

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-038

Late Filing
First Reading Passage Requested
(V. Sims)

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4 SPONSORS Ms. Sims, Executive Shapiro and Council of the Whole

5
6 DATE January 25, 2021

COMMITTEE Human Services

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8 **A Resolution declaring the month of February 2021 as Black History Month in Summit**
9 **County, recognizing Blacks in America and the achievements they have made throughout**
10 **the nation's history, as well as the struggles and roadblocks they have faced and continue**
11 **to face, for the Council and the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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13 WHEREAS, with the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity,
14 Black History Month evolved to an annual celebration of achievements by Blacks in America
15 and a time for recognizing the central role they have played in United States history; and

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17 WHEREAS, the unforgettable contributions that Blacks in America have made to our
18 nation and county, as artists, scientists, educators, business people, influential thinkers, members
19 of the faith community, athletes, political and governmental leaders and all other walks of life,
20 reflects the greatness of the United States and Summit County; and

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22 WHEREAS, it is important that our community honor those who fought to ensure that
23 every member of society is treated equally under the law by recognizing those who came before
24 us and created this history; and

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26 WHEREAS, in the past year, it is of great significance that we recognize the more recent
27 activism by the Blacks in America, such as the protests that erupted across the country in the
28 wake of the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police and the continued
29 focus of bringing to light instances of police brutality faced by black and brown people in the
30 United States; and

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32 WHEREAS, nationwide declarations of Racism as a Public Health Crisis were made by
33 several legislators including this body, to address how racism – not race – causes
34 disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education, health outcomes
35 and economic hardship in the Black community; and

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37 WHEREAS, this was done largely under a worldwide pandemic where Blacks in
38 America are more likely to contract COVID-19 and 1.5 times more likely to die from the deadly
39 virus than White Americans; and

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41 WHEREAS, despite these challenges, the achievements of Blacks in America continue to
42 inspire the world, as the nation witnessed the election and subsequent swearing-in of the first
43 woman and first Black woman of African and Asian descent Vice President in the history of the
44 United States; and

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46 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
47 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that February 2021 be
48 declared Black History Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit
49 County to join in this acknowledgement;

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

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SECTION 1

The month of February 2021 is hereby declared Black History Month in Summit County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement and recognize the role that racial diversity plays in strengthening our community.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of immediately declaring February 2021 as Black History Month in Summit County.

SECTION 3

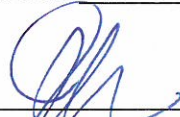
Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

SECTION 4

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

INTRODUCED January 25, 2021

ADOPTED January 25, 2021

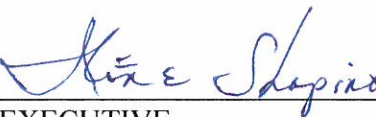


CLERK OF COUNCIL



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED January 27, 2021



EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE January 27, 2021

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