

# News Release



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

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## **Chief of Staff Jason Dodson Stepping Down in August to Join Roetzel & Andress LPA**

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## **Finance Director Brian Nelsen Tapped as New Chief of Staff**

County Executive Ilene Shapiro announced today that Chief of Staff, Jason Dodson, is leaving his position to join local law firm Roetzel & Andress LPA and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Roetzel Consulting Solutions. Dodson has been an employee of the County Executive's Office since 2007, and has served as Chief of Staff since December 2008, first under late County Executive Russ Pry, and for the last three years under County Executive Shapiro. His last day at the County will be August 29, 2019, the date of Executive Shapiro's 2019 State of the County address.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished during my 12 years at the County under Executives Pry and Shapiro," said Mr. Dodson. "I would like to thank Executives Shapiro and Pry, my fellow employees, the county, municipal and township elected officials, business leaders, economic development partners and the residents of Summit County who have given me a rewarding career in public service. And most importantly, I would like to thank my wife, Stephanie, and our children, for putting up with the long hours the job requires."

Dodson will be replaced by Brian Nelsen, current Director of Finance and Budget under Executive Shapiro. Mr. Nelsen has served in that role since 2009, and has been employed by the County since 2004. Previously, he served in multiple roles in the City of Akron's Treasury, Audit and Budget and Income Tax Departments over nearly 13 years. The County Executive's Office will fill his current position in the coming months.

"Jason has been an integral part of keeping the County on a successful path for more than a decade, and I wish him well as he undertakes this new endeavor in life," said Executive Shapiro. "Jason, Brian and I have already begun the planning necessary for a smooth transition of the Chief of Staff's position, and our collective goal is to continue the same level of responsiveness and openness to our staff, residents and businesses that is the tradition of Summit County government. We also look forward to continuing to work with Jason on new opportunities in the future."

In his new role at Roetzel & Andress LPA, Dodson will be a member of the Public Law and Finance Practice Group in the Akron and Cleveland offices, where he will focus on assisting both public and private-sector clients in the areas of economic development, finance, real estate, zoning and land use, government relations, public-private partnerships, and public law. Dodson will also serve as a Director of Roetzel Consulting Solutions, which provides strategic solutions to both public and private-sector clients.

“I am excited to begin this new chapter in my life where I will be able to use both my legal background and my experience in government to assist clients with achieving their goals,” said Dodson. “It is somewhat bittersweet to leave the County Executive’s Office, where I have worked the majority of my adult life. However, I look forward to the new opportunities before me, and I hope to continue to engage with the County and many of our local partners who make Summit County a great place to live and work. Just as important, I know that I am leaving the County in good hands- Brian has been intimately involved in every major County decision over the last decade, and he is a natural fit for the position.”

Prior to joining the County in 2007, Dodson was an attorney at the firm of Cassetty, Muse & Pry working alongside his mentor, future County Executive Russ Pry. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Akron School of Law and received his undergraduate degree in 2001 from the University of Akron.

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