

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-167

**First Reading Passage Requested**  
**(President Wilhite)**

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4 SPONSORS Mr. Wilhite, Council of the Whole

5  
6 DATE June 1, 2020

COMMITTEE: Rules

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9 **A Resolution opposing the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's proposal to**  
10 **combine the U.S. Census Bureau's Akron, Canton, and Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical**  
11 **Areas and thereby eliminating the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area, for the County**  
12 **Council, and declaring an emergency.**

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14 WHEREAS, the Akron metropolitan area has been represented continuously in the  
15 United States Census since 1930 when the U.S. Census Bureau incorporated Metropolitan  
16 Districts; and

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18 WHEREAS, Summit County has been part of the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area  
19 ("MSA") since the creation of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas in 1950; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Akron MSA and the Cleveland MSA have been identified as separate  
22 urban areas equal in status since 1930; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency ("NOACA") has  
25 proposed an initiative to combine the Akron, Canton, and Cleveland MSAs to benefit the  
26 Cleveland MSA; and

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28 WHEREAS, a combination of the Akron, Canton, and Cleveland MSA would effectively  
29 eliminate the Akron MSA; and

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31 WHEREAS, the current U.S. Office of Management and Budget Metropolitan Statistical  
32 Area methodology does not support NOACA's initiative; and

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34 WHEREAS, Akron, Canton, and Cleveland are three separate central cities, each with its  
35 own distinct culture, economic base, commuter shed, and identity; and

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37 WHEREAS, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget has acknowledged the  
38 geographic complexity and diversity of the region by having separate MSAs, as well as a larger  
39 Combined Statistical Area, which includes the Akron, Canton, and Cleveland regions; and

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41 WHEREAS, the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and the local business  
42 community have unambiguously opposed NOACA's efforts to eliminate the Akron MSA; and

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44 WHEREAS, the City of Akron has opposed the proposal to combine MSAs via Akron  
45 City Council Resolution 133-2020 and elected officials throughout Summit and Portage counties  
46 who comprise the Policy Committee of the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study  
47 (AMATS) have opposed NOACA's efforts to eliminate the Akron MSA; and

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49 WHEREAS, combining the three MSAs could lead to the elimination of the Akron  
50 Urbanized Area and loss of local federal transportation funding; and

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3 WHEREAS, the elimination of the Akron MSA would lead to a loss of identity and  
4 erosion for stature for the greater Akron area; and

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6 WHEREAS, the elimination of the Akron MSA harms the Akron metropolitan area's  
7 ability to differentiate itself within Northeast Ohio.

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9 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
10 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to oppose the Northeast Ohio  
11 Areawide Coordinating Agency's initiative to combine the U.S. Census Bureau's Akron, Canton,  
12 and Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

13  
14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State  
15 of Ohio, that:

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17 SECTION 1

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19 This Council opposes the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's proposal to  
20 combine the Akron, Canton, and Cleveland U.S. Census Bureau's Metropolitan Statistical Area,  
21 which would effectively eliminate the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area.

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23 SECTION 2

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25 The Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
26 Resolution to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Executive Director and  
27 Executive Committee, Congressional Representatives in Summit and Portage Counties, the U.S.  
28 Office of Management and Budget, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

29  
30 SECTION 3

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32 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
33 welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit, and for the further reasons that it is immediately  
34 necessary to for the County of Summit to express its opposition to the elimination of the Akron  
35 MSA as such proposal could jeopardize federal funding received by the County of Summit.

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37 SECTION 4

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39 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) members, it shall take  
40 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take  
41 effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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43 SECTION 5

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45 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating  
46 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all  
47 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,  
48 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section  
49 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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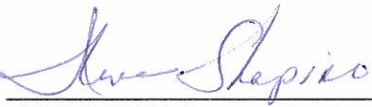
INTRODUCED June 1, 2020

ADOPTED June 1, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED June 2, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EXECUTIVE

June 2, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ENACTED EFFECTIVE

Voice Vote YES: 11-0 Dickinson, Donofrio, Feeman, Koehler, McKenney, Prentice, Rodgers, Schmidt, Sims, Walters, Wilhite