

The Council Ledger

Spring 2024

Council Selects New Officers for 2024

At their February 12, 2024 Council Meeting, Summit County Council selected **Rita Darrow (District 1)** to serve as Council President and **Erin Dickinson (At Large)** as Vice President for the remainder of 2024. Darrow succeeds Councilwoman **Veronica Sims (District 5)** who served from 2023 through February 2024. Sims resigned from County Council on February 7, to serve as State Representative for the 33rd District in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Elected to Summit County Council in 2020, Darrow has served as Vice President since 2023 and has chaired the Health and Human Services and Long Term Planning Committees and been vice chair of the Personnel Committee. Councilwoman Darrow has also served on the on the Public Safety Committee. Prior to County Council, she served on the Macedonia City Council and was a past president there. Darrow also serves as third vice president of the Federated Women of Summit County.

Dickinson has served on Council since 2022 and has chaired the Public Safety and Rules Committees and been vice chair of the Public Works Committee. She also serves on the Long Term Planning Committee. Councilwoman Dickinson has spent her career as a business litigation attorney and advocates for safer communities through her role on the Community Legal Aid Board.



County Council President Rita Darrow (District 1) and Vice President Erin Dickinson (At-Large)

Brandon Ford Selected For District 5 Seat on Council



Brandon Ford was selected by the Summit County Democratic Committee to fill the District 5 seat vacated by Veronica Sims who left Council in February to represent District 33 in the Ohio House of Representatives. Ford holds a Juris Doctorate and MBA from the University of Akron and his BS in Nursing from Case Western Reserve. "From my foundation as a PICU nurse, to the years I spent as an attorney, to starting my own venture to my role as the ignitor of innovation with Lubrizol, my passion and drive are behind everything I do. I'm looking forward to serving the constituents of

District 5 and working with my new colleagues on Summit County Council," he concluded. Councilman Ford will conclude Sims' term and run for re-election in November 2024.

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Council Honors Akron Police Officer For Saving a Child's Life From Overdose

At its March 4 Council Meeting, Summit County Council honored Akron Police Detective Larry Rhodaback for his heroism in saving the life of a young child. On the evening of January 11, 2024, Detective Rhodaback was working his secondary job at the Martin P. Lauer Apartments when he came across a father who was carrying his unconscious child. Detective Rhodaback performed CPR on the child for several minutes before she started breathing again. EMS arrived shortly after, taking over and continuing life-saving measures. The child was then transported to Akron Children's Hospital where it was discovered that fentanyl was in her system. The child was then taken into the custody of Summit County Children Services while investigators worked to find out how she digested the lethal drug. "We want to thank Detective Rhodaback for his quick action assisting this child and ultimately saving their life," said **Councilman John Schmidt (District 2)**. We have seen the devastating impact fentanyl has had on our community and as this event illustrates, not even children are immune to its harm," he concluded.



Councilman John Schmidt (District 2) presents Commendation to Akron Police Detective Larry Rhodaback for his heroism in saving a child from a possible drug overdose. With Councilman Schmidt and Det. Rhodaback is APD Acting Chief Brian Harding.

Let's Move Bike and Hike Returns for 4th Year on May 18th

The Let's Move Summit County Bike and Hike event will once again return to Summit Lake on the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail on Saturday, May 18th. Pre-registration for the event is now available online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-move-summit-county-2024-bike-hike-tickets-849399616117>

Free t-shirts, swag bags and a complimentary lunch are guaranteed for the first 400 registered participants. New to the event this year is the recently completed bridge and paved 2.75 mile trail circling Summit Lake on it's North Shore.

Let's Move Summit County is hosted by Summit County Council and Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro with the support of several Community Sponsors and partners including: Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, City of Akron, Shammass Malik, Mayor, Summit County Fiscal Office, Kristin Scalise CPA, CFE, CareSource, Acme Fresh Market, South Street Ministries, Summit Metro Parks, METRO RTA, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, Summit County Public Health, Community Action Akron Summit, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Tavia Galonski, Summit County Clerk of Courts, Key Bank, ADM Board, Summit DD, Oriana House, GOJO, Akron Children's Hospital, Mustard Seed Market, Summa Health, Akron Area YMCA, Stewart & Calhoun Funeral Home, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron Children's Museum, Akron Urban League and The Distillata Company.

SAVE THE DATE



**SATURDAY
MAY 18, 2024**

BIKE RIDE: 7:30 A.M.- 11 A.M.

WALK: 10:30 A.M.- 2 P.M.

