

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-264

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

4

5 DATE September 9, 2024 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

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7 **A Resolution declaring the week of October 7th – 11th, 2024 as Digital Inclusion Week in**
8 **Summit County, recognizing the importance of internet access and digital literacy and**
9 **reaffirming the County’s commitment to digital equity for all Summit County residents, for**
10 **the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges
13 to households without internet access, to promote proven strategies to reduce roadblocks to digital
14 access, and to increase the safety and ease with which households access the internet; and

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16 WHEREAS, 12% percent of Summit County households do not have access to broadband,
17 and data shows that certain groups of residents, including households with income below \$35,000,
18 older adults (65+), and Black residents, have less access to broadband than the overall population;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to digital inclusion and equity through a number
22 of programs, services, and investments aimed at closing the digital divide, having distributed over
23 850 tablets and hotspots to seniors and 150 such devices to schools and students, and internet
24 access to low-income households through the Department of Job and Family Services and
25 Direction Home Akron-Canton during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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27 WHEREAS, Summit County has continued this commitment by working with the National
28 Digital Inclusion Alliance to align investments in Summit Connects, a countywide broadband
29 initiative, with a broader digital inclusion strategy, including the formation of a Steering
30 Committee and the development of a Digital Equity Framework; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Steering Committee, made up of government agencies, community
33 organizations, and non-profits is working together to improve digital equity and inclusion by
34 completing digital asset mapping across the County, building a Digital Equity Coalition, and
35 beginning work on a larger strategic plan; and

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37 WHEREAS, the County has developed and implemented “Outsmart the Scam” as a
38 program to inform community members of common scams, give community members the tools to
39 identify and combat these scams, and reach the populations most vulnerable to these scams; and
40 to help combat the 2.6 million reports of fraud resulting in a reported \$10 billion lost annually to
41 fraud across the country. Summit County remains committed to educating the public by hosting
42 Outsmart the Scam events and workshops; and

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44 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
45 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit and its residents that the week
46 of October 7th – 11th, 2024 be declared Digital Inclusion Week in Summit County, to raise
47 awareness of the roadblocks to digital inclusion and reaffirming the County’s commitment to
48 digital equity; and

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

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 The week of October 7th – 11th, 2024 is hereby declared Digital Inclusion Week in Summit
7 County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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9 SECTION 2

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11 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
12 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
13 declaring October 7th – 11th, 2024 to be Digital Inclusion Week in Summit County.

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15 SECTION 3

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

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21 SECTION 4

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

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30 INTRODUCED September 9, 2024

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32 ADOPTED September 23, 2024

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34 **DocuSigned by:**
Monique Willis
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36 **CLERK OF COUNCIL**
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DocuSigned by:
Rita J. Darrow
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38 **PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**
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38 APPROVED September 23, 2024

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40 **DocuSigned by:**
Jane Shapiro
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42 **EXECUTIVE**
BD33E40D287473...

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

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44 ENACTED EFFECTIVE September 24, 2024