

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2015-283 First Reading Passage Requested

(J. Dodson)

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3 SPONSOR Mr. Pry, Ms. Prentice, Ms. Shapiro

4  
5 DATE July 6, 2015

COMMITTEE Human Services

6  
7 **A Resolution expressing support for the National Association of Counties' Stepping Up**  
8 **Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, for the Executive**  
9 **and Council, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, The National Association of Counties ("NACo") is an important policy  
12 group that provides a voice for all member counties in the United States at the federal level; and

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14 WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times  
15 higher than for the general population; and

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17 WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-  
18 occurring substance use disorders; and

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20 WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at  
21 a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

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23 WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses  
24 that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

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26 WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses  
27 continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these  
28 individuals and their families; and

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30 WHEREAS, Summit County takes pride in its responsibility to protect and enhance the  
31 health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

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33 WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up Initiative, the National Association of Counties,  
34 the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are  
35 encouraging counties to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails;

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37 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
38 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to express support for NACo's Stepping  
39 Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

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41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State  
42 of Ohio, that:

43  
44 SECTION 1

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46 This Council hereby expresses support for the National Association of Counties'  
47 Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

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49 SECTION 2

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51 The Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
52 Resolution to the National Association of Counties.

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 3

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6 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and  
7 welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit and for the further reason that it allows this  
8 Council to express support in a timely manner and before the National Association of Counties'  
9 National Conference.

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11 SECTION 4

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13 Provided this Resolution received the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take  
14 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take  
15 effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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17 SECTION 5

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19 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating  
20 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all  
21 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,  
22 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section  
23 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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26 INTRODUCED July 6, 2015

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28 ADOPTED July 6, 2015

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32 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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38 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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40 APPROVED July 7, 2015

EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE July 7, 2015

Voice Vote: 11-0 YES: Comunale, Crawford, Donofrio, Feeman, Kostandaras,  
Kurt, Lee, Prentice, Rodgers, Schmidt, Shapiro