



The Council Ledger

Council Members Participate in Infant Mortality Summit

County Council Members, **Tamela Lee (District 5)**, **Paula Prentice (District 8)** and **Gloria Rodgers (District 3)** were among the more than 400 attendees at the "Every Baby Matters!" Infant Mortality Summit at the John S. Knight Center on June 6, 2013.

Infant mortality, defined as the death of a child before their first birthday, is a high priority as Ohio has the 11th worst infant mortality rate in the nation. The infant mortality rate is the estimate of the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

In Summit County, the IMR is 7.2, just slightly less than the state's 7.3. Still, there has been concern that in Summit County there is too much disparity between the number of deaths among non-Hispanic black infants (an IMR of 10.1) and non-Hispanic white infants (an IMR of 4.1).

According to statistics provided by the Summit County Public Health office from 10 years of data, the range in the county was from an IMR of 1.5 to 14.3. Central Akron and West Akron had the highest IMRs.

The data shows that 484 babies born as Summit County residents died in their first year from 2000 to 2009. In 93 percent of those cases, the death was attributed to a medical reason, with half of those attributed to prematurity. Among the babies who died for external reasons, the most common reason was by asphyxiation, which can be attributed to the practice of co-sleeping.

The summit featured parents sharing their stories and presentations from medical and public health professionals on the

topic, as well as breakout sessions and a Community Strategy Engagement Panel.

Councilwoman Lee participated on Policy and Leadership Panels during the day and shared her thoughts on the racial IMR disparities. "There are cultural and access issues within the African-American community. We've moved into a healthcare "economy" instead of a system. People are not widgets. There are too many barriers to care now and personal relationships with providers is lacking. There need to be more neighborhood options in the community to meet people where they are," she concluded.

Council members Lee and Prentice are both working on a steering committee to develop a plan to address the issues specific to Summit County and will be attending meetings in Columbus with other community health professionals and public officials in July.

County Council Members John Schmidt (District 2), Jerry Feeman (District 6), Tim Crawford (District 7), Sandra Kurt (At Large), Bill Roemer (At Large) Ilene Shapiro (At Large) and Paula Prentice (District 8) following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new Goodyear World Headquarters in Akron in May. The 639,000 square foot Global Headquarters building is home to nearly 2,000 corporate and North American Tire associates.



County Councilwoman Tamela Lee (District 5) speaks during a Policy Panel Discussion at the "Every Baby Matters!" Infant Mortality Summit at the John S. Knight Center on June 6, 2013.

Council Members Attend Goodyear Grand Opening



Councilman Comunale Hosts FREE Saturday Movie for Kids and Families at Highland Square Theater Pizza Party for Perfect Attendance Students at Portage Path CLC

On Saturday, June 8th, Councilman Frank Comunale (District 4) hosted a FREE Morning Movie Matinee for kids and families at the Highland Theater in West Akron. A standing room only crowd of nearly 700 enjoyed the Dreamworks animated feature, "The Croods." Prior to the movie, Councilman Comunale gave away three free bicycles and Akron Aeros baseball tickets to lucky prize drawing winners. Special guests at the event included, Akron City Council President Gary Money Penny, Akron Aeros Owner, Ken Babby and Akron Chief Prosecutor Gert Wilms. A canned food drive was also part of the event with all collections going to the Good Samaritan Hunger Center and Sarah's House. Plans are in the works for another FREE Saturday movie on September 21st, and Guardians Advocating Child Safety and Protection (GASP) will be on hand to offer Child Fingerprinting.



In May, Councilman Comunale hosted a Pizza Party for students with Perfect Attendance at Portage Path Community Learning Center (CLC). The party was part of an "incentive" contest for the students, and two classrooms of 3rd and 5th grade students were rewarded with FREE Pizzas delivered and served by Councilman Comunale.



District 4 Councilman Frank Comunale serves pizza to students at Portage Path CLC (above) and gives away bikes at Highland Square Theater (left). Kids and families line up outside Highland Theater waiting to get in to see the FREE Saturday Morning Matinee movie, "The Croods." (top photo)

Councilwoman Shapiro Speaks at Springfield Chamber of Commerce Meeting

The Springfield Chamber of Commerce hosted Councilwoman Ilene Shapiro (At Large) as its guest speaker during the group's weekly luncheon at Bill White's Akron Lanes. Councilwoman Shapiro, a member of the Summit County Economic Development Board, discussed how the economy is impacting Ohio and the county. She also addressed financial assistance being offered to smaller communities within Summit County. Shapiro shared many impressive facts about Ohio during the presentation including:

- Job creation—Ohio ranks 4th in the nation and 5th in manufacturing;
- Tax rates for businesses — only Maine and Oregon have lower tax rates;
- If Ohio were a separate country, it would be the 28th largest economy in the world;
- Ohio is the source of over 4.4 percent of American production;
- 67 Fortune 1000 Companies have their headquarters in Ohio;
- The University of Akron is world renowned in Polymer Science and the state is known for healthcare and biotech, food and agriculture and alternative energy.



