



COUNTY OF SUMMIT  
EXECUTIVE RUSSELL M. PRY



CITY OF AKRON  
MAYOR DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **City and County Team Up to Consolidate Services**

### *City and County Sign Memorandum of Understanding*

The ongoing efforts by Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and Summit County Executive Russ Pry to make government more efficient and less costly took another step forward this morning with the signing of a memorandum of understanding to potentially consolidate the following duplicated or similar functions: Animal Warden and Animal Control responsibilities, purchasing and storeroom facilities, Human Resource functions, employee benefits, fleet maintenance services, off-street parking operations and utility billing operations.

Additionally, Mayor Plusquellic and Executive Pry will work closely with County Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise to advance consolidation of City and County IT (Information Technology) operations.

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The memorandum follows the already successful consolidation of City and County public health service delivery, building inspection services, weights and measures operations, office services/mail operations, and certain fleet maintenance activities.

“In the past five years, the City and County have eliminated redundant services through the collaboration of public health, building inspection, and weights and measures services,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “Partnering with the County in other service areas just makes sense. We know through experience that we can maintain the level of services expected by our residents and lower their costs with more combined efforts.”

It is anticipated in the memorandum that some of the consolidations will occur within the next six months, while others may take over a year to fully implement. Regardless, the goal is the same, to combine services, eliminate waste, and save taxpayer money.

“Like individuals and businesses in our community, the recent economic crisis has required government to look more closely at its pocketbook and to come up with creative solutions to do more with less money,” said Executive Pry. “The County has partnered with the City of Akron and many other private and public partners to improve service delivery to our residents, while reducing the cost of local government. This memorandum is an important step forward in achieving those goals.”

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Both the City and County intend to pursue these consolidations without the need of funding from the State of Ohio. “Currently the Governor’s office has offered grants to political subdivisions to study consolidation of services,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “However, we do not need to study consolidation. We have already proven that consolidation works for us and our taxpayers. We believe that we can proceed without relying on taxpayer funds to study the overlapping services and functions. In the interim, we believe the Governor should also make grant money available for implementation of these consolidations, rather than studies.”

As the City and County finalize the steps necessary to consolidate these functions and services, they intend to enter into necessary agreements and to obtain the necessary approvals of their respective Councils.

**END**