

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-010

2  
3 SPONSORS Ms. Sims, Executive Shapiro

4  
5 DATE January 9, 2023 COMMITTEE Human Services

6  
7  
8 **A Resolution declaring the month of February 2023 as Black History Month in Summit**  
9 **County, recognizing the accomplishments made by Black Americans while facing incredible**  
10 **adversity throughout history, as well as acknowledging the challenges of the present, for the**  
11 **Council and the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

12  
13 WHEREAS, the first Black History Month was proposed and celebrated by the faculty of  
14 the Center of Pan-African Culture and the members of Black United Students at Kent State  
15 University in 1970, conferring local significance to what would become a national event in 1976;  
16 and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement prompted historians and educators to expand the  
19 teaching of Black history as well as recognize the contributions of Black scientists, artists,  
20 educators, athletes, politicians, business people, religious and spiritual leaders, and countless  
21 others that reflect the greatness of the United States and Summit County; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, current movements for racial justice and equality continue to press for the  
24 tenets of the Civil Rights Movement, such as equal treatment under the law, and increase  
25 awareness about black and brown identities; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, mass protests in the wake of the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the  
28 Minneapolis police reignited calls for the prevention and prosecution of instances of police  
29 brutality against black and brown people in the United States; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, Summit County joined state, county, and city governments across the county  
32 in declaring racism as a public health crisis to address how racism – not race – causes  
33 disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poverty, poor education outcomes,  
34 and poor health outcomes in the Black community; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Special Review Committee has  
37 completed its report in 2022 and County officeholders will now use the recommendations to  
38 further remove systemic barriers contributing to racial inequities in County operations and provide  
39 a model for other communities looking to do the same; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, there continues to be significant health disparities perpetuated by racism, such  
42 as disproportionately high mortality rates for Black mothers and infants during pregnancy and  
43 childbirth; and

44  
45 WHEREAS, infant mortality rates among Black mothers stands twice as high than the state  
46 average at 13.6 per 1,000 for Black mothers compared to the average of 6.7 per 1,000 for Ohio  
47 mothers in 2020; and

48  
49 WHEREAS, despite these disparities and others, there continues to also be strides toward  
50 equity and equality in the United States, including in representation at the highest level, such as  
51 the election of the first Black and Asian Vice-President, Kamala Harris, and appointment of the  
52 first Black Supreme Court Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson; and

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-010

2 PAGE TWO

3  
4 WHEREAS, Black History Month provides time to reflect on the challenges facing Black  
5 Americans but also the resilience of the Black community in the face of immense adversity,  
6 resilience that inspires and guides us toward a diverse, equitable, and inclusive future; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Executive and this Council share in this message of resilience and hope  
9 as a new year begins; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
12 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that February 2023 be declared  
13 Black History Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join  
14 in this acknowledgement;

15  
16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State  
17 of Ohio, that:

18  
19 SECTION 1

20  
21 The month of February 2023 is hereby declared Black History Month in Summit County  
22 and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement and recognize  
23 the role that racial diversity and inclusion plays in strengthening our community.

24  
25 SECTION 2

26  
27 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and  
28 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
29 immediately declaring February 2023 as Black History Month in Summit County.

30  
31 SECTION 3

32  
33 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) members, it shall take  
34 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect  
35 and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

36  
37 SECTION 4

38  
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, were  
42 in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22  
43 of the Ohio Revised Code.

44  
45 INTRODUCED January 9, 2023

46  
47 ADOPTED January 30, 2023

48  
49   
50 \_\_\_\_\_  
51 CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
52 \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-010

2 PAGE THREE

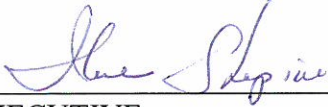
3

4 APPROVED January 30, 2023

5

6

7

8 EXECUTIVE 

9

10 ENACTED EFFECTIVE January 30, 2023

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