

The Council Ledger

Winter-Spring 2022

Council Special Review Committee Issues Second Racism as a Public Health Crisis Report

The special review committee convened by Summit County Council in 2020 to examine how to best promote racial equity in the County presented findings to the full Council and community at the January 31 Council Committee Meeting. The work, led by Council member **Veronica Sims (District 5)** and Council President **Elizabeth Walters (at-large)** and with assistance from County Executive Ilene Shapiro and staff, has focused on how the County can improve internal policies, practices, and procedures to foster operations that are antiracist, diverse, equitable and inclusive (ADEI). The committee completed two phases of work and is set to begin the third and final phase in the coming months.

Special review committee members met monthly in 2021 to seek solutions and engage residents. Committee members include elected officeholders and community stakeholders. Later in 2021, the County hired UPD Consulting to facilitate committee meetings, collect, analyze and report on data, develop a work plan, review data collection and provide county officials with recommendations, ideas and assistance to improve policies and procedures related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to assess many aspects of Summit County departments and agencies.

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Councilwomen Veronica Sims (District 5) (right) and Elizabeth Walters (At-Large) co-chair the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Special Review Committee.

Walters and Dickinson lead Council in 2022



Elizabeth Walters (At-Large) was re-elected to serve as President of Council for 2022 and **Clair Dickinson (At-Large)** was re-elected to serve as Vice President following the Summit County Council Organizational Meeting In January. Walters, elected to County Council in 2016 served as Council Vice President in 2019 and 2020. She currently serves as Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party.



Dickinson has recently served as Chair of the Public Safety Committee and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. He previously served on Council from 1989 through 1993 and from 2003 through 2007 and served as President three times. He also served a total of twelve years as a Judge on the Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals and worked for several years with the Brouse McDowell law firm.

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Council Honors GOJO for 75 Years



County Executive Ilene Shapiro (left) and Councilman John Schmidt (District 2) present a Commendation to GOJO President and CEO Carie Jaros celebrating the company's 75th Anniversary. Photo below - Purell being bottled at a GOJO manufacturing site.



At its February 28th meeting, Summit County Council and County Executive Ilene Shapiro honored GOJO Industries with a commendation, marking the company's 75th Anniversary.

Councilman **John Schmidt (District 2)** presented the honor along with Executive Shapiro to GOJO President and CEO, Carey Jaros.

Founded in 1946 by Goldie and Jerry Lippman in Akron, Ohio, GOJO is a privately held manufacturer of hand hygiene and skin care products. One of Summit County's largest private employers, GOJO remains headquartered in Akron and operates worldwide, with offices in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, and Brazil. It has factories in Ohio and across North America, as well as in Latin America, South America, Europe, and Asia. Gojo's main manufacturing and distribution facilities are at its Lippman Campus in Cuyahoga Falls. The company is best known for Purell, a hand sanitizer. The company also offers an electronic hand hygiene monitoring system for medical, government, military, education, food and leisure institutions and industrial and office facilities.

"When people think of GOJO they think of Purell, but what's really amazing is that GOJO is a third generation family business born and developed right here in Summit County. GOJO has always been about innovative solutions to improve our everyday lives – from not only the development of Purell and other sanitizers but to the safe and efficient distribution of them that we see today in our homes, businesses, offices and medical facilities everywhere," said Schmidt.

"During this current COVID pandemic it is incredible that such a product is made and manufactured here locally and helps keep people safe and healthy while providing thousands of dedicated employees the opportunity to earn a good living and provide for their families. We truly appreciate GOJO and their positive impact on this community and beyond for 75 years," he concluded.

Racism Special Committee Report cont.

To determine findings and develop recommendations, UPD utilized data analysis, staff surveys, interviews and focus groups, and document review. UPD's report showed that Summit County is on its way to becoming an ADEI organization, but has work to do to foster stronger community, commitment, culture and climate in County operations. To begin Phase III, Council Co-Chairs Sims and Walters are now assembling a smaller working group to define a vision and set goals for the County to meet. This group will work together in the coming months to develop a longer-term strategy for ADEI work and outline performance management metrics.

"This work is about change, not blame. If we have learned anything since beginning this journey, it is that systems, not just individual people, are responsible for present inequities," said Council President Walters. "It is also clear that change will require bold leadership. I am certain my colleagues on County Council, County Executive Shapiro and all County officeholders, in addition to our other County agencies, are willing to engage in the hard work that lays ahead."

"Since engaging in this work, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our internal and external partners.

These partners are excited to know the County is committed to taking action, not just talking about the problem," said Councilmember Sims. "In the coming months, we will plot a roadmap forward, focusing on recommendations provided by the committee and UPD, and working to deliver a model for other communities and organizations to follow."

