

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-242**First Reading Passage Requested**
(G. Johnson)2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro4
5 DATE September 8, 2025COMMITTEE Human Services

6
7 **A Resolution declaring the month of September 2025 as Recovery Month in Summit County**
8 **and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgment, for the**
9 **Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
12 (“SAMHSA”) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sponsors Recovery
13 Month each September to increase awareness and understanding of mental health disorders and
14 substance use disorders (“SUD”), as well as celebrate those who are recovering; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Recovery Month promotes the community benefits of prevention, treatment,
17 and recovery from mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, body
18 dysmorphic disorder, dissociative disorders, and substance use disorders such as opioid use
19 disorder, cannabis use disorder, nicotine use disorder, and alcohol use disorder, etc.; and
20

21 WHEREAS, in Summit County we embrace the message that prevention, treatment, and
22 recovery are effective, achievable, and worthwhile, as well as the idea that behavioral health is
23 integral to the holistic health of individuals and communities; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Executive sought to have her Office become certified as a Recovery
26 Friendly Workplace through Summit County Public Health’s program to recognize recovery from
27 substance use disorder as a strength and to encourage a healthy and safe environment for
28 employees; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Recovery Friendly Workplace Summit County initiative is administered
31 by Summit County Public Health and is available to any organization, government agency, or
32 business in Summit County with goals to make positive changes in the workplace and eliminate
33 barriers and stigma for those impacted by addiction; and
34

35 WHEREAS, in 2024, Executive Ilene Shapiro’s Office became designated a Recovery
36 Friendly Workplace and provided recovery resources and trainings to staff with the aim of
37 reducing the stigma of addiction and encouraging individuals struggling with substance misuse to
38 seek out the help they need as preventative care; and
39

40 WHEREAS, we encourage loved ones of people struggling or recovering from mental
41 health conditions and substance use disorders to learn about potential disorders and their signs, to
42 intervene and guide loved ones when possible, and to continue to champion recovery as a lifelong
43 mission that our community believes in; and
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45 WHEREAS, substance use remains a serious problem in our community and the opioid
46 epidemic continues to cause unprecedented hardship and loss for so many residents; and
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48 WHEREAS, the Opiate Abatement Advisory Council has invested \$16.8 million to date in
49 organizations, programs, and services that stem the epidemic and support residents, including on
50 a new data platform “Unite Us” and
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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-242

PAGE TWO

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

WHEREAS, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Services ("ADM") Board continues to invest in the community to advance prevention, treatment, recovery, and serves as a hub for essential information and resources to organizations and residents; and

WHEREAS, these entities are among multiple critical partners building a County that accepts and supports people at every point on the path of recovery; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to declare the month of September 2025 as Recovery Month in Summit County and to encourage the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgment;

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

SECTION 1

The month of September 2025 is hereby declared Recovery Month in Summit County and the residents of Summit County are hereby encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

SECTION 2

The resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason of immediately declaring September 2025 as Recovery Month in Summit County prior to the commencement of the month.

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.

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2025-242
2 PAGE THREE
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5 INTRODUCED September 8, 2025
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7 ADOPTED September 8, 2025
8 Signed by:
9 Monique Willis
10
11 CLERK OF COUNCIL
12
13 APPROVED September 8, 2025
14 Signed by:
15 Steve Shapiro
16
17 EXECUTIVE
18
19 ENACTED EFFECTIVE September 9, 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