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JUVENILE COURT TO AGAIN FUND DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio announced today that 13 law enforcement agencies in the county will again receive funding for their diversion programs from the Court. A total of \$204,576 will be dispersed to police departments in Akron (\$56,000), Barberton (\$11,000), Bath/Copley (\$13,576), Cuyahoga Falls (\$19,000), Hudson (\$10,000), Lakemore (\$7,500), Macedonia (\$5,000), Mogadore (\$4,000), Munroe Falls (\$10,000), Springfield (\$7,500), Stow (\$19,000) and Tallmadge (\$10,000), as well as the Summit County Sheriff's Department (\$32,000). All departments that submitted requests received some level of funding.

The dispersals are derived from funds provided by the state's Reclaim Ohio program. Diversion programs are designed to allow police departments to work with unruly and misdemeanor youth within the department's jurisdiction.

"The diversion programs perform a vital function for the child, their community and the Court," said Judge Teodosio. "The diversion programs fulfill the goal of the juvenile justice system to allow communities to work with youth and avoid official Court referrals whenever possible. This allows the communities to maintain some control over low-level juvenile offenses and allows the Court's resources to be focused on more serious matters."

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