

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-062

2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4
5 DATE March 6, 2023 COMMITTEE Health & Human Services

6
7 **A Resolution declaring the month of April 2023 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit**
8 **County, recognizing all individuals in our community on the autism spectrum and**
9 **celebrating the numerous ways autistic people enhance the quality of our communities and**
10 **enrich our lives, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

11
12 WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month has been recognized by advocates for decades and
13 April 2nd was declared Autism Awareness Day for the first time by the United Nations in 2008;
14 and

15
16 WHEREAS, in recent years, autistic people, their families, their friends, and allies have
17 moved toward observing Autism Acceptance Month rather than Autism Awareness Month to
18 decrease the stigma by emphasizing belonging and inclusion; and

19
20 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are an
21 estimated 5.4 million adults in the United States with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and these
22 people are our family, friends, classmates, colleagues, teachers, technicians, artists, chefs, and
23 more; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the autistic community encompasses a wide range of autistic people with
26 varying abilities and needs, and a diverse array of identities, perspectives, skills, and
27 accomplishments; and

28
29 WHEREAS, autistic people are able to achieve purposeful lives when afforded the
30 opportunities and support systems that each and every person deserves, acceptance being key to
31 overcoming barriers and achieving success; and

32
33 WHEREAS, local organizations like the Autism Society of Greater Akron and national
34 organizations like the Autistic Self Advocacy Network provide information and support to both
35 autistic people and their loved ones as they learn and grow together; and

36
37 WHEREAS, the Autism Society of Greater Akron has been providing support to Summit,
38 Medina, Portage, Wayne, and Stark Counties since 1987 and will recognize Autism Acceptance
39 Month in April 2023; and

40
41 WHEREAS, Summit County understands the importance of cultivating acceptance to
42 achieve equity in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, and is committed to enacting
43 policies that advance the rights and needs of the autistic community;

44
45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State
46 of Ohio, that:

47
48 SECTION 1

49
50 The month of April 2023 is hereby declared as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit
51 County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-062

2 PAGE TWO

3
4 SECTION 2

5
6 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
7 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
8 immediately declaring April 2023 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit County.

9
10 SECTION 3

11
12 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) members, it shall take
13 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect
14 and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

15
16 SECTION 4

17
18 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
19 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
20 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were
21 in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22
22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

23
24
25 INTRODUCED March 6, 2023

26
27 ADOPTED March 20, 2023

28
29
30
31 *MH*
32 FOR CLERK OF COUNCIL

33
34
35
36
37
38
39
Veronica R Sims
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

33 APPROVED March 20, 2023

34
35
36
37
38
39
Steve Shapiro
EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE March 21, 2023