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***Fugitive Safe Surrender* provides an opportunity
for runaway parents to resolve
their cases and start paying child support**

(AKRON) ... “My personal plea is to parents who are not currently paying their child support,” said Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh today at a news conference at The House of the Lord to support Fugitive Safe Surrender, the U.S. Marshals’ program being brought to Summit County to encourage non-violent offenders to turn themselves in and try to resolve their outstanding warrants.

Walsh continued, “There are 121 individuals with outstanding warrants in Summit County for criminal non-support, with 183 children among them, who owe \$2.4 million in child support. Come in to The House of the Lord, try to resolve your case, and stop putting yourself and your family at risk by staying on the run. Fugitive Safe Surrender gives individuals the ability to surrender with dignity; to stop running; to take responsibility and to resolve their cases.”

Fugitive Safe Surrender is scheduled to be in Summit County from July 11th through July 14th, and will be housed at The House of the Lord (1650 Diagonal Road). The program is the brainchild of Peter J. Elliot, U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio. Akron will be the fourth U.S. city to be a part of Fugitive Safe Surrender, following Cleveland, Phoenix and Indianapolis. The program encourages non-violent fugitives to turn themselves in at a church – The House of the Lord in Akron – where the goal is to resolve the case. A mini-judicial system will be set up – from prosecutors, to judges to defense counsel – to try and resolve cases. If they cannot be resolved, individuals will be given future court dates to return to the courts for resolution (if mandatory jail time is not required).

Walsh concluded, “I am pleased to be part of this incredible team – Marshal Peter Elliot, Bishop Joey Johnson from The House of the Lord, Sheriff Drew Alexander, Chief Michael Matulavich of the Akron Police Department, Clerk of Courts Daniel Horrigan, Municipal and Common Pleas Judges – and so many more who are making this happen. If you are a fugitive on the run, now is the time to turn yourself in. Take advantage of this opportunity, take responsibility for your actions, take yourself and your family out of harms way.”