

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-115

2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4
5 DATE April 24, 2023 COMMITTEE Health & Human Services

6
7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2023 as Foster Care Month in the County of**
8 **Summit and encouraging residents to join in this acknowledgement and consider the**
9 **importance of foster care in their community, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

10
11 WHEREAS, Since 1988, Foster Care Month has been recognized by the U.S. Department
12 of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Children’s Bureau in order to raise awareness, support
13 children in foster care, and show appreciation for foster families; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the theme of Foster Care Month this year is “Strengthening Minds, Uplifting
16 Families,” which focuses on the mental wellness of kids in foster care and their families, as well
17 as the holistic and culturally competent care that they deserve; and

18
19 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are over 391,000 children and youth in foster care,
20 including over 860 children and youth in the care of Summit County Children Services (“SCCS”);
21 and

22
23 WHEREAS, SCCS works hard to support these children and place them with foster
24 families when they cannot safely be with their own family; and

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26 WHEREAS, there are 180 foster families in Summit County that deserve our appreciation
27 to their commitment and care for children and youth; and

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29 WHEREAS, while these families have stepped up, there is a need for more foster families,
30 as the current number is not enough to support all the children under the care of SCCS who
31 prioritizes keeping children in their own neighborhood and schools whenever possible; and

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33 WHEREAS, foster parents are a vital part of the SCCS team that helps to provide services
34 to children and families; and

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36 WHEREAS, foster parents provide a loving, safe and nurturing home for children as long
37 as they are placed in their care; and

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39 WHEREAS, foster parents work with biological families to help them in their efforts with
40 reunification; and they work with SCCS to meet the child’s needs and support the birth family;
41 and

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43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State
44 of Ohio, that;

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46 SECTION 1

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48 The month of May 2023 is hereby declared Foster Care Month in Summit County and the
49 residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement by raising awareness
50 about foster care, support children in foster care, showing appreciation toward foster families, and
51 considering fostering children in the future.

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-115

2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 2

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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 May 2023 as Foster Care Month in Summit County.

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10 SECTION 3

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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.

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16 SECTION 4

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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.

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25 INTRODUCED April 24, 2023

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27 ADOPTED May 1, 2023

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29 DocuSigned by:
30 *Lauren Marsh*
31 F8D2DB1328E041B...
32 CLERK OF COUNCIL

33
34 DocuSigned by:
35 *Veronica B...*
36 C63A940FE4BA42A...
37 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

38
39 APPROVED May 1, 2023

40
41 DocuSigned by:
42 *Steve Shapiro*
43 CB033E40D287473...
44 EXECUTIVE

45 ENACTED EFFECTIVE May 2, 2023