



Warren County Prosecutor's Office

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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# Community Involvement

## **Ohio Wears Blue**

Wear Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue to work, to school, to a community event – to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. Warren County Prosecutor’s Office employees showed their support by wearing blue on April 8 (pictured below).



## **Victim Awareness Event**

The Warren County Prosecutor’s Office, along with other local county agencies, held its annual event on May 1, 2015, to help raise awareness of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Each year, the Office for Victims of Crime leads communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) by promoting victims’ rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year’s theme was “Stop Blaming. Start Believing.” The Warren County event included Keynote Speaker Mike Pistorino, a motivational speaker using his voice as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse to change the world. Also in attendance was Agent Brandon Hoyt from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation who presented on what our community needs to know about Teen Cyber Safety and “Sextortion.”



**Pictured from left: Brandon Hoyt, Prosecutor Fornshell, and Mike Pistorino**

## National Night Out

Our office once again participated in National Night Out events held in Clearcreek Township and Lebanon, Ohio. The introduction of National Night Out in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. This event is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out now involves over 38 million people and over 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.



Clearcreek Township

Lebanon

## Anti-Theft Training for Community Organizations

Warren County has been exposed to several cases involving misappropriation of funds collected for the benefit of non-profit, church, school, charitable, or other community organizations. The unfortunate consequence of these cases is that thousands of dollars raised by community organizations are not being used for their intended purpose. As a result, the Warren County Prosecutor and the Warren County Police Chiefs Association co-sponsored a community training that provided information concerning money handling systems, anti-theft procedures, and internal controls for the benefit of community organizations. The training is designed for board members, officials, directors, and volunteers associated with non-profit, church, school, charitable, or other community organizations. Future training opportunities will be offered.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ribbon Nite Gala

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ribbon Nite Gala to benefit the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County was held at the Manor House in Mason, Ohio, on November 6, 2015. This event provides a significant portion of the annual operating budget for the CAC. The theme of this year's event was "Dancing for the Blue Ribbon" and featured a Dancing with the Stars style competition featuring local business and community leaders. Several Prosecutor's Office employees assisted in the planning and attended the event.





**Zachariah Purcell**, 26, of Morristown, Tennessee, pled guilty to one count of aggravated assault and one count of assault for a fight he instigated at the VFW lodge in Mason. On January 24, 2015, Purcell entered the Mason VFW. When asked to show his membership card, Purcell stated he could not find it. At this point, members of the lodge asked him to leave. Purcell refused and subsequently assaulted two members, striking one with a pool stick and punching another. He fled out the back door, but was tracked by a police K-9 unit and was subsequently located. Purcell was sentenced to three years community control, which includes successful completion of an inpatient drug treatment program. Upon release, Purcell is to be on house arrest for 90 days, pay restitution to one victim for medical bills, and complete a mental health assessment.



In May 2013, **Hager Church**, 31, while serving a prison sentence at the Warren Correctional Institution for murder and felonious assault, assaulted another inmate with a deadly weapon, causing serious physical harm. He was convicted of felonious assault and sentenced to eight years to run consecutively to his current sentence. In May 2015, Church assaulted another inmate at WCI with a deadly weapon, causing serious physical harm. He restrained the victim prior to the assault. Church was convicted of felonious assault, possessing a deadly weapon while under detention, and kidnapping. He was sentenced to a mandatory 32 years in prison to run consecutively to his current sentence.



**Robert Traylor**, 26, of Lebanon, Ohio, was charged with felonious assault and child endangering as the result of severely abusing his 13 day old child. The baby suffered a skull fracture, rib fractures, severe brain injuries, as well as a nose injury. Following a jury trial, Traylor was found guilty on both counts and sentenced to the maximum of eight years in prison.



In May 2015, **Rodney Armstrong**, 36, of Dayton, Ohio, became upset with the mother of his child. He grabbed her by the throat and slammed her head against a kitchen cabinet. Armstrong has eight prior domestic violence convictions and numerous other felony and misdemeanor offenses. He pled guilty to domestic violence and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

### Sex Offenses



**Paul Byrd**, 64, of Franklin, Ohio, pled guilty to one count of sexual battery and one count of gross sexual imposition involving a child under the age of 13. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and designated a Tier III sexual offender, requiring him to register for life. Byrd had sexual contact with the victim beginning in December 2013. Three days after the Franklin Police Department started their investigation, they were called to a wooded area behind Franklin High School where Byrd was found laying on the ground. He was apprehended without incident and had a .380 handgun in his possession.





**Jacob Alhashimi**, 24, of Centerville, Ohio, was indicted for several counts of trafficking in Ecstasy and trafficking in cocaine. Following a trial, he was convicted of six counts of trafficking in drugs and sentenced to a total of eight years in prison.

### Other Notable Crimes



**Jason Pittman**, 24, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to theft and was sentenced to three years community control, which included restitution to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Pittman applied for unemployment benefits in April 2012 after being laid off by Premier Energy Services and began receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Pittman returned to work at Premier Energy Services in September 2013, but continued to claim unemployment benefits. Each week, he falsely certified that he was not working. While employed, Pittman received \$6,400 in benefits as the result of his fraudulent claims.



**Kennyetta Louis**, 34, of Cincinnati, Ohio, pled guilty to identity fraud and aggravated theft. Louis formerly worked as a temporary employee for Luxottica Retail as Manager of Corporate Credit Division. While in this capacity, she was notified of the death of a Luxottica employee and was directed by the company to cancel the company American Express card that was issued to the deceased employee. Instead, Louis called American Express and advised them to begin sending the credit card statements to her home address. During the time of July through November 2014, Louis charged \$189,652 in various items and services, such as clothing, jewelry, appliances, new windows for her residence, airline tickets, hotel rooms, entertainment tickets, and dental services. Louis told investigators she stole the items because she felt she was underpaid. Louis was sentenced to two years in prison and restitution to Luxottica.



