

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-161

2
3 SPONSORS Mr. Dickinson, Ms. Walters, Council of the Whole and Ms. Shapiro

4
5 DATE April 15, 2019 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

6
7 **A Resolution recognizing and honoring the history and culture of Native Americans, and the**
8 **contributions by tribal nations to the development of the American continent, and**
9 **acknowledging the efforts to preserve this history in our country, in Summit County and the**
10 **State of Ohio by establishing “North American First People’s Day” on the first Monday of**
11 **October, for the Council and Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

12
13 WHEREAS, the land on which Summit County was established was first occupied as
14 long as ten thousand years ago by ancestors of American Indian tribes, which native settlements
15 were observed by Europeans who ascended the Cuyahoga River in 1797 to survey the 8-mile
16 Indian portage to the Tuscarawas River that traverses Summit County yet today; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the Portage Path is Summit County’s prehistoric treasure that was a
19 boundary between parts of the Ohio country open to European settlement and parts reserved to
20 native people from 1785 to 1805 when the Treaty Line ended and native occupants were pushed
21 further west, and today is commemorated in sculptures dedicated in 2001 by the Summit County
22 Historical Society and in the establishment of Treaty Line Park by Summit Metro Parks; and

23
24 WHEREAS, The Lippman School of Akron has established a working partnership with
25 the nation of the Northern Cheyenne of Montana to foster mutual education opportunities, and to
26 promote discernment of how modern cultures often share a history, all of which has provided
27 learning opportunities for students and families alike, and which has been shared with the
28 Summit County community by Lippman School’s annual walks along the Portage Path; and

29
30 WHEREAS, Native Americans protected our land and our environment and formed tribal
31 groups that evidenced great character and who cared about each other and protected each other;
32 and we should honor native people because they were here first, were pushed from their lands,
33 suffered persecution and attempts at extinction of their culture, but continue to celebrate their
34 ancient practices; and

35
36 WHEREAS, Ohio commemorates the state’s ancient settlements and the native peoples
37 that first occupied this land through events during Ohio Archaeology Month each October; and

38
39 WHEREAS, The Lippman School and its students, have joined in a collaborative effort
40 with other Summit County schools and local history organizations to request that Summit
41 County Council respectfully acknowledge a day of commemoration called “First People’s Day,”
42 honoring Native Americans and the Indian tribal groups that continue their historic cultural
43 ceremonies and traditions; and

44
45 WHEREAS, “North American First People’s Day” will honor the first inhabitants of this
46 country, and offer an occasion to educate young and old of their history in this county and
47 throughout the United States; and

48
49 WHEREAS, “North American First People’s Day” will provide an opportunity to reflect
50 upon past harms inflicted upon Native Americans and acknowledge their past mistreatment, and
51 by studying this history may aid in avoiding unfair treatment of marginalized groups of people in
52 the future; and

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-161

2 PAGE TWO

3
4 WHEREAS, "North American First People's Day" would honor all descendants of
5 American Indians and tribes still active in the United States, and recognize that, although they
6 are often overlooked, members of tribal nations continue to contribute to society and American
7 culture.

8
9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State
10 of Ohio, that:

11
12 SECTION 1

13
14 That this Council hereby expresses its respect and honor for the history, culture, and
15 contributions of Native Americans to the development of the American continent , and specifically
16 Summit County and Ohio, by establishing "North American First People's Day" on the first Monday
17 of October.

18
19 SECTION 2

20
21 That this Council supports the continued exposition of the historic nature of Summit
22 County's Portage Path through education, events and displays and commends such recognition to
23 state and national organizations.

24
25 SECTION 3

26
27 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) members, it shall take
28 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise it shall take effect
29 and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

30
31 SECTION 4

32
33 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
34 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
35 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,
36 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section
37 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

38
39 INTRODUCED April 15, 2019

40
41 ADOPTED April 15, 2019

42
43 
44 CLERK OF COUNCIL

45
46 
47 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

48
49 APPROVED April 16, 2019

50
51 
52 EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 16, 2019

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