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News Release

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
Steve Barry – Summit County Sheriff
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Jail Operations Advisory Commission Makes Recommendations on Increasing Safety, Efficiency and Quality of Jail Services

At the Summit County Council committee meeting earlier this evening, Councilman David Hamilton presented the recommendations of the Summit County Jail Operations Advisory Commission. The Commission's findings focused on increasing staffing of both sworn deputies and civilian employees at the jail, and ways in which to restore and improve inmate services. The Commission was empaneled in December of 2017 and has been meeting regularly, with Councilman Hamilton chairing the group.

Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry appreciate the commitment of the Commission members and their dedication to working with staff members of both offices in furthering the goal of increasing efficiency and quality of services at the jail.

“Sheriff Barry and I met in the spring to discuss ways in which we could work together to address the recommendations of the Commission as well as concerns the community might have. I appreciate his willingness to dedicate staff to both the commission meetings as well as meetings

with my team to address staffing and services issues,” said Executive Shapiro. “We all look forward to effecting new initiatives to respond to the Commission and the community as a whole.”

Sheriff Barry stated, “I am pleased to see our community working together to address the needs we have at the jail. I appreciate the Commission’s work as well as Executive Shapiro’s commitment to helping us improve our operations.” He continued, “I anticipate a positive response to the programs we intend to initiate, starting with the significant camera project we are hoping to undertake with Council’s approval.”

The camera project legislation that was introduced at last week’s Council meeting includes the installation of a comprehensive CCTV system at the jail that has 243 digital cameras and will provide coverage to all common areas that house inmates. These cameras will replace the cameras currently in use, some of which are more than twenty years old. The cost of the project is estimated at \$447,407.62, and will provide deputies the ability to better supervise their respective areas. The camera project was the result of the combined efforts of the Sheriff’s Office and the Executive’s Office with the support of the Jail Operations Advisory Commission.

“I want to thank all those involved in this Commission’s process,” said Councilman Hamilton. “It is important for the Summit County community to know that we can all work together to address pressing issues of safety and services at the jail. I am encouraged by the progress we have already made.”

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