



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Mayor Creates Neighborhood Assistance Department**  
*Deputy Director of Public Service John Valle Named Director*

Akron, Ohio (May 18, 2012) – Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic today announced that he has created a new Neighborhood Assistance Department that will significantly enhance the City's neighborhood oriented services.

The new Department will encompass the City's services that citizens have come to rely upon to keep their neighborhoods safe, secure, and clean, such as the City's 3-1-1 Citizen Service Request Call Center and its anonymous on-line non-emergency call center. Other items that the Department will handle are environmental housing complaints and nuisance grievances, recreation, zoning issues, right-of-way obstructions, community policing matters, and the establishment and functioning of neighborhood block clubs and youth groups, among many others things.

“This is an additional step we are taking to directly improve our neighborhoods in a significant way,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “This department will handle the things that matter most to our citizens. We are placing all of the City’s top neighborhood services under one umbrella, centrally locating the department in a downtown building that has attached 1 hour free parking, and staffing the department with seasoned employees that know our neighborhoods inside and out. This new Department will be a user-friendly, one-stop shop for our citizens.”

Heading up this new Department is Akron Deputy Service Director John Valle (VAL ee), already a member of the Mayor’s cabinet. His new title will be Director of the Neighborhood Assistance Department.

"John served on the steering and advisory committee of Akron’s 3-1-1 project and was actively involved in the planning of the project from its inception,” noted Mayor Plusquellic. “He helped manage the start-up of the project including directing the staffing of the 3-1-1 call center. He knows the neighborhoods of Akron as well as anybody and has a proven record of dedication to the causes and concerns of the people of Akron."

Valle brings a wealth of experience to this position as he has worked extensively in both the public and private sectors.

Valle, 55, is a life-long resident of North Akron, and represented Ward One on city council from 1984 - 1989. Elected as an at-large councilman in 1989, John Valle won election citywide to serve three, four-year terms as councilman-at-large until leaving in May, 2001 to become the council clerk. At the



time, Valle was the longest-serving member of city council. He also served as its president from 1996 -1998.

"This Department is being formed to provide even better services to the citizens of Akron," said Valle. "My 28 years in government and the last 6 years as Deputy Service Director have given me an insight to all the neighborhoods, and I will work with our citizens to help them tackle their neighborhood concerns."

For 27 years, Valle was employed by the F.W. Albrecht Grocery Company and served in a number of management positions at several ACME grocery stores: #1 in West Akron, #53 in Ellet, #18 in Kenmore, and #8 on North Hill, where he was the store manager.

Valle is a member of the boards of the North Akron Baseball Association and First Tee of Akron. He serves as vice-chair of the District 8 Summit County Infrastructure Policy Committee and co-chairman of the Leadership Akron's Alumni Service Project. He is a member of the St. Vincent- St. Mary Parent Boosters Club, St. Anthony's Parish, and the Akron Public Schools Levy Committee. Valle also volunteers at the Haven of Rest.

"Even though this is a promotion to a level M8 (\$122,824), there has already been a reduction in Service Department management level positions that totals over \$1.5 million in savings annually," noted Mayor Plusquellic. "Over \$250,000 is being saved per year in just the divisions that will make up the Neighborhood Assistance Department. Overall, the number of vacancies in my cabinet has grown to 6, and our total City workforce is down from the 1980 high of 3,400 employees to 1729, as of today."