

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-241**First Reading Passage Requested****(G. Johnson)**2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro4
5 DATE September 8, 2025COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring September 2025 as Service Dog Awareness Month throughout the**
8 **County of Summit, supporting Canine Companions for Independence and the National**
9 **Service Dog Awareness Campaign, and honoring the 50th anniversary of Service Dogs in the**
10 **United States, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, the County of Summit continues to work toward becoming an inclusive
13 community in which all residents, and their trained service dogs, are embraced; and

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15 WHEREAS, service dogs, facility dogs, and therapy dogs provide critical sources
16 throughout Summit County, including in the Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile Court, Turning Point
17 Court, the Summit Emergency Communications Center, Summa Health, and Akron Children's
18 Hospital; and

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20 WHEREAS, since 2013, facility dogs Avery II and Adam VII have served 396 victims and
21 witnesses across more than 300 cases, including 300 victims under the age of 18 and 87 adult
22 victims, and provided support during trial for 57 witness testimonies; and

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24 WHEREAS, nationwide, 70 million adults have a disability and only 16,000 service dogs
25 from accredited training programs exist and the need for service dogs is growing; and

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27 WHEREAS, Canine Companions created the service dog for people with physical
28 disabilities program 50 years ago in 1975, creating a new kind of support for disability; and

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30 WHEREAS, Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of
31 people with disabilities, victims of crime, and survivors of trauma by providing expertly-trained
32 service dogs, facility dogs, therapy dogs, and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships, free
33 of charge; and

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35 WHEREAS, Canine Companions and their service dogs empower people with disabilities
36 to lead life with greater independence by providing best-in-class training, ongoing follow up
37 services and a deeply committed community of support; and

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39 WHEREAS, National Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the
40 benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting their handlers;

41
42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State
43 of Ohio, that:

44
45 SECTION 1

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47 The month of September 2025 is hereby declared National Service Dog Awareness Month
48 in Summit County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this
49 acknowledgement and support the National Service Dog public awareness campaign.

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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 immediately declaring September 2025 as National Service Dog Awareness Month in Summit County.

SECTION 3

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

SECTION 4

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

INTRODUCED September 8, 2025

ADOPTED September 8, 2025

Signed by:

Monique Willis

CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:

Rita J. Darrow

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED September 8, 2025

Signed by:

Steve Shapiro

EXECUTIVE

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

ENACTED EFFECTIVE September 9, 2025