

Russell M. Pry was sworn in as the County of Summit Executive on July 13, 2007, bringing a wealth of experience and community involvement to the position.

Prior to his appointment as Executive and election to office in November 2008, Pry was a managing partner at the law office of Cassetty, Muse and Pry from 1990-2007. During this time, he also acted as Law Director of the Village of Boston Heights (1998-2007), Counsel for the Mogadore School District (1993-2007), Attorney to the City of Green Local Firefighters (1991-2007), Board Member of the Summit County Board of Elections (2000-2007), and Member of the Akron-Summit County Library Board of Trustees (2002-2007).

Pry served as a Village of Mogadore Councilman from 1978-1979, and then again from 1992-1999. He is a Life Member and past Treasurer of the Mogadore Historical Society and was the Chair of the Village of Mogadore Charter Review Commission in 1990. Executive Pry has also served as Secretary (1987-1989), Treasurer (1989-1996) and Chairman (1997-2007) of the Summit County Democratic Party.

Pry, a lifelong resident of Summit County, has a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Kent State University and earned a juris doctorate from The University of Akron, School of Law in 1984.

Pry is an affiliate of the Akron Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association and the Summit County Democratic Party. Prior to being named Executive, Pry was honored as the recipient of the 2001 State of Ohio Democrat of the Year Award, the 2002 Mogadore Alumni Foundation Outstanding Alumni Award and the 2003 Harold K. Stubbs Field of Law Award.

His professionalism, career accomplishments and civic pride are what led him to be named Executive.

The office of the County of Summit Executive was established in 1980, when voters passed a measure creating a Charter form of government. County departments under the authority of the Executive include: Administrative Services, Communications, Community and Economic Development, Environmental Services, Finance and Budget, Human Resources, Job and Family Services, Law, Insurance & Risk Management and the Medical Examiner.

As County Executive, Pry has focused a significant amount of efforts on improving local economic development. To date, Pry's attention to this issue has resulted in numerous achievements. The most noteworthy being:

- ❑ Assisting in retaining the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, World Headquarters, in Summit County. As a result of the deal brokered, the conglomerate will continue to employ 2,900 local citizens and purchase over \$370 million in goods/services from over 400 Summit County vendors each year.
- ❑ Partnering with city, county and state officials to keep Bridgestone Firestone North America Tire, LLC in Summit County. As a result of the development agreement reached, Bridgestone Firestone is in the process of constructing their new \$64.6 million, state-of-the-art Technical Center in the City of Akron. The retention project will keep over 1,000 high-paying, technical jobs in Summit County.
- ❑ Collaborating with First Energy, the Summit County Port Authority and the State of Ohio to convert a segment of a county owned government building into a new, state-of-the-art headquarter facility for The Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA). Over the next ten years, the ABIA intends to create 2,400 jobs and attract millions of dollars in research, investment and commercialization to the community.
- ❑ Developing the Summit Jobs Partnership to allow private-sector employers to actively participate in and direct the development and implementation of publically funded educational and training programs.
- ❑ Creating the Job Preservation and Revenue Sharing Agreement to prevent job poaching between neighboring communities and financially assisting communities who lose an employer to another signatory community. In 2011, 20 communities signed the agreement.
- ❑ Hosting numerous Sharing Resources to Better Economic Development Forums for the purpose of providing area citizens with an opportunity to meet with public officials and participate in a discussion about economic development and job creation throughout Summit County. To date, forums have been held in the communities of: Barberton, Fairlawn, Green, Hudson, Macedonia, New Franklin (Village of Clinton), Sagamore Hills Township (Boston Township, Northfield Center Township,

- ❑ Performing medical gas system inspections at facilities that contain permanently installed medical gas systems, medical oxygen systems and/or vacuum piping systems (i.e., dental offices, hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, etc.) throughout Summit County. By offering the unique service, at a discounted price, the County of Summit is able to generate revenue and attract the medical industry to the area. Most importantly, the Akron Biomedical Corridor.

Under Pry's leadership, the Summit County Executive's Office has successfully completed the following capital improvement projects:

- ❑ Constructing a new \$2.2 million, 16,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art County of Summit Veterans Service Commission (VSC) Center in 2009. The facility, located on East Waterloo Road in Akron, is now fully handicap accessible and equipped with twenty-five administrative office spaces, a multipurpose room, a Veterans Learning Center and a 90 space parking lot.
- ❑ Building a new \$2.96 million County of Summit Division of Animal Control facility in 2010. The facility, located at 250 Opportunity Parkway in Akron, now offers: administrative office space, an adoption zone, an intake area, outdoor visiting space, quarantine quarters, staff locker rooms, a veterinary clinic and more. Officials are working towards getting the building LEED Certified.

