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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-211

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Ms. Walters, Council as a Whole

DATE August 3, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

A Resolution declaring the day of August 22, 2026 as Summit County Pride Day, encouraging residents to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community and the Akron Pride Festival and Equity March, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community has seen significant progress in advancing equality and equity for people of all sexualities and genders, including accomplishments like the decriminalization of LGBTQ+ identities, protections against discrimination on the basis of sexuality in the workplace, and the landmark ruling on marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community continues to see barriers old and new to achieving full equality, equity, and acceptance in society, especially in relation to the rights of trans and non-binary people to participate fully in public life; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately more likely to experience anxiety and depression than their heterosexual counterparts, and Black, Latino, and indigenous LGBTQ+ people face multi-faceted forms of discrimination that continue to make housing, employment, and services more difficult to attain; and

WHEREAS, pride is a tradition forged in solidarity, liberation, and celebration where LGBTQ+ people and their allies join in protest and performance to reject the status quo and grow their vision for a more just, more equal society; and

WHEREAS, the Akron Pride Festival is an annual celebration observed in August to unify and affirm the LGBTQ+ people and allies to advance diversity, equality, and acceptance in the community; and

WHEREAS, numerous residents, organizations, and businesses donate their time, talent, and financial support to ensure the Akron Pride Festival is a success; and

WHEREAS, the County of Summit is committed to fostering a community where all residents and all families are safe and accepted so that they may thrive; and

WHEREAS, the County of Summit is proud to support the annual Akron Pride Festival, which attracts people from around the region to celebrate and enjoy the march, shows, vendors, and more; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that August 22, 2026, be declared Summit County Pride Day, encouraging residents to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community and the Akron Pride Festival and Equity March;

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

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SECTION 1

August 22, 2026 is hereby declared Summit County Pride Day in Summit County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of immediately declaring August 22, 2026, as Summit County Pride Day in Summit County.

SECTION 3

Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) 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: 11 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

ENACTED EFFECTIVE August 18, 2026