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## Summers appointed

He will fill out the rest of FitzGerald's mayoral term

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**LAKEWOOD** — Mike Summers will lead the city as mayor next year, serving out the last year of current Mayor Ed FitzGerald's four-year term. On Monday night, City Council appointed the Ward 3 councilman to fill FitzGerald's seat when he takes office as the first Cuyahoga County executive on Jan. 1.

"I'm very excited," Summers said. "I had a sense that it would be a challenging experience for me and I felt that I had skills that would be of benefit to the city."

Summers's appointment will stand until the November 2011 municipal election, but he already has plans to run for a full term.

"I'm committed to running and running hard," he said. "I've certainly been in campaigns before and it's a lot of work, but I think

they can be energizing. You can learn a lot about your community and in that respect, I'm really looking forward to it."

Summers is setting priorities in balancing the budget, retaining quality housing stock and utilizing an upgraded information system platform at City Hall.

"We can use those new tools at the desktop level to provide better, faster customer service and try to achieve some productivity gains," he said, adding that he wants to create a greater awareness of customer service at City Hall.

Summers was elected to council in 2007. He has served time on the city school board, the Grow Lakewood Strategy Taskforce and Structural Balance Finance Task Force. He is president of Cleveland-based Summers Rub-

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## SUMMERS

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ber Co., an industrial distribution company with eight branches and an employee base of about 60 and hopes to have a replacement in the next two or three months.

Council decided not to conduct formal interviews to fill the mayor's office, but individual members made many phone calls to applicants on their own, City Council President Kevin Butler said. In the end, he said, the right candidate was sitting among them.

"I think that was due mainly to the fact that council members were already very comfortable with many of the submitted resumes, but primarily Councilman Summers's," Butler said. "We had already worked with him, we knew his background and knew he's been a great councilman and finance committee chair. I said before that I thought Councilman Summers was the frontrunner and it was true all the way through. People are just extremely comfortable with Mike and impressed by what he would bring to the mayor's office."

Summers said he expects to see several city directors leave Lakewood for a county job, but hopes to keep those who want to stay.

"My understanding is that several directors would be considering opportunities with the county," he said. "I support them if Ed needs or wants them. My preference for the one year remaining is to keep the team on the floor to the extent I'm able and to the extent there are departures, we'll have to make replacements. Continuity, when it's productive, is beneficial. Stopping and starting is difficult on organizations."

Summers also noted that it would be "hard to fill a void with long-term talent when I'm only guaranteed through 2011."



Summers

Council will accept applications for Ward 3 representative through 5 p.m. Nov. 29. Applicants must be residents of the ward which is limited on the west side by Belle Avenue and on the east side by Waterbury Road, Clarence Avenue and Nicholson Avenue.

Council is also considering applications to replace Councilwoman at large Nickie J. Antonio who is leaving her position to represent District 13 in the Ohio House of Representatives. Butler said council members will likely discuss the two remaining appointments Monday evening.

"At that point I hope at the very least, we'll have dates nailed down for meeting to talk about candidates and conducting interviews," he said.

Applications can be submitted to the clerk of council at 12650 Detroit Ave., Lakewood Ohio 44107 and should include a cover letter and current resume.

Any application from Ward 3 residents already received will automatically be considered for both the at-large and Ward 3 seats.

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