**Joshua Kash**



**Tyler Webb**



**James Wilson**

In May 2015, **Joshua Kash**, 31, **Tyler Webb**, 27, and **James Wilson**, 29, were involved in a fire set at the Regulator Rider's Motorcycle Clubhouse in Franklin, Ohio. They bought gas at a nearby gas station and caused more than \$20,000 in damage to the building. Kash, Webb, and Wilson were each sentenced to 12 months in prison and are required to register as arson offenders for ten years.

**Rodney Brown, Inmate A326830 – Murder**

On November 29, 1995, Brown and Beth Davenport were living together in a Lebanon residence. That evening, they quarreled over a number of issues, and Davenport expressed her concern about the ongoing abuse by Brown. After verbal altercations, Davenport left the kitchen area where she was seated with Brown and several other individuals. Brown became angry, followed her into an adjacent bedroom, and returned some time later. Brown then went into an adjacent room and returned with a .20 gauge shotgun. He sat down and ejected two live rounds from the shotgun. He then held the barrel of the gun at Davenport’s face and said, “is this shell yours?” and fired the weapon at almost point blank range. The witnesses who were present immediately sought to leave the residence, and Brown encouraged them not to tell anybody what had happened. However, he was ultimately discovered. After a jury trial in 1996, Brown was found guilty of murder and an additional specification of using a firearm during the commission of a crime. He was sentenced to 15 years to life, plus an additional three years actual incarceration on the gun specification. Brown is currently incarcerated at Allen Correctional Institution.

Our Victim Witness Services Division assisted the Davenport family in opposing Brown’s release, as well as initiated community outreach to encourage the public to write the Parole Board on our Parole Watch site. His next parole hearing is scheduled for October 2020.

**Russell Marriott, Inmate A268994 – Rape**

In 1992, Marriott was convicted of rape and three counts of attempted rape in Warren County. He was sentenced to serve 5 to 25 years on the rape charge and 3 to 15 years on each count of attempted rape. The underlying offenses involved having sex with a juvenile female over approximately a ten year period, beginning when she was about five years of age.

Marriott is currently incarcerated at Madison Correctional Institution. His next parole hearing is scheduled for January 2016.

## **Juvenile Division**

In 2015, the Juvenile Division was responsible for handling over 2,600 cases. The Juvenile Division worked to ensure that minors who violated the law were punished, rehabilitated, and that they understood the consequences of their illegal actions. The cases handled within the Juvenile Division range from truancy and traffic to rape and homicide charges. It is the goal of the Juvenile Division to protect Warren County from juvenile delinquency, while at the same time preventing the juvenile offenders from becoming the next generation of defendants in the adult criminal system. While advocating on behalf of the victims is our primary goal, our office is also of the belief that many youth have the potential to avoid this fate with the right support and rehabilitation. Our office works with the courts to recommend rehabilitative sentences, such as community service, mental health services, and drug treatment, whenever it is appropriate to do so. Additionally, the Juvenile Division is responsible for handling child protection cases and providing legal representation to Warren County Children Services, as well as handling Adult Protective Services cases.

## **Civil Division and Delinquent Tax Division**

The Civil Division represents Warren County in legal matters and litigation where the County is a party. The Civil Division is the County's in-house law firm, providing legal services to County officials, the courts, and to the County's many departments, agencies, boards, and commissions. The Civil Division also provides legal services to eight townships and five public libraries. The Civil Division provides legal services on litigation, employment issues, zoning and land use planning matters, and contract negotiations.

In 2015, the Civil Division worked extensively with the Warren County Commissioners, the Harlan Township Trustees, and the Lebanon Public Library to bring construction projects to completion, including the County's new state of the art office building located at 520 Justice Drive in Lebanon, Ohio. The Civil Division continues to be involved in legal work to assure controlled growth of telecommunication facilities throughout the County to meet the needs of public safety forces, government offices, and the public. The Civil Division represented the Warren County Commissioners in the negotiations and asset transfer of the Waynesville Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System.

In addition, the Delinquent Tax Collection Division represented the Warren County Treasurer in foreclosure actions and collected over \$9.7 million in delinquent taxes and assessments on real property, manufactured and mobile homes, and personal property, representing an increase of over \$944,000 from the previous year. Through the efforts of the Delinquent Tax Collection Division, the rate of delinquent taxes and assessments is one of the lowest in the State of Ohio.

## **Child Support Enforcement Division**

The Child Support Division handled over 12,300 cases in 2015 and provided the full range of Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) services, including collection and enforcement of support orders, establishment of paternity and child support orders, location of parents, and modification and termination of orders. In 2015, the Child Support Division collected over \$44 million. CSEA collections included over \$3.8 million to recoup public assistance money, and nearly \$7.2 million was collected for 2,800 children of lower-income working families in danger of going on cash assistance. The division also collected \$114,862 to reimburse IV-E foster care costs. The Warren County CSEA was again recognized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in three performance categories: Best Performance on Current Support, Best Performance in Support Order Establishment, and Best Performance in Total Disbursements per Total Full-Time Equivalent. The agency continues to be one of the most cost-effective Child Support Enforcement Agencies in the State of Ohio, collecting nearly \$14.00 per dollar spent and maintaining spending at 2011 levels.

On September 17, 2015, Prosecutor Fornshell hosted a luncheon in honor of Warren County CSEA long-term employees (15+ years). The honorees and Prosecutor Fornshell are pictured below.

