

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-089

2

3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE March 24, 2025 COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring April 2, 2025, as Start by Believing Day throughout the County of**
8 **Summit, supporting the Start by Believing campaign which raises awareness of survivors of**
9 **sexual violence, and encouraging all businesses and residents alike to show their support by**
10 **wearing teal on April 2, 2025, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, the County of Summit shares a critical concern for survivors of sexual
13 violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

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15 WHEREAS, in 2024, law-enforcement agencies in Summit County received 325 reports
16 of sexual assault, Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital’s Providing Access to Healing Center
17 provided services to 243 patients for reported sexual assaults, Hope and Healing Survivor
18 Resource Center provided services to 229 survivors of sexual assault, the Victim Assistance
19 Program provided services to 148 victims of sexual violence, and the Summit County Prosecutor’s
20 Office provided prosecutor-based victim-advocacy services to 155 adult and child survivors of
21 sexual assault; and

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23 WHEREAS, current estimates suggest as few as 1 in 5 sexual assaults will be reported to
24 law enforcement and less than 3 percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the
25 perpetrator; and

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27 WHEREAS, research documents that victims and survivors are far more likely to disclose
28 their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt,
29 shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological
30 well-being, and there is a higher probability of not reporting their victimization to law
31 enforcement; and

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33 WHEREAS, the Start by Believing public awareness campaign, a program of End Violence
34 Against Women International and organized locally by the Prosecutor’s Office, is designed to
35 improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help
36 victims and survivors to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system;

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

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41 SECTION 1

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43 This resolution supports the Start by Believing public awareness campaign and do hereby
44 declare April 2, 2025, to be Start by Believing Day throughout the County of Summit and
45 encourage all businesses and residents alike to show their support by helping us Turn Summit Teal.

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47 SECTION 2

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49 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
50 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
51 immediately declaring April 2, 2025, as Start by Believing Day in Summit County.

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4 SECTION 3

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

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10 SECTION 4

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

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19 INTRODUCED March 24, 2025


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21 ADOPTED March 31, 2025

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Signed by:


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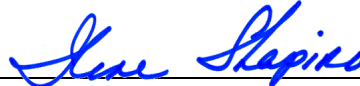
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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
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27 APPROVED March 31, 2025

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Signed by:


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

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33 ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 1, 2025