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**County Councilman Cazzell Smith Introduces Legislation
To Establish Abandoned and Vacant Property Task Force**

County Council Member Cazzell Smith (District 5), introduced legislation at the October 20 Regular Council meeting to establish the “Summit County Abandoned and Vacant Property Task Force.” The legislation was unanimously passed by the members of Council.

The task force, which would consist of representatives from a variety of Summit County municipalities, agencies, departments, non-profit organizations and lending, insurance and real estate industries would collaborate and work to find ways to promote civic responsibility and engagement in maintaining local neighborhoods and reducing the number of abandoned and vacant properties.

“There is a definite need in Summit County to reduce the number of abandoned and vacant properties and make more productive use of existing residential areas that are blighted by this problem,” said Smith.

Bringing together different representatives in Summit County, this task force hopes to engage community stakeholders in developing viable solutions to remediate and reuse abandoned and vacant properties. “This will be good not only for the economic development of the county, but also for the environmental protection, restoration, health and social equity of the people in our neighborhoods,” he concluded.

The task force will be appointed by the County Executive and approved by Council. It will consist of no less than 15 members and meet over a period of six months, providing a written report with recommendations to the Council and the Executive.

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