

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-009

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3 SPONSORS Executive Shapiro, Mr. Ford, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE January 6, 2025 COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring the month of February 2025 as Black History Month in Summit**  
8 **County, recognizing the incredible accomplishments made by Black Americans in the face**  
9 **of adversity, as well as acknowledging the challenges of the present, for the Executive, and**  
10 **declaring an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, the first Black History Month was proposed and celebrated by the faculty of  
13 the Center of Pan-African Culture and members of Black United Students at Kent State University  
14 in 1970, conferring local significance on what would become a national observance in 1976; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement prompted historians and educators to expand the  
17 teachings of Black history and properly recognize the contributions of Black scientists, artists,  
18 educators, athletes, politicians, business people, faith leaders, and countless others in the United  
19 States and Summit County; and

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21 WHEREAS, current movements for racial justice and equity continue to press for the full  
22 implementation of the tenets and values of the Civil Rights Movement, such as equal treatment  
23 under the law, as well as increased awareness of the experiences and identities of people of color;  
24 and

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26 WHEREAS, the foundations of the Civil Rights Movement, and subsequently Black  
27 History Month, were paved by countless leaders, such as Sojourner Truth, who gave her renowned  
28 speech in Akron, Ohio in 1851, declaring movements for justice and equality must fight for the  
29 rights of *all* races and *all* women, including Black women; and

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31 WHEREAS, our local elected leaders carry on this tradition as well, with Summit County  
32 Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski recently becoming the first Black American woman elected to a  
33 countywide charter office in Summit County's history; and

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35 WHEREAS, community investment into honoring the legacy and contributions of Black  
36 Americans, especially Black American women, is a proud, long-standing tradition in Summit  
37 County; and

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39 WHEREAS, in 2024, Summit County celebrated the unveiling of Sojourner Truth  
40 Memorial Plaza, providing a site of historical, educational, and cultural significance for the  
41 community, the state, and the nation, and honors Truth, her speech, and her legacy, which still  
42 holds immense value today; and

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44 WHEREAS, despite great progress, there continues to be disparities in the United States  
45 and Summit County between people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

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47 WHEREAS, Summit County remains committed to fostering a workplace and community  
48 that is diverse, inclusive, and equitable for employees and residents alike through programs and  
49 practices set out by strategic planning; and

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51 WHEREAS, Black History Month provides time to reflect on progress toward justice and  
52 equality, as well as barriers to building a better future; and

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4 WHEREAS, residents are encouraged to participate in events during Black History Month  
5 and to take time to explore local history through resources at their local library and the Summit  
6 County Historical Society; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Executive and Council share this message of resilience and hope as a new  
9 year begins; and

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11 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
12 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that February 2025 be declared  
13 Black History Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join  
14 in this acknowledgement.

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

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19 SECTION 1

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21 The month of February 2025 is hereby declared Black History Month in Summit County  
22 and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement and recognize  
23 the role that racial diversity and inclusion plays in strengthening our community.

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25 SECTION 2

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27 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and  
28 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
29 immediately declaring February 2025 as Black History Month in Summit County.

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31 SECTION 3

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

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37 SECTION 4

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

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5 INTRODUCED January 6, 2025

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7 ADOPTED January 27, 2025

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9 Signed by:  
10 Monique Willis

11 CLERK OF COUNCIL  
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14 APPROVED January 27, 2025

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16 DocuSigned by:  
17 Gene Shapiro

18 EXECUTIVE  
19 CB03E40D287473...

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22 ENACTED EFFECTIVE January 28, 2025

DocuSigned by:

Rita J. Darrow

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
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Voice Vote – YES: 11 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson,  
Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate,  
McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite