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**NEW COUNTY COUNCILWOMAN TAMELA LEE REPLACES  
CAZZELL SMITH AS DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE**

On Tuesday, April 26, Tamela Lee was elected by the Summit County Democratic Party to the Summit County Council as the District 5 representative. The seat was vacated by former Summit County Councilman Cazzell Smith after he accepted a position with the Summit County Fiscal Office. An Akron native, Lee defeated the only other candidate nominated, Deandre Forney, also of Akron, in a 25-15 vote. The special party election was held at the Akron Urban League.

Ms. Lee, a business and community consultant who also is second vice chairwoman of the county Democratic Party will complete Mr. Smith's term on Council which runs through 2012.

She is a graduate of Akron Garfield High School and holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Public Health from the University of Toledo and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Cleveland State University. Her Council membership marks her first experience as an elected official. Ms. Lee lost in the 2010 Democratic primary for the Ohio Senate.

Bringing a business background and an interest in social issues to Council, Lee is interested in expanding entrepreneurship, improving education and growing opportunities for the middle class.

"We have so many issues, I don't have an agenda. My immediate goal is to do a good job and serve my constituents well," she concluded. District 5 covers West Akron, Copley Township and Fairlawn.

Lee, was endorsed by County Executive Russ Pry, state Rep. Vernon Sykes, D-Akron, and other leading Democrats. She will be the only African-American on the 11-member council and the first African-American female to serve.

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