



The Council Ledger

Councilwoman Lee Hosts Expungement Clinic with University of Akron School of Law

Summit County Council **District 5 Representative, Tamela Lee** along with The University of Akron School of Law hosted a **FREE Expungement Clinic on Saturday, October 19th** at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in East Akron.

The FREE Clinic was for constituents who've been denied employment, housing or other government benefits because of a criminal record. Those who have completed their sentence at least a year ago were encouraged to attend. A driver's license or ID card, pay stub and proof of address was required to learn more about Expungement/Sealing.

Nearly 200 people attended the event, held from 1 to 4 p.m.

Many were looking to apply for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE): In order to qualify you:

- Have to currently live in Summit County, AND
- You have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony and it's been at least one year since you completed all of the terms of your sentence (including any probation, community supervision) & paid all of your court costs; OR
- You have been convicted of or pled guilty to a misdemeanor and it's been at least six months since you completed all of the terms of your sentence (including any probation or community supervision) & paid all of your court costs.

CQE 's are necessary to relieve a collateral sanction (penalty or disadvantage) facing ex-offenders so that they might be able to get a job or a occupational license.

A CQE cannot relieve you from:

- a requirement to register as a sex offender
- a driver's license suspension, cancellation, or revocation
- a restriction on employment as a prosecutor or law enforcement officer
- a denial, ineligibility, or suspension of a license as a health care professional if you: (1) were convicted of or pled guilty to murder, voluntary manslaughter, felonious assault, kidnapping, rape, sexual battery, gross sexual imposition, aggravated arson, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary, or unlawful distribution of an abortion-inducing drug; (2) are addicted to or were found to be improperly distributing controlled substances; OR (3) are in default under a child support order.

In addition to Expungement and CQE help, assistance and information was also available on Clemency and the Pardon process and representatives from the Prosecutor's Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Executive's Department of Job and Family Services were on hand to answer questions.

For those who missed the October Clinic, another FREE Expungement Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th, 10 a.m. at the University of Akron School of Law, 150 University Ave. See page 2 for more details.



County Councilwoman Tamela Lee speaks with constituents waiting for help at the FREE Expungement Clinic with the University of Akron School of Law.



Council Members Ilene Shapiro, Tamela Lee and John Schmidt listen as Dr. Joann Sahl from the University of Akron School of Law explains the CQE process at the October 19th FREE Expungement Clinic at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

Councilwoman Shapiro Travels to Omaha with Greater Akron Chamber for InterCity Leadership Visit

Councilwoman Ilene Shapiro was among 58 community and business leaders who traveled to Omaha, Nebraska in September for a three-day informational exchange. The trip included tours and discussions with business and community leaders there looking for best practices in Omaha that might be useful for The Greater Akron/Summit County region. Omaha is the home to five Fortune 500 companies, including Union Pacific Railroad and ConAgra Foods (with brands such as Hunt's, Pam and Orville Redenbacher's). It's also the home to famous investor and billionaire Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway. Omaha and Akron are of similar size and have goals centered on economic development, an urban core and talent attraction. The Akron delegation returned from the trip with a focus on the following goals:

- * A downtown hotel.
- * Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation.
- * Working on retaining professional talent along with development and education initiatives.
- * Finding space for innovation and workers from different industries and professions to collaborate.

"The beauty of Omaha lies in its relationships. They've built a tightly woven network intertwining business, government, education, the arts and its non-profit sectors all working in concert under a master plan that is focused, funded and sustainable. The private sector appears to be a highly active, highly engaged partner, both leading and supporting the long-range viability of their community. Greater Akron is poised to leverage existing collaborations and engage our business community in new and different ways. Successfully identifying, refining and implementing a few key strategies will enable us to create more vibrant future for ourselves," Shapiro concluded.



Akron business and community leaders tour Aksarben Village, an 80-acre development on the former site of a racetrack during the Greater Akron Chamber InterCity Leadership Visit in Omaha. The area next to the University of Nebraska Omaha has 4,000 residents, 5,000 workers, 17 restaurants and a second hotel being built. It also includes a grocery store and movie theater.

Photo (Betty Lin-Fisher/Akron Beacon Journal)

Free Expungement Clinic cont.

What you will need for the CQE/Expungement Clinic:

* Your e-mail address and password. *Note: If you need to sign up for an e-mail account, please visit <http://www.gmail.com> to do so before attending the clinic. All Akron public library branches and The Job Center at [1040 E. Tallmadge Ave.](http://1040E.TallmadgeAve.com), Akron offer free computer and internet access that you can use to sign up for an e-mail address.*

* Your social security number.

* If you're trying to get an occupational license, the name of the licensing board.

* Information (year, offense, county of conviction) about every criminal offense you have been convicted of or have pled guilty to. *Note: We cannot help you at the clinic if you have any pending criminal charges.*

* The name, address, and phone number of each of your employers for the past 5 years and the dates that you worked there.

* The first and last name, address, and phone number for three references.

* The first and last name, address, and phone number for three immediate family members or other persons that you have a close relationship with that are different from your three references.

* Any documents related to the job or vocational license you're trying to get including proof that you are unable to get the job or license because of your criminal offense.

Questions that you will have to answer on your petition (please consider these before attending the clinic):

* Why should the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections grant you a CQE?

* How will a CQE help you get a job or occupational license?

* Why do you have a substantial need for a CQE in order to live a law-abiding life?

* Why will granting you a CQE not pose an unreasonable risk to the safety of the public or any individual?

