

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-062

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE March 2, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring the month of March 2026 as Women’s History Month in Summit**
8 **County, recognizing the women of America, the achievements they have made, and the**
9 **struggles they have faced and continue to face today, for the Executive, and declaring an**
10 **emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, President Carter initially proclaimed Women’s History Week as the first week
13 of March and the United States Congress later designated the week of March 7th as Women’s
14 History Week before the National Women’s History Project petitioned Congress in 1987, which
15 led to the now recognized Women’s History Month; and

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17 WHEREAS, Presidents Reagan, H. W. Bush, Clinton, W. Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden
18 have since recognized and proclaimed the month of March as Women’s History Month; and

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20 WHEREAS, Women’s History Month honors the achievements of all women throughout
21 the history of the United States, especially those accomplishments that advanced women’s rights
22 such as the right to vote and the right to own property; and

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24 WHEREAS, this year marks the 106th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th
25 Amendment, which gave women the right to vote; and

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27 WHEREAS, this year marks the 61st anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act
28 of 1965, before which Black and multiracial women were largely disenfranchised; and

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30 WHEREAS, these advancements were made possible by the millions of women who
31 mobilized under the banner of women’s suffrage and equality to amend the U.S. Constitution, to
32 pass laws extending citizenship to Native American, Asian, Latino, Black, and multiracial women,
33 to advance the equality of women in government, in employment, in culture, and in media, and to
34 transform society into a place where women of all backgrounds are accepted and valued; and

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36 WHEREAS, Sojourner Truth, an influential leader in this movement in the United States,
37 gave her speech on the rights of Black women in Akron, Ohio in 1851 at the Ohio Women’s Rights
38 Convention; and

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40 WHEREAS, finally in 2024, the Sojourner Truth Legacy Plaza and Statute were unveiled
41 near the site of her speech, enshrining her legacy as a quintessential women’s rights and abolitionist
42 activist who inspired hearts and minds in Akron and across the nation; and

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44 WHEREAS, the National Women’s History Alliance designated the theme for 2026 as
45 “Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future,” celebrates the contributions of
46 women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational and
47 social justice movements; and

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49 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon our community to reflect on the past and current struggle
50 for the equality of all women, especially women of color, while also celebrating the joy and
51 progress made throughout history; and

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4 WHEREAS, the majority of the elected Charter Offices of Summit County and all divisions
5 of the Court of Common Pleas are held by women; and

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7 WHEREAS, Executive Ilene Shapiro and Sheriff Kandy Fatheree are the first women to
8 hold their respective positions, and Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski is the first Black woman to
9 hold a Charter Office position and first Black woman to win a countywide election; and

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11 WHEREAS; on June 7, 2022, this Council seated a women majority for the first time in its
12 history; and

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14 WHEREAS, the local achievements of women in government and beyond exemplify the
15 spirit, determination, and commitment of progress that our community shares; and

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17 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
18 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that March 2026 be declared
19 Women's History Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to
20 join in this acknowledgement;

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

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25 SECTION 1

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27 The month of March 2026 is hereby declared Women's History Month in Summit County,
28 and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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30 SECTION 2

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32 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
33 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
34 immediately declaring March 2026 as Women's History Month in Summit County.

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36 SECTION 3

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

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42 SECTION 4

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

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5 INTRODUCED March 2, 2026

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7 ADOPTED March 16, 2026

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Signed by:
Monique Willis
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by:
Erin Dickinson
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED March 16, 2026

Signed by:
Gene Stepien
EXECUTIVE

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

EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE March 17, 2026