For a complete copy of the UPD report, please visit the Summit County Council website at <https://council.summitoh.net>.

Commendations

Winter-Spring 2022



Prior to the February 14, 2022 Council Committee Meeting, Councilwoman **Veronica Sims (District 5)** recognized Major Matamba Kaalima for his promotion to Major. Major Kaalima became the highest-ranking African-American Deputy in the 180-year history of the Summit County Sheriff's Office when he was promoted to Major by Sheriff Fatheree late last year. Major Kaalima is shown with Sheriff Kandy Fatheree (right) and Councilwoman Sims (left).

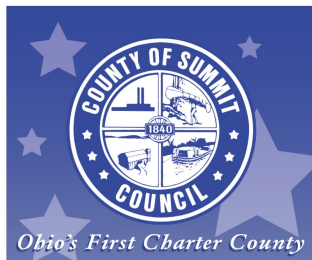


On January 13, 2022, Akron native Candice Eberhardt was installed as the first African-American woman to hold the position of President of the Akron-Cleveland Association of Realtors. Ms. Eberhardt became a licensed realtor in 2001 at the age of 20 and graduated with a degree in real estate in October 2011 from Hondros College. She earned her broker's license in 2012 and opened her own agency, Eberhardt Realty & Management, in the Wallhaven area of West Akron in 2012. Ms. Eberhardt works closely with clients and her agents to stay on top of market trends and she is committed to and very passionate about making homeownership a priority for minorities. Councilwoman **Veronica Sims (District 5)** honored her with a Commendation at the installation ceremony.



Prior to the March 14 Council Meeting, Councilwoman **Bethany McKenney (District 7)** recognized Jaydyn McKinney, who was the first female wrestler at Manchester High School to win a State Championship when she captured the 120 lb. title at the OHSWCA Girls Wrestling State Championships in February. In addition to her wrestling feats, Jaydyn is an honor roll student at Manchester and also a member of the Panthers Girls Soccer team. Pictured with Jaydyn and Councilwoman McKenney are her parents Sheriff's Deputy Bill McKinney and Jonell Glitzenstein, Esq.

A vertical poster with a light blue background. At the top, the text "SAVE THE DATE" is written in large, bold, purple letters. Below this, a large orange gear-like shape contains the text "LET'S MOVE SUMMIT COUNTY!" in purple, followed by "BIKE HIKE" in very large, white, stylized letters, and "2022" in purple. At the bottom, the date "SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022" is written in purple. Below the date, the event details are listed: "BIKE RIDE: 7:30 A.M. - 11 A.M. • WALK: 10:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.", "SUMMIT LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER TOWPATH TRAIL", and "380 W. CROSIER ST. AKRON, OH 44311".



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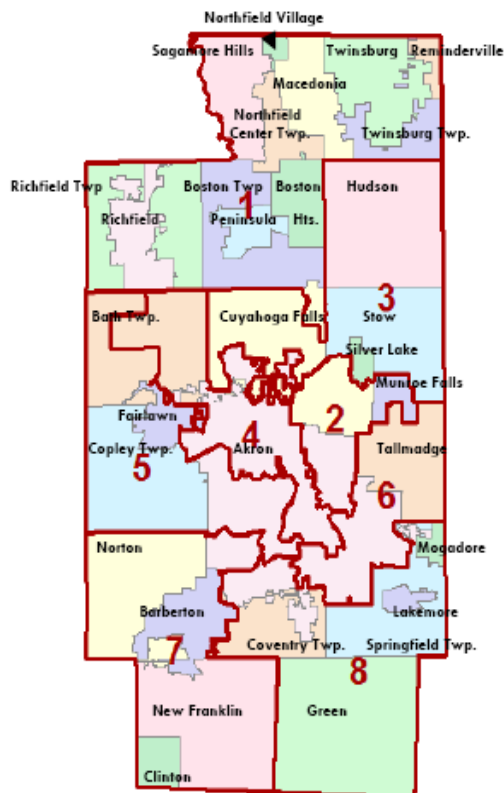
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2022 Council Meeting Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
March 21	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
March 28	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 4	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 11	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 18	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
April 25	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 2	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 9	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 16	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 23	Council Meeting	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.
May 30	COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY		
June 6	Council Committee Mtg.	Council Chambers	4:30 p.m.

2022 County Council Members

- *Elizabeth Walters**
President
At -Large
- *Clair Dickinson**
Vice President
At Large
- Rita Darrow**
District 1
- John Schmidt**
District 2
- Gloria Rodgers**
District 3
- Jeff Wilhite**
District 4
- Veronica Sims**
District 5
- Jerry Feeman**
District 6
- Bethany McKenney**
District 7
- Anthony DeVitis**
District 8
- John Donofrio**
At -Large



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