

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2011-519

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3 SPONSOR Mr. Pry, Ms. Shapiro, and Mr. Comunale, and Council of the Whole

4  
5 DATE December 12, 2011 COMMITTEE Planning

6  
7 **A Resolution authorizing the Executive, subject to the approval of the Board of Control, to**  
8 **enter into a professional services agreement with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy,**  
9 **as best practical source, for assistance in the investigation, creation and initial operation of**  
10 **a County Land Reutilization Corporation in Summit County, for the Fiscal Officer, and**  
11 **declaring an emergency.**

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13 WHEREAS, in recent years, the people and businesses of Summit County, like most in  
14 the country, have suffered through difficult economic times; and

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16 WHEREAS, as a result of the recent economic crisis, several property owners have lost  
17 their homes and businesses through foreclosure, and many sit vacant and abandoned to this day;  
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, the high number of foreclosures and the associated number of vacant and  
21 abandoned properties in Summit County have contributed to the depression of the real estate  
22 market, with this year's real property appraisal performed by the Fiscal Office showing a  
23 decrease in value for all communities in Summit County; and

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25 WHEREAS, in addition to affecting the property values of nearby homes and businesses,  
26 vacant and abandoned properties worsen other societal issues such as health, sanitation and  
27 crime, which in turn further depress the real estate market; and

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29 WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through Chapters 5722 and 1724 of the Ohio Revised  
30 Code, have created a mechanism for counties to mitigate the impacts of foreclosures and  
31 abandoned and vacant properties through the creation of a county land reutilization corporation  
32 ("CLRC"); and

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34 WHEREAS, under the applicable state law, a CLRC may acquire, rehabilitate, renovate,  
35 demolish, resell or transfer abandoned and vacant property in order to abate nuisances that such  
36 properties pose and to stabilize the real estate market; and

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38 WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County was the first county in Ohio to create a CLRC, which has  
39 been very successful in addressing the aforementioned issues, and several other counties in Ohio  
40 have either created, or are in the process of creating, CLRCs; and

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42 WHEREAS, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is an Ohio non-profit corporation  
43 that is assisting several counties in Ohio with the creation and operation of their CLRCs; and

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45 WHEREAS, the Fiscal Officer has recommended that the County enter into a  
46 professional services agreement with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to assist the  
47 County with the investigation, creation and initial operation of a CLRC in Summit County; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is uniquely situated to assist the  
50 County because it employs former Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis, who innovated the  
51 use of CLRCs in Ohio and because of the assistance it has provided, and is providing, to several  
52 counties in Ohio, thereby making it the best practical source for such services; and

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4 WHEREAS, the professional services agreement between the County and the Western  
5 Reserve Land Conservancy will be funded entirely by grants from local non-profit entities; and

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7 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
8 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to authorize the Executive, at the  
9 recommendation of the Fiscal Officer, to enter into an agreement with the Western Reserve Land  
10 Conservancy whereby it will assist the County in the investigation, creation and initial operation  
11 of a CRLC in Summit County.

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13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the County of Summit,  
14 State of Ohio, that:

15  
16 SECTION 1

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18 Upon the recommendation of the Fiscal Officer, the Executive is hereby authorized to  
19 enter into a professional services agreement, subject to the approval of the Board of Control,  
20 with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, as best practical source, for assistance in the  
21 investigation, creation and initial operation of a County Land Reutilization Corporation in  
22 Summit County, in the form set forth on Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein.

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24 SECTION 2

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26 This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency in the interest of the health, safety  
27 and welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit and for the further reason to immediately  
28 authorize the execution of the aforementioned agreement so that the Western Reserve Land  
29 Conservancy may immediately begin assisting the County in order to address the issues surrounding  
30 vacant and abandoned properties in the County.

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32 SECTION 3

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34 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect  
35 immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise it shall take effect and be  
36 in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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38 SECTION 4

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40 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to  
41 the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all  
42 deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in  
43 meetings open to the public, in compliance with legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the  
44 Ohio Revised Code.  
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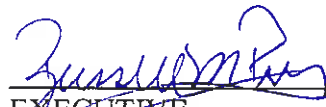
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5 INTRODUCED December 5, 2011

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7 ADOPTED December 12, 2011

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11 CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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13 APPROVED December 13, 2011

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16 EXECUTIVE

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19 ENACTED EFFECTIVE December 13, 2011

Voice Vote: 8-0: Comunale, Crawford, Feeman, Kurt, Lee, Roemer, Schmidt, Shapiro  
ABSENT: Kostandaras, Prentice, Rodgers