

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-098

2  
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4  
5 DATE April 3, 2023 COMMITTEE Health & Human Services

6  
7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in**  
8 **Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this**  
9 **acknowledgement for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

10  
11 WHEREAS, people across the United States experience mental health conditions,  
12 illnesses, and disorders that impact their personal health and their relationships with their family,  
13 friends, neighbors, employer, and community; and

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15 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic served to exacerbate current mental health  
16 challenges, foment new challenges, and expose the dire importance of good mental health and  
17 well-being; and

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19 WHEREAS, one positive aspect of the pandemic is a heightened awareness and  
20 understanding of mental health, mental illness and distress, and the critical nature of mental  
21 fortitude and well-being in living a happy, fulfilling life; and

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23 WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month, observed since 1949, has served as a  
24 vehicle for increased awareness, education, and advocacy around mental health and provides an  
25 opportunity for residents to discuss and learn about mental health, especially considering the  
26 challenges of the last few years; and

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28 WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to improving the mental health of residents by  
29 leading and collaborating on initiatives and programs that provide education, events, and services  
30 involving mental health; and

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32 WHEREAS, in 2022 Summit County completed its strategic plan as part of the Upward  
33 Mobility Project with the Urban Institute, which included a recommendation that Mental Health  
34 First Aid (MHFA) training be offered to county employees; and

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36 WHEREAS, in January, 2023 the Summit County Executive's Department of Human  
37 Resources hosted a pilot MHFA training attended by dozens of county and county agency  
38 employees with the help of Love Akron and Red Oak Behavioral Health, with the intention of  
39 reviewing and possibly expanding this offering in the future; and

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41 WHEREAS, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board  
42 serves our community in multiple capacities, including in supporting mental health services and  
43 offering the 24/7 crisis hotline 330-434-9144; and

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45 WHEREAS, in addition to local resources, the national 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline  
46 launched in 2022 and is available 24/7 to all residents who need someone to talk to by simply  
47 dialing 9-8-8; and

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49 WHEREAS, supporting and educating the community on mental health and wellness is  
50 foundational to preventing crises and fostering a healthy, thriving Summit County; and

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WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that May 2023 be declared Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgement;

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

SECTION 1

The month of May 2023 is hereby declared Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County and the residents and employees of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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 May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County to encourage prompt and widespread dialogue about mental health during the month of May.

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 April 3, 2023

ADOPTED April 24, 2023

DocuSigned by:  
Lauren Marsh  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:  
Veronica R. Sims  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED April 24, 2023  
DocuSigned by:  
Steve Shapiro  
EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 25, 2023  
Voice Vote - YES: 11-0: Darrow, DeVitis, Dickinson, Donofrio, McKenney, Rodgers, Schmidt, Sims, Walters, Wiedie Higham, Wilhite