



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Summit County Prosecutor

Newsletter

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Message from the Prosecutor



Prosecutor
Sherri Bevan Walsh

As is the case with many issues, we often hear about the negative and rarely hear about the positive.

With that in mind, this edition highlights the work of our Summit County police officers.

We have had two law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in Summit County over the past year.

Officer Jarod Dean, 24, of Boston Heights Police Department, was killed just last month after a truck hit him when he was clearing debris from the road. **Officer Josh Miktarian**, 33, Twinsburg Police Department, was killed in July 2008 after stopping a car. Ashford Thompson is awaiting trial on Aggravated Murder charges.

Last month, my office prosecuted two different cases of Attempted Murder of a Police Officer. Both defendants fired shots at different Akron Police officers on two different occasions. Officers did not return fire and fortunately, no one was killed. The two defendants were found guilty by juries and are now in prison (see Tough Prosecution).

A third case is pending in my office where an Akron officer was jumped and knocked cold by a man while the officer was working in uniform at a second job in the mental health unit of a local hospital.

Unfortunately, the public doesn't hear as much about these incidents as they do when officers use their weapons to defend themselves. Officers only have seconds to determine whether a situation could turn deadly and whether or not to draw their weapon.

These scenarios play out all the time and cannot all be mentioned here. The job of the police is in fact to protect and to serve our community without being abused.

I believe most people agree with me, but do we stop to say "thank you" to these officers who put their lives on the lines for our safety?

**Thank you Summit County police
for all that you do
to make our community a better place to live!**

TOUGH PROSECUTION

On June 19, 2008, **Officer Ron Kennedy** of the Akron Police Department responded to a domestic violence call. Officer Kennedy was attempting to speak with Damond Herrington when Herrington suddenly attacked him, retrieving the gun from the officer's holster. Harrington pointed the gun at the officer threatening to kill him. Fortunately, the officer was able to call for backup. When backup arrived, Herrington dropped the gun to his side and ejected the clip, unloading it. Officers were able to tackle Herrington, at which point Herrington continued to resist arrest. Herrington's mother, Minnie Herrington, jumped on the back of one of the backup officers as the officers attempted to calm the situation.

Damond Herrington, 31, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury on January 20, 2009, and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for kidnapping and threatening to kill a police officer. Minnie Herrington pled to assault on a police officer and was sentenced to 18 months of probation.

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On April 13, 2008, the Akron Police Department ran a routine plate check on David Jackson, 19, of Rootstown. This routine check soon turned into a very dangerous situation.

Jackson noticed the police's interest in him and he took off in his car. The police chased his car until he bailed out and a foot chase ensued. As the police approached him, he turned around with his gun and fired at **Officer Timothy Wypasek**, who was able to avoid the shot. The chase continued around a corner and the defendant turned again, and fired twice at both Wypasek and **Officer James Donohoe** again missing the officers, but penetrating the wall of a business. The defendant ran again, but was soon spotted. Jackson threw his weapon down and got on the ground, but refused to comply any further. It took several officers and a Taser to get him under control.

On January 15, 2009, Jackson was found guilty of two counts of Attempted Aggravated Murder of a Police Officer and other charges and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

**Great work Assistant Prosecutors
Jennie Shuki, Jay Cole, Dan Sallerson and Mike Rickett!**

Questions? E-mail Laurie Cramer:
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We're on the Web!

Top Cop



Jarod Dean
Boston Heights Police Department

We are once again faced with the loss of one of Summit County's heroes with the death of Officer Jarod Dean, 24, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on January 19, 2009.

Officer Dean was cleaning up debris left by a truck with an unsecured load when another truck hit and killed him.

He would not have been in the road except to be clearing it to help prevent an accident. He would not have been in the road if he wasn't sworn to protect and serve the people of Summit County. He would not have been in the road had he not been a Summit County police officer.

Once again, this tragedy brings to mind that every day our police put their lives on the line to protect us so that our county is a better place to live.

We join with both his own family and his law enforcement family in mourning the loss of one of our finest.

Thank you, Top Cop.

GUILTY!

TRIALS WITH GUILTY VERDICTS



Congratulations to Assistant Prosecutors Beth Aronson, Jay Cole, Felicia Easter, Greta Johnson, Margaret Kanelis, John Mascolo, Angela Poth-Wypasek (2), Justin Richard, Mike Rickett, Dan Sallerson, Jennie Shuki, Omar Siddiq, Angela Walls-Alexander (3), and Nicole Walker who had juries return **GUILTY VERDICTS** at trials in January.

MEET ASSISTANT PROSECUTORS and WIVES OF POLICE OFFICERS

*Assistant Prosecutors Jennie Shuki
Angela Poth-Wypasek and Greta Johnson*

While all of the Assistant Prosecutors play an important role in my Office, three have an additional role that is equally, if not more, important: that of the wife of a police officer.

At the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, we are highly supportive of our law enforcement officers, who work closely with us on our cases. For a few of our Assistant Prosecutors, however, that relationship has a different meaning. **Greta Johnson** and **Angela Poth-Wypasek** are both married to **Akron Police Officers**. **Jennie Shuki** is married to a Mayfield Heights Police Officer in Cuyahoga County.

For the rest of us, we realize that when officers do their jobs each day, they place their safety and their lives at risk. However, Assistant Prosecutors Shuki, Johnson, and Poth-Wypasek have a unique understanding of the risks that their husbands face every day. Facing the hard facts of the violence and aggression that police officers have to combat when responding to calls and making arrests is a difficult reminder of what their loved ones encounter while doing their jobs.

We might not always recognize the challenge that these Assistant Prosecutors face while juggling these roles, but we always appreciate, respect, and support it.

Thank you, Jennie, Greta and Angela.

THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!



*Man impersonating police officer
is outrageous!*

Ryan Worlow, 21, pled guilty to **impersonating a police officer** after he bought a Sheriff's deputy uniform and entered three Summit County schools. Worlow claimed he was doing "safety checks."

Much of what goes into being a police officer is good judgment and NOT taking advantage of the uniform to look important. No one was hurt in this scenario, but certainly it is one reason why we have laws against individuals claiming to be police officers! Worlow will be sentenced on March 30.

Assistant Prosecutor Maggie Tomaro, good job!