"Ohio is in better shape than most of us realize. Companies like Goodyear and Bridgestone Firestone have made significant investments here locally and our Development Finance Authority has issued more than \$725 million dollars in bonds since 1999 creating and maintaining nearly 10,000 jobs. There are many resources available for companies to start up and expand in Summit County," she concluded.



In the Community

Council Members **Bill Roemer, Ilene Shapiro, Tim Crawford, Jerry Feeman, Paula Prentice, Tamela Lee, Sandra Kurt, Frank Comunale, Nick Kostandaras and Gloria Rodgers** pose in front of one the new Summit County Special Operations Response Team (SORT) – Hazardous Materials Branch, Emergency Response Vehicles.

The vehicle shown is a large rescue style vehicle. The command cab has an office area for research and comes complete with computer, printer, copier, fax and cell phones. Specially designed hazardous materials software is installed on the PC. The software aids response personnel in assessing the chemical hazard, medical management of exposed patients and responders, and the proper protective clothing to wear to protect and decontaminate responders. Weather information is gathered by a C-5 SAM weather station on the outside of the vehicle and hard-wired directly to the computer and software.



The second vehicle serves as a self-contained mobile decontamination unit with the capability to perform victim, as well as responder decontamination. It has six personal showers with hot and cold water and medical evaluation facilities. The trailer has propane-fired heat and air conditioning, and an air system that provides the supplied air breathing apparatus (SABA) utilized by the personnel staffing the decontamination positions. Electric is supplied by a 5000-watt portable generator. Once on the scene, the unit takes approximately 20 minutes to setup and secure a water source before decontamination can begin. The forward part of the trailer is designed to allow entry personnel (individuals who suit up and enter the hazardous zone) to rest, hydrate, and get medically checked before and after assignment.



Council Members Jerry Feeman (District 6) and Ilene Shapiro (At Large) present a Commendation to retiring Development Finance Authority Board Member, Pat McKay. McKay served on the board since 1999. During her term as Chair (2011-12) DFA initiated its first strategic plan, financed improvements to Canal Park Stadium, refunded bonds for the Akron Civic Theater and issued bonds to complete financing for the Goodyear World Headquarters and Innovation Center. At right is DFA president Chris Burnham.

Staff Notes



Congratulations to Assistant to Council, **Jennifer Novakovic** (in photo above with **Council President Jerry Feeman, District 6**) who was awarded the 2013 High Point Award for Outstanding Service.



Councilwoman Sandra Kurt (At Large) participates in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new ADA-accessible rest room facility on the grounds of the Springfield Township Senior Center. Pictured with her are from left: Joy Dies, Springfield Township Fiscal Officer; Deborah Davis, Springfield Township Trustee; Connie Krauss, Summit County Director of Community and Economic Development; Bruce Killian, Springfield Township Trustee; and Dean Young, Springfield Township Trustee.

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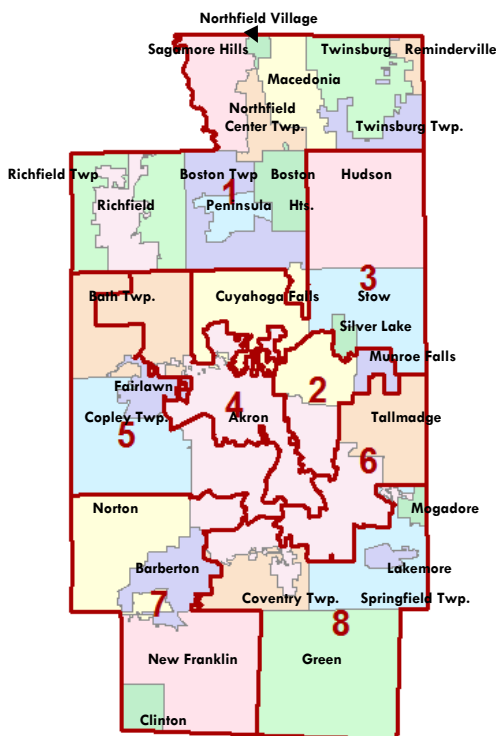


2013 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
August 5	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 12	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 19	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
August 26	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 2	Council Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday		
September 9	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 16	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 23	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
September 30	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 7	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 14	Council Offices Closed for Columbus Day Holiday		
October 21	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
October 28	Council Committee Mtg.	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



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Clerk of Council
W. Kent Starks, II
Senior Research Analyst
Jennifer Novakovic
Assistant to Council

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