

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-179

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Ms. Walters, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE June 3, 2024 COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring August 31, 2024 Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County, raising**  
8 **awareness of the opioid epidemic and asking residents to join in remembering and mourning**  
9 **the lives lost due to the epidemic, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day has been recognized by governments  
12 and non-governmental organizations since 2001; and

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14 WHEREAS, this day provides a time to remember and mourn those in our communities  
15 lost to an overdose as well as raise awareness about the dangers of drug use, substance use disorder,  
16 and the use of opioids; and

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18 WHEREAS, over 5,000 Ohioans have died due to an overdose every year since 2020  
19 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with a total of nearly 16,000 lives  
20 lost in the three years between 2020-2022; and

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22 WHEREAS, this crisis continues to ravage our community, with over 200 residents in  
23 Summit County having died of an overdose in 2023, according to preliminary data from Summit  
24 County Public Health; and

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26 WHEREAS, the majority of overdose deaths in Ohio involved an opioid, with 82% of  
27 overdose deaths in 2023 involving fentanyl, up from 33% in 2019; and

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29 WHEREAS, in 2016, Executive Ilene Shapiro declared a state of emergency in recognition  
30 of the toll the epidemic was having on the community, causing hospitalizations and deaths; and

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32 WHEREAS, the County of Summit continues to battle the opioid epidemic and remains  
33 committed to providing resources for those affected by the epidemic; and

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35 WHEREAS, in 2022 alone, Summit County Public Health distributed 7,329 boxes of  
36 naloxone in Summit County via Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone), partnered with  
37 local businesses to install over 220 naloxone boxes in high overdose areas, and continued to lead  
38 the way in life-saving harm reduction efforts; and

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40 WHEREAS, the County of Summit has installed and maintains nearly 20 naloxone boxes  
41 throughout county buildings available to employees and the public, allowing staff to be prepared  
42 in a wide variety of emergency situations; and

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44 WHEREAS, in 2024, Executive Ilene Shapiro's Office became designated a Recovery  
45 Friendly Workplace and provided recovery resources and trainings to staff with the aim of  
46 reducing the stigma of addiction and encouraging individuals struggling with substance misuse to  
47 seek out the help they need as preventative care; and

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49 WHEREAS, since receiving a financial settlement from opioid manufacturers and  
50 distributors, the Summit County Opiate Abatement Council has recommended and approved over  
51 \$15 million in grants to local organizations working to abate the epidemic; and

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4 WHEREAS, the settlement also included lifesaving medical supplies that have been  
5 distributed to local hospitals; and

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7 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
8 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that August 31, 2024, be  
9 declared Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County, raising awareness of the opioid epidemic  
10 and asking residents to join in remembering and mourning the lives lost due to the epidemic;

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

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15 SECTION 1

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17 The day of August 31, 2024 is hereby declared Overdose Awareness Day in Summit  
18 County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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20 SECTION 2

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22 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
23 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
24 immediately declaring August 31, 2024, as Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County.

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26 SECTION 3

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

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32 SECTION 4

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

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40 INTRODUCED June 3, 2024

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42 ADOPTED June 17, 2024

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45 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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47 APPROVED June 17, 2024

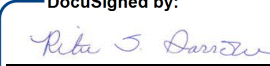
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50 EXECUTIVE

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52 ENACTED EFFECTIVE June 18, 2024

DocuSigned by:  


PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Voice Vote – YES: 10 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson,  
Donofrio, Ford, McKenney, Rodgers, Schmidt,  
Walters, Wiedie Higham, Wilhite  
Absent: DeVitis