For more information go to:

www.uakron.edu/law/clinical/cqe-clinic.dot

Representatives from the Prosecutor's Child Support Enforcement Agency and the Executive's Department of Job and Family Services were also on hand to answer questions and provide information (top photo).



Councilwoman Lee talks with Rev. Clifton Norwood and Pastor Arthur Ruffin from St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church.



Law students from the University of Akron were available to answer questions and help clients with necessary Expungement and CQE applications.



Council Members Participate In Affordable Care Act Kick-Off

On, October 1, County Council Members **Tamela Lee** and **Sandra Kurt** participated in a "Know Your Care" Press Conference at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. The event marked the beginning of the new Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare"). "The quality of American hospitals, doctors and research is undeniable. Health Outcomes across our entire population are something different however. Today, there are at least 43 million uninsured Americans. Estimates in Summit County put our local figure at 63,000 of our family, friends and neighbors without health insurance. Ohioans will have on average 46 different plans from which to choose and despite what you may have heard, Obamacare is not a socialized one-size fits all approach. There are different levels of coverage and these plans are all provided by private insurers," said Lee. "There are extraordinary features of Obamacare for women. Under Obamacare, women all over Ohio can use this new Health Insurance Marketplace knowing that they are participating in a system that understands their unique health concerns and doesn't treat them as second class citizens," said Kurt.



Council Member, Tamela Lee and Sandra Kurt make remarks during a Press Conference to kick off the Affordable Care Act at the Akron-Summit County Main Library.

The Summit County Public Health Office will be coordinating local sites to assist with Open Enrollment for the new Health Insurance Marketplace. Individual Resources are also available 24/7 at www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-800-318-2596.

In the Community



Top Photo (left):

In August, Council Members presented a commendation in honor of the **Dina Dlugoz Memorial Bridge** on Highland Road in Macedonia. Ms. Dlugoz was killed in an auto accident while crossing train tracks on Highland Road in 1989 at the age of 18. The new bridge runs above the tracks, eliminating the chance of future accidents. Pictured with the entire Council is Mrs. Barbara Dlugoz, Dina's mother.



Top Photo (right):

In September, Councilwoman **Paula Prentice (District 8)** participated in the **10th Annual Mychal Clayton Sickle Cell Awareness Walk** at Lock 3 Park, downtown Akron. Walk founders and organizers, Toka Clayton (left) and LaTonya Lewis (right) were presented with a Commendation from Ms. Prentice.

Staff Notes

Jennifer Novakovic, former Assistant to Council was promoted to Clerk of Council following the resignation of **Faylin Mutch**, who accepted a Senior Administrator position with the Summit County Department of Environmental Services.



Ms. Novakovic was awarded the 2013 High Point Award for Outstanding Service in the Council Office. Prior to her Council work, she had several years of experience with the County in the Clerk of Courts Office.

**CONGRATS Jennifer, and
GOOD LUCK Faylin!**



Bottom Photo (left):

On September 19th, **Councilman Frank Comunale (District 4)** participated in the **Annual Fame Father's Walk** at Portage Path CLC. Pictured with Councilman Komunale and a Portage Path family is Akron Public School Board Member, Veronica Sims (left).

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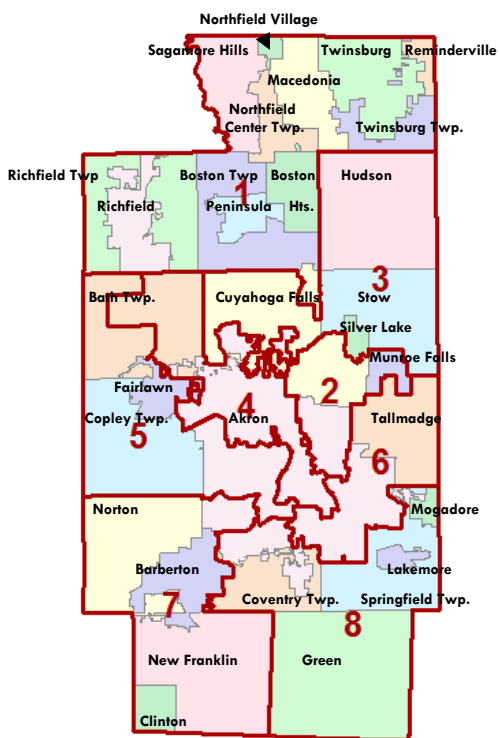


2013 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
November 4	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 11	Council Offices Closed For Veterans Day		
November 18	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 25	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
November 28-29	Council Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday		
December 2	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
December 9	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
	<i>*Last meeting before Winter Break</i>		
December 24	Council Offices Closed for Christmas Eve Holiday		
December 25	Council Offices Closed for Christmas Day Holiday		
January 1, 2014	Council Offices Closed for New Year's Day Holiday		
January 2	Council Organizational Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
	Council Committee Meeting (following Organizational Meeting)		
January 6	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
January 13	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
January 20	Council Offices Closed for MLK Day		
January 27	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

2013 County Council Members

Nick Kostandaras
District 1
John Schmidt
District 2
Gloria Rodgers
District 3
Frank C. Comunale
District 4
Tamela Lee
District 5
***Jerry Feeman**
President
District 6
Tim Crawford
District 7
***Paula Prentice**
Vice President
District 8
Sandra Kurt
At Large
Bill Roemer
At Large
Ilene Shapiro
At Large



County Council Staff

Mark Potter
Chief of Staff
Jennifer Novakovic
Clerk of Council
W. Kent Starks, II
Senior Research Analyst

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