

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2011-479

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3 SPONSOR Mr. Pry, Comunale, Crawford, Feeman, Kostandaras, Kurt, Lee
4 Prentice, Rodgers, Roemer, Schmidt

5 DATE November 21, 2011 COMMITTEE Planning

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7 **A Resolution endorsing the University Park Alliance's Akron Core City Vision Plan and**
8 **pledging the support of the County, to the extent possible, in assisting the University Park**
9 **Alliance and its partners in developing the University Park and the greater Akron central**
10 **city area, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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12 Whereas, by the late 1990s, University Park, a 50-block area encompassing and adjacent
13 to the University of Akron, exhibited many of the problems that plague perimeter neighborhoods
14 which surround urban universities: median household income was half that of all city residents;
15 many households were living below the poverty level; homeownership rates had fallen; and the
16 area accounted for a disproportionate amount of reported crime; and

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18 Whereas, to address these issues, several community partners, including the County, The
19 University of Akron, City of Akron, Summa Health System, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron
20 General Health System, Akron Beacon Journal, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Greater
21 Akron Chamber, the Akron Public Schools and the University Park residential and business
22 community, created the University Park Alliance ("UPA"), a non-profit community development
23 corporation through a major grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; and

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25 Whereas, the UPA was created for the purpose of improving the University Park area,
26 along with greater Akron central city area, with a focus on four main areas: (i) real estate
27 development, (ii) economic development, (iii) social and human capital development and (iv)
28 community/civic engagement development; and

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30 Whereas, in collaboration with Akron Tomorrow, UPA has engaged the highly-regarded
31 master-planning firm Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn Architects to develop a strategic
32 redevelopment plan for University Park and the greater Akron central city area, and has
33 contracted with TrippUmbach to prepare an economic impact study that captures the synergy of
34 University Park's anchor institutions; and

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36 Whereas, earlier in 2011, the UPA completed the strategic redevelopment plan for the
37 University Park and the greater Akron central city area, known as the Akron Core City Vision
38 Plan; and

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40 Whereas, the Akron Core City Vision Plan identifies four main districts and three
41 neighborhoods for the focus of improvements and resources: The "Crossroads" District, Main
42 Street District, University Square District and South of Exchange District and the Upson-Jewett
43 Neighborhood, Mason Neighborhood and Leggett Neighborhood; and

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45 Whereas, the Akron Core City Vision Plan sets forth a strategic long-term plan for the
46 development and improvement of these districts and neighborhoods necessary for the City of
47 Akron and the County's long-term economic vitality and prosperity; and

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49 Whereas, this Council, having reviewed the Akron Core City Vision Plan and all other
50 pertinent information, hereby finds and determines, that it is necessary and in the best interest of
51 the County to fully endorse the Akron Core City Vision Plan and the work undertaken and to be
52 undertaken by the UPA in making the Plan a reality;

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

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7 SECTION 1

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9 This Council, having reviewed the University Park Alliance's Akron Core City Vision
10 Plan hereby fully endorses the Plan and further endorses the work that has been undertaken and
11 that will be undertaken by the University Park Alliance and its partners to make the Plan a
12 reality. Further, this Council pledges the County's support, to the extent possible, in assisting the
13 University Park Alliance and its partners in developing the 50-block University Park and greater
14 Akron central city area in order to carry out the objectives set forth in the Akron Core City
15 Vision Plan.

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17 SECTION 2

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19 This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency in the interest of the health, safety
20 and welfare of the citizens of the County and for the further reason to immediately provide the
21 aforementioned support and endorsement so that the University Park Alliance may immediately
22 proceed with the Implementation of the Akron Core City Vision Plan.

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24 SECTION 3

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

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30 SECTION 4

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

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38 INTRODUCED November 7, 2011

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40 ADOPTED November 21, 2011

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44 CLERK OF COUNCIL


PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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46 APPROVED November 22, 2011

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49 
50 EXECUTIVE

November 22, 2011

ENACTED EFFECTIVE

Voice Vote: 9-0-1. Yes: Crawford, Feeman, Kostandaras, Kurt, Lee
Prentice, Rodgers, Roemer, Schmidt. Absent: Comunale. Abstain: Shapiro