

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **Summit County Executive Shapiro announces charitable fund board appointments**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro is pleased to announce the appointment of six board members to the Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund and the seven advisory board members of the Summit County Community Empowerment Foundation.

The Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund is a charitable entity formed in partnership with Akron Community Foundation (ACF). The fund is being established with \$45 million from the County's financial settlement with opioid manufacturers and distributors. ACF will soon name the remaining seven members of the board. Once operational and able to provide grants, the fund will support efforts that make a generational impact on the residents of Summit County and will help safeguard the community for decades to come. Through innovative and compassionate approaches, it will serve the County through the promotion of prevention, public safety, expanding access to care, and supporting long-term recovery.

The Summit County Community Empowerment Foundation is a Field-of-Interest fund managed by ACF and funded with \$5 million from the County's settlement. It will specifically serve minority and disadvantaged communities within Summit County that have experienced harm due to the opioid epidemic.

With County Council's approval, Executive Shapiro named the following individuals to the boards.

### **Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund**

Members of the board will initially serve staggered one- and two-year terms. Thereafter, members will serve two-year terms and may not serve more than four consecutive two-year terms.

David James  
Executive Director, Summit Education Initiative  
Term: 2/9/26 to 2/8/27

Chris Burnham  
Retired, Development Finance Authority  
Term: 2/9/26 to 2/8/28

Robert B. Cooper  
Healthcare and Philanthropy Consultant  
Term: 2/9/26 to 2/8/27

Bishop David Parker  
Senior Pastor, Zion Apostolic Faith Church  
Term: 2/9/26 to 2/8/28

Don Taylor  
Chairman and CEO, Welty Enterprises  
Term: 2/9/26 to 2/8/27

Lori Pesci  
Director, Department of Public Safety, Summit County  
Term: 2/9/26 to 2/8/28

**Summit County Community Empowerment Fund**

All advisory board members will serve three-year terms and may not serve more than three consecutive three-year terms.

Vernon Sykes  
Retired State Lawmaker

Larry Moore  
Director, Veterans Service Commission

Traci Buckner  
Executive Director, Akron Children's Museum

Pastor Deante Lavender  
Lead Pastor, The Remedy Church

Terri Heckman,  
Retired, Battered Women's Shelter

Toya Kelker  
Vice President Community Development Relationship Manager, Huntington Bank

Mar-Quetta Boddie  
Founder and Principal Consultant, Boddie and Associates Consulting

"I extend my sincere gratitude to our newly appointed board members for their willingness to serve and for answering the call to leadership at such a pivotal moment. Your commitment of time, expertise, and heart reflects a shared belief in the power of community-driven solutions and the responsibility we carry to those we serve", said County Executive Shapiro. "Together, we have the

opportunity to transform the lessons of the past into enduring hope, healing, and change for generations to come.”

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