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**County Council Member Ilene Shapiro
Honored With Athena Award**

On September 25, 2008, Summit County At-Large Council member Ilene Shapiro was presented with the 2008 Northeast Ohio Athena Award sponsored by ATHENA International and Inside Business Magazine.

The Athena Award recognizes the efforts and successes of women who demonstrate creativity and initiative in their profession, improve the quality of life for others in the community and have helped women maximize their leadership potential. Athena International has presented more than 5000 awards in over 500 communities in the United States, Canada, China, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Councilwoman Shapiro was one of six Summit County finalists considered for the prestigious honor. An accomplished business leader with a history of successful business ventures, Shapiro currently serves as Vice President of Sales, Marketing & Strategic Business Development with Summa Enterprise Group, a subsidiary of Summa Health System.

“It is truly an honor to receive such a prestigious award,” said Shapiro. “I feel privileged to be selected from such a worthy group of women who make such a positive impact on the community. Helping women fulfill their potential is very important to me and I will continue to give my best to help others and make a difference in this community,” she concluded.

The Athena award is represented by an original bronze and marble sculpture inspired by the goddess of Greek mythology known for her strength, courage, wisdom and enlightenment – qualities embodied in the Athena leadership model. It is presented annually by chambers of commerce, women’s organizations and universities. The 2008 awards dinner was held at the Landerhaven in Cleveland.

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

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