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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-204

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

DATE August 3, 2026 COMMITTEE Planning

A Resolution authorizing the Executive to execute a Grant Agreement with the Downtown Akron Development Corporation, in an amount not to exceed $700,000.00, to provide funding to support downtown economic development services and the Knight Creative Project, over a three-year term, for the Executive's Department of Community and Economic Development, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Downtown Akron Development Corporation (the "DADC") is an Ohio nonprofit corporation dedicated to the development, maintenance, and improvement of the Downtown Akron District as a viable business, residential, cultural, and recreational community; and

WHEREAS, the County has previously provided grants of $50,000.00 annually to the DADC to support economic development services in 2025 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, this Grant will provide an additional $100,000.00 to support downtown economic development services, to be paid in two installments of $50,000.00 each, in 2027 and 2028, bringing the County's total investment in downtown economic development to $200,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the DADC is a partner in the Knight Creative Project, a joint initiative between the Knight Foundation, the County, the DADC, the City of Akron, ArtsNow, and the University of Akron, expected to receive funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in an amount of $15,500,000.00 as part of the total project cost of $31,000,000.00; and

WHEREAS, this Grant will provide contributions totaling $600,000.00 over the three-year term, in an amount of $200,000.00 per year as a local match contribution to the Knight Creative Project; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to support downtown economic development initiatives and the Knight Creative Project as part of the revitalization of Main Street in the City of Akron and to support the economic success of the entire region; and

WHEREAS, the Executive's Department of Finance and Budget reserved funds in 2023 to cover the cost of this grant and has included it in the County's Capital Improvement program since that tine; and

WHEREAS, the Executive and Council wish to provide grant funding in a total amount not to exceed $700,000.00, of which $200,000.00 will be paid upon execution of this grant agreement and installments of $250,000.00 will be paid in 2027 and 2028; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information that the aforementioned Grant Agreement is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit;

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

SECTION 1

The Executive is hereby authorized to execute the Grant Agreement with the Downtown Akron Development Corporation, in a total amount not to exceed $700,000.00, to be paid over a three-year period, and any other necessary related documents.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately support the Knight Creative Project and downtown Akron revitalization efforts.

SECTION 3

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

SECTION 4

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

INTRODUCED August 3, 2026

ADOPTED August 17, 2026

Signed by: Monique Willis
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by: Erin Dickinson
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED August 17, 2026

Signed by:
EXECUTIVE

Voice Vote – YES: 10 – 0 –1: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite
Abstain: Licate

ENACTED EFFECTIVE August 18, 2026