

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-116

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4

5 DATE April 14, 2025

COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2025 as Foster Care Month in the County of**
8 **Summit and encouraging residents to join in this acknowledgement and consider the**
9 **importance of foster care in their community, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, since 1988, Foster Care Month has been recognized by the U.S. Department
12 of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) Children’s Bureau in order to raise awareness, support
13 children in foster care, and show appreciation for foster families; and

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15 WHEREAS, the theme of Foster Care Month this year is “Centered on Family,
16 Strengthened by Connections” which focuses on highlighting the connections foster families bring
17 to children in greatest need of stability and love, celebrating the amazing foster families currently
18 engaged, and shedding light on the need for more foster families; and

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20 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 children and youth in foster
21 care, including over 800 children and youth in the care of Summit County Children Services
22 (“SCCS”); and

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24 WHEREAS, SCCS works hard to support these children and place them with foster
25 families when they cannot safely be with their own family; and

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27 WHEREAS, SCCS hosts regular Virtual Foster Care Information Meetings online to
28 connect interested foster parents with information on the agency and explain the step-by-step
29 process of how to become a licensed foster-to-adopt parent; and

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31 WHEREAS, there are 128 families who provide foster care for SCCS, that deserve our
32 appreciation to their commitment and care for children and youth; and

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34 WHEREAS, while these families have stepped up, there is a need for more foster families,
35 as the current number is not enough to support the children under the care of SCCS who prioritizes
36 keeping children in their own neighborhood and schools when possible; and

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38 WHEREAS, Foster parents are a vital part of the SCCS team that helps to provide services
39 to children and families; and

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41 WHEREAS, Foster parents provide a loving, safe and nurturing home for children as long
42 as they are placed in their care; and

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44 WHEREAS, Foster parents work with biological families to help them in their efforts with
45 reunification; and they work with SCCS to meet the child’s needs and support the birth family;

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

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 The month of May 2025 is hereby declared Foster Care Month in Summit County and the
7 residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement by raising awareness
8 about foster care, support children in foster care, showing appreciation toward foster families, and
9 considering fostering children in the future

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11 SECTION 2

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13 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
14 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
15 immediately declaring May 2025 as Foster Care Month in Summit County.

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17 SECTION 3

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

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23 SECTION 4

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

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32 INTRODUCED April 14, 2025

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34 ADOPTED _____

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38 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

40 APPROVED _____

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43 _____

44 EXECUTIVE

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46 ENACTED EFFECTIVE _____