

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-123

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4
5 DATE April 15, 2024 COMMITTEE Human Services

6
7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2024 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.**

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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 “Engaging Youth. Building
16 Supports. Strengthening Opportunities.” which centers on authentic youth engagement, the
17 importance of lifelong connections, and how to best support youth as they transition out of foster
18 care; and

19
20 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are over 463,000 children and youth in foster care,
21 including over 850 children and youth in the care of Summit County Children Services (SCCS);
22 and

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

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27 WHEREAS, there are 138 foster families in Summit County that deserve our appreciation
28 to their commitment and care for children and youth; and

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

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

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

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

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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 2024 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.

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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 2024 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 15, 2024

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28 ADOPTED _____

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32 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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36 APPROVED _____

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39 EXECUTIVE _____

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42 ENACTED EFFECTIVE _____