



# **Second Wednesday's**

August 11, 2010

## **Transition to Charter Government in Cuyahoga County**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This seminar will focus on the transition to charter government in Cuyahoga County. Speakers will provide attendees with background information on county charters and alternative forms of county government, the provisions of the Cuyahoga County Charter adopted by the voters of Cuyahoga County in November 2009, and the issues and opportunities facing the Transition Advisory Group as Cuyahoga County transitions to a charter form of government in January of 2011.

### **PRESENTERS**

Brad Cole, Managing Director of Research, County Commissioners Association of Ohio  
Eugene Kramer, Esq.  
Bruce Akers, Mayor of Pepper Pike  
James McCafferty, Cuyahoga County Administrator

### **AGENDA—9:30-12:30**

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:40 a.m. Basic Legal Provisions on County Charters and Alternative Forms of Government
- 10:30 a.m. The Cuyahoga County Charter: What's In It?
- 11:00 a.m. The Transition to Charter Government in Cuyahoga County: Issues & Opportunities
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn

**County Commissioners Association of Ohio**

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### **Speakers**

#### **BRUCE H. AKERS**

Mayor

City of Pepper Pike

28000 Shaker Heights Blvd.

Pepper Pike, OH 44124

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Bruce Akers retired in 2000 as senior vice president, Civic Affairs, for KeyBank, a KeyCorp Bank. He held the same position with Society Bank. He was also chairman of the Key Foundation. Prior to Society's merger with Ameritrust, he was vice president, Public Relations, and assistant to the Chairman for Ameritrust Co. N.A. Before joining Ameritrust, Akers was executive secretary to Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk from 1975-1977. He was an investment officer for Roulston and Company, Inc., for several years before moving to Cleveland City Hall. He began his banking career 49 years ago at National City Bank.

He is a graduate of University School, Princeton University and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Akers and his wife, Barbara, are residents of Pepper Pike, where he is currently serving in his fifth term as Mayor.

#### **BRAD COLE**

Managing Director of Research

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Brad Cole is the Managing Director of Research for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. In this capacity Brad coordinates and manages the research, data, and technical publications prepared and distributed by the association; maintains research data bases, develops survey instruments; and promotes the CCAO Educational and Research Foundation. In addition, Brad provides legislative advocacy and member's services in taxation and finance, permissive taxes, auditing and accounting, county budget procedures, county debt, purchasing, investment policy, and general government legislation that impacts counties including transportation and infrastructure, tax abatement, and solid waste management. He

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is the liaison to the CCAO Taxation and Finance Committee. Cole holds a Bachelor of Arts cum laude and Master of Arts degrees in American History from Bowling Green State University.

**EUGENE KRAMER, ESQ.**

Attorney-at-Law

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Cleveland, OH 44115

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Eugene Kramer was born and raised in Barberton, Ohio and attended John Carroll University and the Notre Dame Law School. He was a law clerk to a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago before joining Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland, where he practiced for twenty-six years, and later was a member of the firm of Roetzel and Andress in Cleveland and Akron. His principal area of practice has been in the area of public law and public finance. Of particular interest to county officials, he was the principal draftsman of the laws authorizing counties to levy permissive taxes, including sales and use taxes, motor vehicle license taxes, real property transfer taxes and utility taxes, and the tobacco and alcohol taxes used to finance the Cleveland Gateway complex, Cleveland Browns Stadium and other sports facilities in Ohio. He also drafted the legislation authorizing regional transit authorities to levy sales and use taxes and to issue unvoted general obligation bonds.

Gene Kramer has long been active in advising municipalities and counties in Ohio in matters involving the adoption and amendment of municipal and county charters. As a consultant to the Ohio Constitutional Revision Commission, he drafted the proposed amendments to Article X of the Ohio Constitution that, among other things, authorized a proposed county charter to be submitted to the electors of a county by means of a petition. He has advised elected county charter commissions and citizens groups in several counties, including those in Summit County and Cuyahoga County that were responsible for the submission of the county charters that have been adopted in those counties. In addition, he subsequently advised Summit County in the drafting of propose amendments to that county's charter.

**JAMES McCAFFERTY**

Cuyahoga County Administrator

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Jim was appointed the County Administrator in July 2008 and is the Chief Operating Officer of Cuyahoga County, Ohio's largest county, and manages an annual budget of about \$1.5 billion, with over 8,000 employees. Jim served 28 years in the Department of Children and Family Services, the last seven years as Director. He has held many supervisory positions within the agency: Child Sex Abuse Unit, Case Review Unit, Administrator in Direct Services, Deputy Director of Direct Services, and Deputy Director of Administrative Services. Beginning his career in social service work as a line social worker in Adult Services, Jim developed, implemented and supervised Cuyahoga County's Elder Abuse Hotline.

Jim holds a Master of Social Science Administration degree from the Mandel School of Applied Science of Case Western Reserve University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree from Xavier University.

