

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-305

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

DATE October 27, 2025 COMMITTEE Human Services

A Resolution declaring November 22, 2025, as National Adoption Day in Summit County, raising awareness about the need for permanent families for children in foster care, recognizing our children and the joy they bring to their adoptive families, and encouraging Summit County residents to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children by considering becoming a foster-to-adopt family, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, National Adoption Day was launched by a coalition of national partners – the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children’s Rights, and Children’s Action Network – twenty-six years ago in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Summit County Children Services (“SCCS”) has more than 800 children in custody, 175 of which are in permanent custody of the agency, and 64 of these children have no specific plan for permanency; and

WHEREAS, children in the care of SCCS become available for adoption only after reunification with their biological family is not possible due to safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, SCCS works each day to support children who have experienced great hardship, often suffering dependency, abuse, and neglect, and work to provide them with adequate care, love, and resources as they navigate the world without the certainty of a permanent home or family; and

WHEREAS, Probate Court, as the court of new beginnings, spends a significant amount of time working with adoptive families as they complete the required legal process to officially adopt their children and has finalized 82 adoptions in 2025 so far, with a total of 432 adoptions finalized during 2021 through 2024; and

WHEREAS, adoptive families provide a loving, safe, and permanent home for their children as they grow into adulthood and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Executive and this Council encourage residents to become a foster-to-adopt parent to aid in the process of ensuring all Summit County children experience a permanent, safe environment with a loving family;

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

SECTION 1

The day of November 22, 2025, is hereby declared National Adoption Day in Summit County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement by raising awareness about the need for permanent families for children in foster care, showing appreciation for foster-to-adopt families, and considering becoming a foster-to-adopt family in the future.

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4 SECTION 2

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6 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and
7 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
8 immediately declaring November 22, 2025, as National Adoption Day in Summit County.

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10 SECTION 3

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

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16 SECTION 4

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

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25 INTRODUCED October 27, 2025

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27 ADOPTED November 10, 2025

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29 Signed by:
30 Monique Willis

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32 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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34 APPROVED November 10, 2025

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36 Signed by:
37 Steve Shapiro

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39 ENACTED EFFECTIVE November 12, 2025

DocuSigned by:

Rita S. Darrow

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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