

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-363

First Reading Passage Requested
(G. Johnson)

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3
4 SPONSORS Executive Shapiro & Council of the Whole

5
6 DATE November 9, 2020 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

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8 **A Resolution urging the Ohio General Assembly to adopt legislation extending the**
9 **December 1, 2020 deadline included in House Bill 197, which provided public bodies with**
10 **the temporary ability to conduct public meetings and hearings via videoconference,**
11 **teleconference and other electronic means, for the Executive and Council, and declaring an**
12 **emergency.**

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14 WHEREAS, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 197 on March 27, 2020,
15 which provided emergency relief to Ohioans during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
16 pandemic; and

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18 WHEREAS, among a number of other critical measures intended to reduce the impact of
19 the COVID-19 pandemic on Ohio, House Bill 197 temporarily permitted Ohio public bodies to
20 conduct public meetings electronically through December 1, 2020; and

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22 WHEREAS, many Ohioans, including residents of Summit County currently live in
23 counties designated as “red”, which is a Level 3 Alert, the second highest level of alert in Ohio’s
24 Public Health Advisory System, meaning they are classified as very high for the exposure and
25 spread of COVID-19; and

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27 WHEREAS, conducting in-person public meetings during a Level 3 alert would likely
28 lead to the increased exposure and spread of COVID-19; and

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30 WHEREAS, due to the high level of alert in Ohio counties, it is in the best interest of
31 Ohioans to continue to authorize public bodies to temporarily conduct public meetings and
32 hearings via videoconference, teleconference and other electronic means beyond December 1,
33 2020 and perhaps for the entirety of 2021; and

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35 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
36 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County to urge the Ohio General Assembly to
37 adopt legislation authorizing public bodies to continue to conduct meetings electronically beyond
38 December 1, 2020;

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

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43 SECTION 1

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45 This Council and the Executive hereby urge the Ohio General Assembly, due to the
46 continued threat of an increase of exposure and spread of COVID-19, to adopt legislation
47 authorizing public bodies to continue to temporarily conduct public meetings and hearings via
48 videoconference, teleconference and other electronic means beyond December 1, 2020.
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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-363

2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 2

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6 The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Ohio
7 Governor Michael DeWine, Ohio House Speaker Robert R. Cupp, Ohio Senate President Larry
8 Obhof and all Ohio Senators and Ohio Representatives representing a portion of Summit County.
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10 SECTION 3

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12 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
13 welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason of immediately
14 urging the Ohio General Assembly to adopt legislation to permit public bodies to continue to
15 conduct public meetings electronically to prevent an increase in the exposure and spread of
16 COVID-19.
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18 SECTION 4

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20 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take
21 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take
22 effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.
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24 SECTION 5

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26 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
27 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
28 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,
29 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section
30 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.
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33 INTRODUCED November 9, 2020

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35 ADOPTED November 9, 2020

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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41 APPROVED November 11, 2020

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EXECUTIVE

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47 ENACTED EFFECTIVE November 11, 2020

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