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**Council Approves Legislation to Award Neighborhood Stabilization Contracts
Barberton and Norton to Receive Nearly \$2 Million for Demolition/Reconstruction Services**

During its Planning and Economic Development Committee Meeting on June 22, 2009, Summit County Council moved forward with legislation to award Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds (NSP) to address foreclosed, abandoned and vacant properties in six targeted areas including: Barberton, Springfield Township, Norton Copley Township, Twinsburg Township and the Village of Lakemore. Council can approve the legislation at its June 29 meeting.

The proposed resolution (2009-258) confirms an award by the Summit County Board of Control of various professional service contracts in the amount of \$3,376,500.00 for the Executive's Department of Community and Economic Development over a five-year period. A total of 78 housing units will be purchased, rehabbed and resold with these funds.

The City of Barberton will receive will receive \$1,807,000.00 in funds to contract with local non-profits Neighborhood Development Services, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together Summit County to purchase, rehab and resale 30 housing units. A minimum of seven units will serve persons at or below 50% of the area median income level, with the remaining units dedicated to serve persons at or below 120% of the area median income level. Eight units will also be demolished for land bank use and new construction within five years.

The City of Norton will receive \$93,000.00 in funds to contract with Habitat for Humanity for the demolition and new construction for two new low income housing units.

"Nearly half of the NSP development contracts and more than half of the funding for these projects is dedicated to the Barberton/Norton area where foreclosure and abandoned and vacant properties have become a serious problem. The NSP contracts and development plans are a positive step in our ongoing efforts to rebuild and revitalize our neighborhoods," said Councilman Tim Crawford (District 7).

As a District 7 Council Member, Crawford represents Barberton, Norton, and New Franklin, the Village of Clinton, part of Coventry Township and part of Akron.

For more information, please contact the Summit County Council Office at (330) 643-2725.

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