

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-045

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

DATE February 10, 2025 COMMITTEE Human Services

A Resolution declaring the month of March 2025 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Summit County, recognizing people with developmental disabilities for their contributions to our community and their perseverance in breaking down barriers, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities celebrates March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with an annual campaign to raise awareness and increase the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of life, with the intention to highlight the barriers that inhibit people with developmental disabilities from connecting to the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize that the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities creates strong, diverse communities where all residents are welcomed and valued; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board (“Summit DD”) participate in Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by hosting events and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, these events include Inclusion Day on March 3, 2025, on which Summit DD celebrates by turning Summit County orange through clothes, stickers, signs, and social media posts, and Inclusion Day at the Zoo, where the Akron Zoo partners with Summit DD to offer free admission to visitors who wear orange between March 1 through March 3; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to promote these events so that residents of Summit County with and without disabilities are encouraged to participate and do their part in coming together to form a strong, inclusive community; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that March 2025 be declared Developmental Disabilities Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgement;

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

SECTION 1

The month of March 2025 is hereby declared Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Summit County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of

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4 SECTION 2 (Continued)

6 immediately declaring March 2025 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Summit
7 County.

9 SECTION 3

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

15 SECTION 4

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

24 INTRODUCED February 10, 2025

26 ADOPTED March 3, 2025

27 Signed by:

28 *Monique Willis*

30 CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:

Rita S. Darrow

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

32 APPROVED March 3, 2025

33 Signed by:

34 *Executive Shapiro*

36 EXECUTIVE

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

38 ENACTED EFFECTIVE March 4, 2025