

BERNETT L. WILLIAMS

WHEREAS, since 1997, Bennett L. Williams has been a passionate, committed community servant and a successful, innovative, and visionary leader in her role as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Akron Urban League, one of Akron's oldest and vital community organizations. The Urban League works to improve conditions affecting all citizens of Summit County, particularly African Americans, in the areas of increased job opportunities, improved housing, adequate health, recreation and welfare services, proper career guidance for youth and strengthened family groups; and

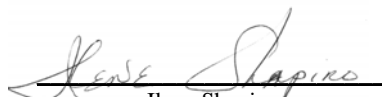
WHEREAS, Ms. Williams was appointed as the first female director of the Akron Urban League, after serving as its Director of Education and Manager of Operations. Her strong faith, courage and tenacity, and her ability to build partnerships and alliances in the community and create a positive, empowering environment with her staff and volunteers were key attributes in leading the organization through a very challenging transition. Despite tough economic times, she was able to lead a campaign for \$5 million dollars to build a new state-of-the-art facility, working with the City of Akron to adjoin the building to the Helen Arnold Community Learning Center. The new Akron Urban League is equipped with modern technology and training and meeting space to support education, workforce development, social and recreational needs, and a multipurpose room that can be used by the community to bring in additional income through rentals; and

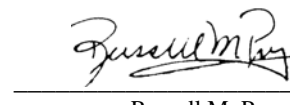
WHEREAS, Bennett is a 1999 Graduate of Leadership Akron Class Number XV, a lifetime member of the NAACP, a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award, National Urban League Whitney Young Professional Development Award, Kaleidoscope Magazine's 40/Forty Club Member, YWCA Women of Achievement Award, featured member of Crain's Cleveland Business "Forty Under Forty", YWCA 100 Most Distinguished Women Award, Harold K. Stubbs Humanitarian Award for Social Services, Northern Ohio Live Magazine's 500 Most Influential Women, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials Community Service Award, Black Pages Award of Excellence, Northern Ohio Live Rainmaker Award, National Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Award for Advancing Racial Equality, and a member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Williams has often served as a keynote speaker for several groups and organizations and has served on many boards of directors including: SummaCare, Summa Health System, First Merit Bank, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Inc., a twelve member panel to recommend candidates for the Akron School Board; Project Grad; Herberich Primary School PTA, Stark Technical College Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee; Akron Character Counts Program; University of Akron K-16 Reading Initiative; Akron Public Schools Mae Jamison Project; Summit County Transportation Task Force; Charter One Bank Committee; African-American Leadership Committee; United Negro College Fund Committee; Summit County Workforce Investment Act; and Volunteer Recognition Committee for Akron's First Night. Bennett has also co-sponsored minority business forums and proposed a minority contractor and business assistance program to the City of Akron; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Rhetoric and Communications from Kent State University and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Akron. A native of Toledo, Ohio, she began her career as a Sales Representative for Allnet, followed by a role as a consultant and several management positions for the American Red Cross. Bennett is a member of the Arlington Street Church of God. She and her husband Todd are the proud parents of two sons, Todd and Jacob.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it known by all and declared by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio that: This Council commends Bennett L. Williams on her outstanding leadership and commitment to this community. It is with great pleasure that we declare Wednesday, January 26th, 2011, "Bennett Williams Day." We urge all citizens to join in honoring this fine, upstanding woman.


Ilene Shapiro
At Large Council Member


Russell M. Pry
County Executive