

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-139

2

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 Foster Care Month in the County of**  
8 **Summit and encouraging residents to join in this acknowledgement and consider the**  
9 **importance of foster care in their community, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, since 1988, Foster Care Month has been recognized by the U.S. Department  
12 of Health and Human Services Children’s Bureau in order to raise awareness, support children in  
13 foster care, and show appreciation for foster families; and

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15 WHEREAS, the theme of Foster Care Month this year is “Centered on Family,  
16 Strengthened by Connections” which focuses on highlighting the connections foster families bring  
17 to children in greatest need of stability and love, celebrating the amazing foster families currently  
18 engaged, and shedding light on the need for more foster families; and

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20 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 children and youth in foster  
21 care, including nearly 800 children and youth in the care of Summit County Children Services  
22 (“SCCS”); and

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24 WHEREAS, SCCS works hard to support these children and place them with foster  
25 families when they cannot safely be with their own family; and

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27 WHEREAS, SCCS hosts regular Virtual Foster Care Information Meetings to connect  
28 interested foster parents with information on the agency and explain the step-by-step process of  
29 how to become a certified foster-to-adopt parent; and

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31 WHEREAS, there are 118 families who provide foster care for SCCS, that deserve our  
32 appreciation to their commitment and care for children and youth; and

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34 WHEREAS, while these families have stepped up, there is a need for more foster families,  
35 as the current number is not enough to support the children under the care of SCCS who prioritizes  
36 keeping children in their own neighborhood and schools when possible; over half of the children  
37 in agency custody are placed outside of Summit County; and

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39 WHEREAS, foster parents are a vital part of the SCCS team that helps to provide services  
40 to children and families; and

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42 WHEREAS, foster parents provide a loving, safe and nurturing home for children as long  
43 as they are placed in their care; and

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45 WHEREAS, foster parents work with biological families to help them in their efforts with  
46 reunification; and they work with SCCS to meet the child’s needs and support the birth family;

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

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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-139

2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 The month of May 2026 is hereby declared Foster Care Month in Summit County, and the  
7 residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement by raising awareness  
8 about foster care, support children in foster care, showing appreciation toward foster families, and  
9 considering fostering children in the future

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11 SECTION 2

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13 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
14 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
15 immediately declaring May 2026 as Foster Care Month in Summit 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 April 27, 2026

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34 ADOPTED May 11, 2026

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36 Signed by:  
37 Monique Willis  
38 CLERK OF COUNCIL

39

40 APPROVED May 11, 2026

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42 Signed by:  
43 Gene Shapiro  
44 EXECUTIVE

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46 ENACTED EFFECTIVE May 12, 2026

Signed by:  
Erin Dickinson  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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