

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-140

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE April 27, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2026 as Older Americans Month in Summit**  
8 **County, recognizing the contributions of older adults in Summit County and encouraging**  
9 **residents and professionals to participate in the Age-Friendly Akron-Summit initiative and**  
10 **the 2026 Senior Summit Conference and Expo, for the Executive, and declaring an**  
11 **emergency.**

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13 WHEREAS, residents are living longer and healthier lives and by 2030, older adults are  
14 expected to account for over 30% of the population of Summit County; and

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16 WHEREAS, older residents are active, adaptable, and vibrant members of the community  
17 that may need additional considerations in recreation, transportation, housing, healthcare, civic  
18 life, and communication to live full and joyful lives; and

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20 WHEREAS, our community supports older adults by promoting inclusion, independence,  
21 and innovation through ongoing awareness and education efforts; and

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23 WHEREAS, Summit County was designated an Age-Friendly Community in 2019 by  
24 AARP and finalized the Summit County Age-Friendly Strategic Plan in 2022; and

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26 WHEREAS, the strategic plan aligned closely with the City of Akron's Age-Friendly  
27 Strategic Plan, leading to the merger of the initiatives in the summer of 2023; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Age-Friendly Akron-Summit initiative continues the work of both  
30 strategic plans through a coalition that includes local governments, agencies, non-profits,  
31 businesses, and residents; and

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33 WHEREAS, alongside Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging &  
34 Disabilities, the County and City of Akron have worked diligently to support Age-Friendly  
35 awareness and programming, including the new Age-Friendly Accreditation by the Better  
36 Business Bureau of Akron unveiled in May 2023 at the Akron Zoo with the support of VANTAGE  
37 Aging; and

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39 WHEREAS, as of April 2026, there are 25 local businesses that have gone through the  
40 process of becoming accredited as Age-Friendly Businesses through the Better Business Bureau  
41 of Akron, meeting certain criteria designed to provide quality and accessible services to older  
42 adults involving a business's physical environment, marketing materials, staff and personnel, and  
43 overall customer experience; and

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45 WHEREAS, businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply for Age-Friendly  
46 Accreditation and eligible residents are encouraged to apply for support from the Aging In Place  
47 Program; and

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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-140

2 PAGE TWO

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4 WHEREAS, professionals are encouraged to register for the 2026 Senior Summit  
5 Conference, an informative and educational event providing social workers, registered nurses,  
6 those in the legal profession, those who work with older adults, and more, with continuing  
7 education credits (CEUs and CLEs) with a seminar focused on a variety of topics relating to older  
8 adults; and

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10 WHEREAS, seniors are encouraged to attend the 2026 Senior Summit Expo, held  
11 biannually, for activities, entertainment, seminars, and receive resources and information from  
12 providers in healthcare, government, cultural institutions, and services agencies who work with  
13 and for seniors throughout Summit County—all under one roof; and

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15 WHEREAS, these initiatives and more are part of ongoing work to make Summit County  
16 an even better place to live, work, and play, as well as age, retire, and thrive for years to come;

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

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21 SECTION 1

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23 The month of May 2026 is hereby declared Older Americans Month in Summit County,  
24 and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement of older adults  
25 and the people who support them as essential members of our community and to participate in  
26 both the Age-Friendly Akron-Summit initiative and the 2026 Senior Summit.

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28 SECTION 2

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30 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
31 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
32 immediately declaring May 2026 as Older Americans Month in Summit County.

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34 SECTION 3

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

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40 SECTION 4

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

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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-140

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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9 Signed by: Monique Willis

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11 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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13 APPROVED May 11, 2026

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15 Signed by: Steve Shapiro

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17 EXECUTIVE

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19 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