

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-138

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE April 27, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in**
8 **Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this**
9 **acknowledgement, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month, observed since 1949, has served as a
12 vehicle for increasing awareness, education, and advocacy around the mental health of residents
13 by providing a time to learn about and discuss mental health; and

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15 WHEREAS, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Mental Health conducted
16 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 23.1% of adults
17 in the United States experienced a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression in 2022;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, according to the National Health Interview Survey by the National Center for
21 Health Statistics, 21.2% of adolescents ages 12-17 reported symptoms of anxiety and 17.4%
22 reported symptoms of depression in 2022, with a dramatic increase in these figures among girls
23 and LGBTQ+ teens; and

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25 WHEREAS, roughly 49,000 people die by suicide in the United States every year, with
26 suicide rates highest among men and Native Americans; and

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28 WHEREAS, the age-adjusted suicide rates in Summit County have been higher than the
29 national average every year since 2013, with 89% of people who have died by suicide being white,
30 and 79% being men, in Summit County between 2007-2021; and

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32 WHEREAS, raising awareness about mental illness, treatment, mental health services, and
33 specifically risk factors and protective factors of suicide, is crucial to the health and welling being
34 of adults and adolescents in Summit County; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (“ADM”) Board
37 service our community by funding, supporting, and assisting organizations that support the mental
38 health and wellbeing of residents; and

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40 WHEREAS, the ADM Board offers a 24/7 crisis hotline at 330-434-9144 in addition to the
41 new, national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline available to all residents by dialing 9-8-8; and

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43 WHEREAS, in 2024, the Summit Emergency Communications Center began the process
44 of Emergency Medical Dispatch call taking, where dispatchers triage calls meeting criteria of
45 experiencing certain mental health crises, such as suicidal ideation or non-suicidal callers with a
46 history of mental health conditions, and route those calls directly to Summit County’s 988
47 provider, Portage Path Behavioral Health; and

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49 WHEREAS, this process gives callers a better path to mental health care than a uniformed
50 responder like police or EMS arriving at the scene, keeps first responders available for other
51 emergencies, and helps callers receive appropriate care, such as follow-up care with a licensed
52 clinician rather than hospital care where they are likely to incur significant medical expenses; and

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-138

2 PAGE TWO

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4 WHEREAS, in 2023, the Executive's Department of Human Resources hosted a Mental
5 Health First Aid (MHFA) training with instructors from Love Akron and Red Oak Behavioral
6 Health for dozens of county employees, and continues to lead by example by investing in support
7 for the mental health of employees and residents; and

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9 WHEREAS, residents are encouraged to uplift loved ones and neighbors facing challenges
10 to their mental health and help reduce and eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness; and

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12 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
13 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that May 2026 be declared
14 Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit
15 County to join in this acknowledgement;

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

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20 SECTION 1

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22 The month of May 2026 is hereby declared Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit
23 County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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25 SECTION 2

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27 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
28 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
29 immediately declaring May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County to
30 encourage prompt and widespread dialogue about mental health during the month of May.

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32 SECTION 3

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

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38 SECTION 4

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

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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-138

2 PAGE THREE

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5 INTRODUCED April 27, 2026

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7 ADOPTED May 11, 2026

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Signed by:

Monique Willis

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by:

Erin Dickinson

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED May 11, 2026

Sean Shapiro

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

ENACTED EFFECTIVE May 12, 2026