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**County Councilman Jon Poda announces results
of county-wide survey, new survey questions now online**

At-Large Summit County Councilman Jon Poda announced today the results of a county-wide community survey that has compiled data from residents for more than a year. The questions, which were first posted on the Summit County Council Web site, then later on Mr. Poda's page, www.co.summit.oh.us/council/jpoda.asp, received a number of interesting responses.

"I wanted to conduct a survey to try and gauge what is on the minds of the residents in Summit County," Poda said. "I think the survey helped us to get a finger on the pulse of the community."

The 10 questions on the survey included general questions about where the individual was from, years of residence in Summit County, age, gender etc., and also those that allowed residents to note what they like about the county and what they feel could be improved.

A new survey that Mr. Poda said he hopes will provide even more information on the thoughts and concerns of county residents can be filled out by simply visiting Mr. Poda's Web site noted above.

"It was fascinating and somewhat reaffirming when looking at the compiled results of the first survey," Mr. Poda said. "We have updated questions on the new survey that I hope residents take a moment to fill out."

The Results

In the previous survey, The Metro Parks Serving Summit County was listed as the top thing residents enjoyed most about living in the county. Accessibility of businesses, affordable cost of living, good intergovernmental interaction, and a great place to raise a family rounded out the top five. The quality of life in the county was rated as "very good" by 11 percent of the responders, "good" by 50 percent, "neither good or bad" by 30 percent, "bad" by 6 percent and "very bad" by 3 percent.

Most responders – 85 percent – noted that they were aware that the county operates under a charter form of government with an elected County Executive and 11-

member County Council rather than three County Commissioners. Additionally, residents ranked the operation of Summit County government as 3 percent noting it as “very well,” 27 percent “well,” 34 percent “neither well nor poorly,” 26 percent “poorly,” 8 percent “very poorly,” and 2 percent “don’t know.”

“The fact that 26 percent of those who completed the survey feel the government is operating poorly is unfortunate to hear,” said Mr. Poda. “It should send up a red flag that we as public representatives need to work to be more engaged in the concerns of everyday citizens. The respect and trust from residents cannot be merely expected, it must be earned.”

The top three issues residents are concerned about included lack of jobs, high rate of foreclosures and economic development.

“As a resident myself, these are concerns that I think about on a daily basis,” Mr. Poda said. “Knowing that these concerns are weighing on the minds of residents is a reminder that we in government have our work cut out for us.”

The majority of the responders – 46 percent – claimed the City of Akron as their home. A total of 10 percent cited living in Cuyahoga Falls, 5 percent from Green and 4.5 percent from Stow. The remainder of the responses came from a mix of the county’s other cities, townships and villages.

Most of the responders – 79 percent – claimed to have lived in Summit County for more than 10 years. Ages ranged from those under the age of 18 up to the age of 55. Females made up the majority of the responders at 53 percent, while males filled in the remaining 47 percent.

For more information, please contact Jon Poda at (330) 808-6814 or the Summit County Council Office at (330) 643-2725.

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