

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-061

2

3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE March 2, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the month of March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness**  
8 **Month in Summit County, recognizing people with developmental disabilities for their**  
9 **contributions to our community and their perseverance in breaking down barriers, for the**  
10 **Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

11

12 WHEREAS, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
13 celebrates March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with an annual campaign to  
14 raise awareness and increase the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of  
15 life, with the intention to highlight the barriers that inhibit people with developmental disabilities  
16 from connecting to the communities in which they live; and

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18 WHEREAS, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month officially began in  
19 1987 with a proclamation from President Ronald Reagan to help bring awareness and acceptable  
20 for people of every ability; and

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22 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize that the inclusion of people with developmental  
23 disabilities creates strong, diverse communities where all residents are welcomed and valued; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and the Summit County  
26 Developmental Disabilities Board (Summit DD) participate in Developmental Disabilities  
27 Awareness Month by hosting events and initiatives; and

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29 WHEREAS, these events include Inclusion Day on March 2, 2026, on which Summit DD  
30 celebrates by turning Summit County orange through clothes, stickers, signs, and social media  
31 posts, and Inclusion Day at the Zoo, where the Akron Zoo partners with Summit DD to offer free  
32 admission to visitors who wear orange between February 28 through March 2; and

33

34 WHEREAS, Summit DD partners with Summit Art Space to host their annual inclusive art  
35 walk in recognition of DD Awareness Month on March 12, featuring artist vendors of all abilities,  
36 creative activities, food music, demonstrating the power of using art as a medium to express  
37 oneself and the power of community partnerships strengthening our community's inclusive bond;  
38 and

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40 WHEREAS, it is beneficial to promote these events so that residents of Summit County  
41 with and without disabilities are encouraged to participate and do their part in coming together to  
42 form a strong, inclusive community; and

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44 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
45 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that March 2026 be declared  
46 Developmental Disabilities Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit  
47 County to join in this acknowledgement;

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

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4 SECTION 1

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6 The month of March 2026 is hereby declared Developmental Disabilities Awareness  
7 Month in Summit County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this  
8 acknowledgement.

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10 SECTION 2

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12 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
13 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
14 immediately declaring March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Summit  
15 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 March 2, 2026

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34 ADOPTED March 16, 2026

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36 Signed by:  
*Monique Willis*

37  
38 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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40 APPROVED March 16, 2026

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42 Signed by:  
*Steve Shapiro*

43  
44 EXECUTIVE

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46 ENACTED EFFECTIVE March 17, 2026

Signed by:  
*Erin Dickinson*

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Voice Vote – YES: 10 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson,  
Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney,  
Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite  
Absent: Donofrio