

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-086

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE March 24, 2025 COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring the month of April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit**
8 **County, recognizing all individuals in our community on the autism spectrum and**
9 **celebrating the numerous ways in which they contribute to our communities and our lives,**
10 **for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month has been recognized by advocates for decades and
13 April 2nd was declared Autism Awareness Day for the first time by the United Nations in 2008;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, in recent years, autistic people, their families, their friends, and allies have
17 moved toward observing Autism Acceptance Month rather than Autism Awareness Month to
18 decrease the stigma by emphasizing belonging and inclusion; and

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20 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are an
21 estimated 5.5 million adults in the United States with autism spectrum disorder (“ASD”), which
22 includes our family members, friends, classmates, colleagues, and neighbors; and

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24 WHEREAS, the autistic community encompasses a wide range of people with ASD who
25 have varying abilities and needs, and a diverse array of identities, personalities, perspectives, skills,
26 talents, and accomplishments; and

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28 WHEREAS, people with ASD serve across our community as teachers, chefs, truckers,
29 artists, gardeners, technicians, writers, caregivers, nurses, construction workers, scientists and so
30 much more; and

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32 WHEREAS, people with ASD are able to achieve purposeful lives when afforded the
33 opportunities and support systems that each and every person deserves, acceptance being key to
34 overcoming barriers and achieving success; and

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36 WHEREAS, local organizations like the Autism Society of Greater Akron and national
37 organizations like the Autistic Self Advocacy Network provide information and support to both
38 autistic people and their loved ones as they learn and grow together; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Autism Society of Greater Akron has been providing support to Summit,
41 Medina, Portage, Wayne, and Stark Counties since 1987 and will recognize Autism Acceptance
42 Month in April 2025; and

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44 WHEREAS, some of the Autism Society of Greater Akron’s services and offerings include
45 Caregiver Support Group, a free Helpline to problem-solve and connect people to appropriate
46 resources, support for adults, children, and teens who are newly diagnosed, resources regarding
47 safety, various trainings, social clubs, and community events; and

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49 WHEREAS, Summit County understands the importance of cultivating acceptance to
50 achieve equity in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, and is committed to enacting
51 policies that advance the rights and needs of the autistic community;

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

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7 SECTION 1

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9 The month of April 2025 is hereby declared as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit
10 County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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12 SECTION 2

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14 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
15 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
16 immediately declaring April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit County.

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18 SECTION 3

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

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24 SECTION 4

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

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33 INTRODUCED March 24, 2025


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35 ADOPTED March 31, 2025

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Signed by:


CLERK OF COUNCIL
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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
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40 APPROVED March 31, 2025

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Signed by:


EXECUTIVE
CB03E40D287473...

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

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43 ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 1, 2025

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