Community partnerships have also been a hallmark of the Pry administration. Throughout the past four-and-a-half years, Pry has collaborated with numerous government offices and community organizations in an effort to save tax dollars, eliminate governmental redundancies and enhance services for citizens.

Examples of Pry's collaborative efforts include:

- ❑ Merging the City of Akron, City of Cuyahoga Falls (Village of Silver Lake) and City of Tallmadge building permit functions into the County of Summit Division of Building Standards facility, located at 1030 East Tallmadge Avenue in Akron.
- ❑ Collaborating with the Summit County Family and Children First Council to establish First Things First, an early childhood care and education system enhancement plan that strives to address system gaps, reduce the duplication of services and identify the need for local service improvements.

- ❑ Teaming up with Summit County Children Services Executive Director John Saros and Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio to host the annual Summit for Kids event at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron. The event was attended by more than 13,000 citizens in 2011.
- ❑ Joining forces with the City of Akron to perform office service operations, purchase emergency telephone equipment and implement human resource policies.
- ❑ Renting 200 square-feet of county owned office space, at the low cost of \$1 per year (two-year term), to State of Ohio Congressman (District 17) Tim Ryan. The office suite provides citizens with an easily accessible post to voice their concerns to their local congressional representative. Congressman's Ryan's Akron Office is located at 1030 East Tallmadge Avenue in Akron.
- ❑ Leasing 1,075 square-feet of County of Summit Courthouse space to Hattie Larlham for the cost of \$1 per year. Through 2015, Hattie Larlham will operate a Hattie's Café, a vocational and social support program for adults with disabilities. The new worksite provides three employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities, one opening for a full-time manager and a post for a part-time job coach.
- ❑ Entering into an office space lease agreement with Akron SCORE, a non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of area small businesses. The organization is now leasing 1,250 square-feet of office space, located on the second floor of the Ohio Building, 175 S. Main Street in downtown Akron, for a nominal fee.
- ❑ Agreeing to serve as a distributing agent of the Ohio Fuel Fund Grant, an initiative that provides financial assistance to low-income First Energy electrical consumers in need. Over the past three years (2009-2011), the County of Summit Executive's Office has distributed \$561,469 in grants to approximately 2,763 households across the community.
- ❑ Partnering with numerous non-profit community housing organizations (Habitat for Humanity, Nazareth Housing Development Corporation, West Side Neighborhood Development Corporation, etc.) to improve the local housing stock for citizens in need of safe and affordable living environments.

- ❑ Serving as a source facility for the PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin' vehicle: a transportation program that takes dogs and puppies from areas of high pet populations to shelters in regions where adoptable dogs are more in demand. To date, the Division of Animal Control has boarded over 300 dogs onto the Rescue Waggin'. The partnership has also led the County of Summit to secure two PetSmart Charities grants totaling \$17,734.

In addition to the accomplishments noted above, Executive Pry has exemplified advanced levels of fiscal responsibility. Under his strong managerial oversight, the County of Summit has reduced its general fund spending by \$18 million (2008-2010), successfully distributed over \$48 million in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds throughout the community (2009) and revised the Summit County credit rating (AA+) to stable from negative.

Pry has also been a strong backer of area environmental measures. In 2011, he declared the County of Summit as an Alternative Energy Zone (AEZ), assisted in the development of an eco-industrial business park and completed numerous internal energy efficiency projects that are expected to save the County more than \$200,000 a year in energy costs.

Russ also works diligently to fight hunger, promote public safety and advance the knowledge and skills of the local workforce.

To date, County of Summit Executive Russell M. Pry's professionalism been honored by: the Akron Boards of Trade Council, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Ohio Joint Office of Economic Development (JOED) and Team NEO.

The following community organizations have also expressed their appreciation to Executive Pry: Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, East Akron Community House (EACH), Goodwill Industries of Akron, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of Visiting Nurse Services, International Institute of Akron, Summit County Children Services, United Way of Summit County and many, many more.

Russell M. Pry currently resides in Akron, Ohio.