

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Police Academy Scholarship Recipients Hired as Sheriff Deputies**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—On Thursday, January 16, 2020, Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry swore in five new deputies to his force. The deputies were each participants in a program that provided police academy scholarships funded by Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Job and Family Services.

In response to a large number of deputies becoming retirement eligible, Executive Shapiro and Sheriff Barry worked together with the University of Akron to establish a police academy scholarship program. The program is paid for using Department of Job and Family Services' workforce funding and focuses on recruiting diverse candidates. Demetrius O. Gardner Jr., Joshua A. Sweitzer, Faniesha G. Thomas, Abby L. Wilson, and Dominic J. Woods were provided tuition, uniforms and additional resources needed to complete their coursework. The program guarantees employment with the Sheriff's Office upon completion of the police academy.

“The goal of this program is to remove barriers for men and women who want to serve their community. Many folks in Summit County want a career in law enforcement, but the cost of the police academy is just too high,” said Executive Shapiro. “By providing these scholarships, we are maintaining our deputy force and also empowering our residents to have a shot at their dream job. I am thankful for Sheriff Barry's support of this program and wish our new deputies much success as they begin their careers.”

Recruitment events for the next scholarship class will be held on March 5 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ohio Means Jobs Center on Tallmadge Ave. Prospective candidates must be Summit County residents and meet eligibility standards. Candidates who meet all eligibility requirements will begin the police academy in August.

To sign up for the recruitment events, please visit [www.summitcountyoh.eventbrite.com](http://www.summitcountyoh.eventbrite.com). For more information, contact Inspector Bill Holland at 330-643-2114 or [wholland@sheriff.summitoh.net](mailto:wholland@sheriff.summitoh.net).



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