

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2013-470

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3 SPONSOR Mr. Kostandaras, Mrs. Shapiro, Mrs. Prentice, Ms. Kurt, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Feeman,
4 Mrs. Lee, Mr. Comunale, Mr. Crawford

5
6 DATE November 4, 2013 COMMITTEE Human Services

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8 **A Resolution opposing the decision made by Governor John Kasich to not renew the**
9 **federal waiver of the work requirement provision of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance**
10 **Program given the impact such a decision will have on thousands receiving basic food**
11 **assistance in Summit County and the detrimental effect the decision will have on the local**
12 **economy, in particular both large and small grocery businesses, for the Council, and**
13 **declaring an emergency.**

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15 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture funds and administers the Supplemental
16 Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”); and

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18 WHEREAS, able-bodied adults without dependents (“ABAWDS”) are a subset of the
19 population that receives benefits; and

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21 WHEREAS, federal regulations require ABAWDS between the ages of 18 and 49 to
22 fulfill a work requirement to receive even the most basic food assistance for more than three
23 months in a thirty-six month period; and

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25 WHEREAS, in recent years, due to the economic downturn, the federal government
26 granted states a waiver to the work requirement; and

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28 WHEREAS, Governor John Kasich recently made the decision to not renew the waiver
29 for most of the State of Ohio for FFY 2014, reasoning that able bodied people ought to be able to
30 find work, although many ABAWDS are homeless and/or have physical and/or mental barriers;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, ABAWDS in most Ohio counties must meet the work requirement by the
34 end of the year or lose their food assistance by January 1, 2014 unless they meet the exemption
35 criteria; and

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37 WHEREAS, Governor John Kasich made this announcement in the same week that a
38 new federal report shows hunger persisting in Ohio despite signs of economic improvement; and

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40 WHEREAS, while Ohio and the nation are on the road to economic recovery, much
41 progress remains to be made, and now is not the time to take the most basic assistance away
42 from individuals who remain hardest hit and struggling; and

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44 WHEREAS, Summit County has a population of approximately 7,500 ABAWDS and not
45 nearly enough jobs available to help ABAWDS meet their work obligations, which will result in
46 thousands of individuals in Summit County losing basic food assistance; and

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48 WHEREAS, the County Executive’s Office has determined that the Governor’s decision
49 to not renew the waiver will result in a loss of \$5-\$10 million annually to Summit County’s
50 economy, particularly in the local grocery business; and

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4 WHEREAS, the current financial allocation from the State of Ohio to Summit County to
5 assess ABAWDS and administer the work program is negligible and presents hardships to the
6 County as it attempts to assist ABAWDS find employment opportunities; and

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8 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
9 that it is necessary and in the best interest of this Council, to oppose the Governor's decision to
10 not request the waiver of the work requirement for SNAP food assistance benefits.

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

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16 SECTION 1

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18 This Council hereby opposes the decision made by Governor John Kasich to not renew
19 the federal waiver of the work requirement provision of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
20 Program given the impact such a decision will have on thousands receiving basic food assistance
21 in Summit County and the detrimental effect the decision will have on the local economy, in
22 particular both large and small grocery businesses.

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24 SECTION 2

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26 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
27 welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit, and for the further purpose to immediately
28 oppose the decision made by Governor John Kasich to not renew the federal waiver of the work
29 requirement provision of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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31 SECTION 3

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

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37 SECTION 4

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39 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
40 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
41 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,
42 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section
43 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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INTRODUCED October 21, 2013

ADOPTED November 4, 2013



CLERK OF COUNCIL



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED November 6, 2013



EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE November 6, 2013

Roll Call: 9-2YES: Comunale, Crawford, Feeman, Kostandaras
Lee, Kurt, Prentice, Schmidt, Shapiro

NO: Rodgers, Roemer