior incident for a total of 28 years in prison. Assistant Prosecutor Charlene Hardy deserves kudos for putting this man away.

Now that is outrageous!