

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-100

2

3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE March 30, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the month of April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit**  
8 **County, recognizing all individuals in our community on the Autism spectrum and**  
9 **celebrating the numerous ways in which they contribute to our communities and our**  
10 **lives, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

11

12 WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month has been recognized by advocates for decades and  
13 April 2<sup>nd</sup> was declared Autism Awareness Day for the first time by the United Nations in  
14 2008; and

15

16 WHEREAS, in recent years, autistic people, their families, their friends, and allies have  
17 moved toward observing Autism Acceptance Month rather than Autism Awareness Month to  
18 decrease the stigma by emphasizing belonging and inclusion; and

19

20 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are an  
21 estimated 5.5 million adults in the United States with Autism Spectrum Disorder (“ASD”) in  
22 addition to 1 in 31 children, affecting boys 3.5 times more than girls, which includes our family  
23 members, friends, classmates, colleagues, and neighbors; and

24

25 WHEREAS, the Autism community encompasses a wide range of people with ASD who  
26 have varying abilities and needs, and a diverse array of identities, personalities, perspectives, skills,  
27 talents, and accomplishments; and

28

29 WHEREAS, people with ASD serve across our community as teachers, chefs, truckers,  
30 artists, gardeners, technicians, writers, caregivers, nurses, construction workers, scientists and so  
31 much more; and

32

33 WHEREAS, people with ASD are able to achieve purposeful lives when afforded the  
34 opportunities and support systems that each and every person deserves, acceptance being key to  
35 overcoming barriers and achieving success and a sense of belonging; and

36

37 WHEREAS, local organizations like the Autism Society of Greater Akron and national  
38 organizations like the Autistic Self Advocacy Network provide information and support to  
39 both Autistic people and their loved ones as they learn and grow together; and

40

41 WHEREAS, the Autism Society of Greater Akron has been providing support to Summit,  
42 Medina, Portage, Wayne, and Stark Counties since 1987 and will recognize Autism Acceptance  
43 Month in April 2026; and

44

45 WHEREAS, some of the Autism Society of Greater Akron’s services and offerings include  
46 Caregiver Support Group, a free Helpline to problem-solve and connect people to appropriate  
47 resources, support for adults, children, and teens who are newly diagnosed, resources regarding  
48 safety, various trainings, social clubs, and community events; and

49

50

51

52

3

4 WHEREAS, the Autism Society of Greater Akron is participating in the Aging and  
5 Disability Vaccine Collaborative Vaccine Education Initiative, a public health model to increase  
6 vaccine confidence, education, and access for the Autism & Developmental Disability community;  
7 partnering with Akron Children’s Hospital NeuroDevelopmental Science Center to train nurses in  
8 adapted vaccination techniques for children with Autism to help manage needle anxiety and needle  
9 pain with vaccine support kits and inclusive environments; and

10

11 WHEREAS, Summit County understands the importance of cultivating acceptance to  
12 achieve equity in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, and is committed to enacting  
13 policies that advance the rights and needs of the Autism community;

14

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

17

18 SECTION 1

19

20 The month of April 2026 is hereby declared as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit  
21 County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

22

23 SECTION 2

24

25 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
26 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose  
27 of immediately declaring April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit County.

28

29 SECTION 3

30

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

34

35 SECTION 4

36

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

42

43

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-100

2 PAGE THREE

3

4 INTRODUCED March 30, 2026

5

6 ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

7

8

9

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

11

12 APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

13

14

15

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
EXECUTIVE

17

18 ENACTED EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_