**SUMMIT LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
TOWPATH TRAIL
380 W. CROSIER ST. AKRON, OH 44311**

New Clerk of Council Hired



Summit County Council has appointed Monique Willis as its new Clerk of Council. Ms. Willis comes to Summit County Council from the Summit County Executive's Department of Job and Family Services where she was formerly a Social Program Coordinator, Case Management Specialist and a Technical Assistant. "Monique is a consummate professional, with experience delivering quality customer service to various community partners and the general public. She will be a valuable asset to our Council Office staff," said Council President, Rita Darrow.

Council Recognizes Rotary Club of Barberton for 100 Years



Councilwoman Bethany McKenney presents Commendation to Barberton Rotary Club President Hugh McMichael.

Summit County Council Member **Bethany McKenney (District 7)** presented a commendation on February 29 to the Rotary Club of Barberton on the occasion of the group's 100th anniversary of service. The club was first chartered on February 29, 1924 and still has a large group of active members to this day.

"I want to thank and congratulate the Rotary Club of Barberton on their 100th anniversary," said McKenney. "This club does outstanding charitable work and the fact that they are still going strong after one hundred years is a testament to the quality of its members here in the community."

Barberton Rotary has provided collegiate scholarships for Barberton, Manchester and Norton students, hosts a 4-Way Test Speech Contest and participates in countless acts of volunteerism ranging from stuffing Birdie Bags for the Ben Curtis Family Foundation to picking up trash on the streets of Barberton. The Club has also funded service projects that Barbertonians, young and old, will enjoy for decades to come including: the McCafferty Park Playground, sensory room equipment at Barberton Preschool, an outdoor equipment storage shed at Barberton Preschool, a Disc Golf Course at Tuscarawas Park, signage on the Towpath Trail and a permanent Mum Fest Sponsor Display Sign at Lake Anna.

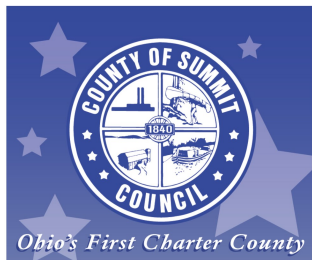
Councilwoman Sims Departs Council for Statehouse Appointment

On February 7, Summit County Council President **Veronica Sims (District 5)** resigned from Council as she was officially sworn in as District 33 Representative for the Ohio House of Representatives. Sims was tapped to replace former Rep. Tavia Galonski who resigned her seat to become Summit County Clerk of Courts.

"We want to thank Veronica for her dedicated service to Summit County," said former Council Vice President **Rita Darrow (District 1)**. "We wish her well in her new role in Columbus and we know she will be a great advocate for the residents of District 33."



State Rep. Veronica Sims (District 33) is presented with a Commendation from her former County Council colleagues and County Executive Illene Shapiro prior to the Council Meeting on February 12.



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The Council Ledger is a quarterly publication of the Summit County Council Office produced by Council Staff.

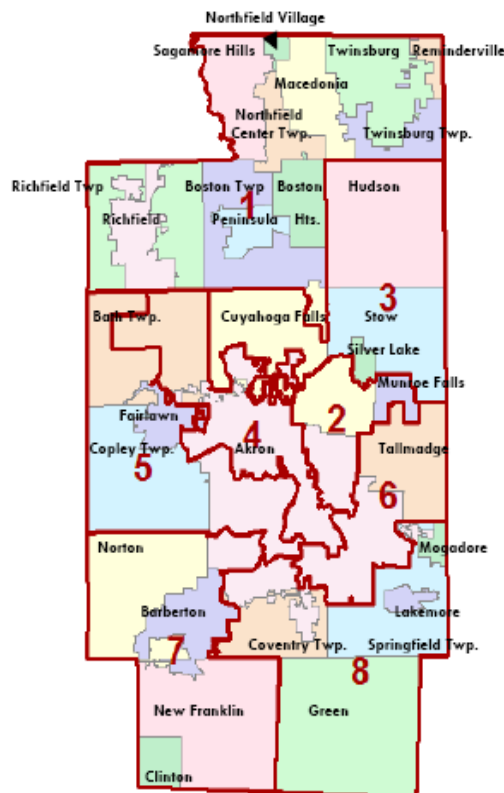
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2024 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
April 15	Committee and Council Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 22	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 29	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 6	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 13	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 20	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 27	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY		
June 3	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 10	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 17	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
June 19	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH		
June 24	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
LAST MEETING BEFORE SUMMER RECESS			
July 4	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY		

2024 County Council Members

- *Rita Darrow**
President
District 5
- Erin Dickinson**
Vice President
At Large
- John Schmidt**
District 2
- Gloria Rodgers**
District 3
- Jeff Wilhite**
District 4
- Brandon Ford**
District 5
- Christine Wiedie Higham**
District 6
- Bethany McKenney**
District 7
- Anthony DeVitis**
District 8
- John Donofrio**
At -Large
- Elizabeth Walters**
At -Large



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