

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-221

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

DATE August 4, 2025 COMMITTEE Human Services

A Resolution declaring August 31, 2025, as Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County, raising awareness of the opioid epidemic and asking residents to join in remembering and mourning the lives lost due to the epidemic, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day has been recognized by governments and non-governmental organizations since 2001; and

WHEREAS, this day provides a time to remember and mourn those in our communities lost to an overdose as well as raise awareness about the dangers of drug use, substance use disorder, and the use of opioids; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Executive Ilene Shapiro declared a state of emergency in recognition of the toll the epidemic was having on the community, causing hospitalizations and deaths; and

WHEREAS, the County of Summit continues to battle the opioid epidemic and remains committed to providing resources for those affected by the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, over 5,000 Ohioans have died due to an overdose every year since 2020 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with a total of nearly 16,000 lives lost in the three years between 2020-2022; and

WHEREAS, this crisis continues to ravage our community with 106 residents in Summit County died of an overdose in 2024 according to preliminary data from Summit County Public Health, which is a sharp decline from 203 deaths in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the majority of overdose deaths in Ohio involved an opioid, with 79% of overdose deaths in 2024 involving fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, as of July 2025, there have been 527 presumed overdoses based on emergency department visits throughout the county, with no less than 50 accidental overdoses occurring each month, leading to a total of 61 deaths in 2025 so far; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 alone, Summit County Public Health distributed 9,247 boxes of naloxone in Summit County via Project DAWN, partnered with local businesses to install emergency naloxone access cabinets and naloxone vending machines in high overdose areas, and continued to lead the way in life-saving harm reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the County of Summit has installed and maintains nearly 20 naloxone boxes throughout county buildings available to employees and the public, allowing staff to be prepared in a wide variety of emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Executive Ilene Shapiro's Office became designated a Recovery Friendly Workplace and provided recovery resources and trainings to staff with the aim of reducing the stigma of addiction and encouraging individuals struggling with substance misuse to seek out the help they need as preventative care; and

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-221

2 PAGE TWO

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4 WHEREAS, since receiving a financial settlement from opioid manufacturers and
5 distributors, the Summit County Opiate Abatement Advisory Council has recommended, and
6 Council has approved over \$15 million in grants to local organizations working to abate the
7 epidemic; and

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9 WHEREAS, the settlement also included lifesaving medical supplies that have been
10 distributed to local hospitals; and

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12 WHEREAS, in 2025, with this Council's support, Executive Shapiro utilized \$45 million
13 of these settlement funds to establish the Summit Health and Safety Innovation Fund as a
14 permanently endowed supporting organization with Akron Community Foundation to support
15 innovative approaches to improve health and safety for generations to come, with the purpose of
16 adapting to health and safety challenges of the future; and

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18 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
19 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that August 31, 2025, be
20 declared Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County, raising awareness of the opioid epidemic
21 and asking residents to join in remembering and mourning the lives lost due to the epidemic;

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

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26 SECTION 1

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28 The day of August 31, 2025 is hereby declared Overdose Awareness Day in Summit
29 County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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31 SECTION 2

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33 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
34 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
35 immediately declaring August 31, 2025, as Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County.

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37 SECTION 3

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

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43 SECTION 4

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

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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-221
2 PAGE THREE
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5 INTRODUCED August 4, 2025
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7 ADOPTED August 18, 2025
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9 Signed by:
10 Monique Willis
11 CLERK OF COUNCIL
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13 APPROVED August 18, 2025
14 Signed by:
15 Steve Shapiro
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17 EXCERPTED 287473...
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19 ENACTED EFFECTIVE August 19, 2025

DocuSigned by:
Rita J. Darrow
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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