

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Staff Honored with Akron Urban League and Greater Akron Chamber Awards

Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro is proud to recognize Finance and Budget Director Brian Nelsen and Senior Administrator Stephen Knittel who were both recently honored with awards from local organizations for their contributions to Summit County.

Nelsen has been named the 2019 Akron Urban League Unsung Hero Award recipient. This annual award is given to a person who has been a champion of the Urban League behind the scenes, providing vital guidance in accomplishing the mission of the organization. In the last year, Nelsen has provided valuable financial guidance to the Urban League as it undergoes internal restructuring. As Summit County Finance and Budget Director, Nelsen manages a budget of more than \$500 million.

“Brian has been a strong supporter of the Akron Urban League, providing the organization with critical financial counseling as it heads into a new era,” said Executive Shapiro. “I am grateful for his commitment to the stability of this exceptional organization. The Urban League serves a crucial role in our community, providing programs that are economically and educationally transformational for many Summit County residents. The organization is worthy of Brian’s support, and all our support.”

Knittel was named a Greater Akron Chamber “30 for the Future” recipient, an award given to community members ages 25-39 who are excelling in their careers and community. As a Senior Administrator in the Department of Community and Economic Development, Knittel serves as staff to the Summit County Planning Commission, where he reviews zoning changes and administers subdivision regulations. He also serves as the Liaison for District 8 for the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and is a key member of the award-winning Summit County Geographic Information Systems Team. Knittel has been an active member of Torchbearers since 2016 and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

“As County Executive, I have been intentional about hiring talented young men and women who will take our community into the future,” said Executive Shapiro. “Stephen is the perfect example of a young professional who shines in the workplace and dedicates himself to the community. We are thankful to have him on our team and look forward to witnessing all that he achieves.”

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