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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-261

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

DATE September 21, 2026 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

A Resolution declaring October 5, 2026 as North American First People's Day in Summit County, honoring the history and culture of Native Americans, acknowledging the efforts to preserve this history in the United States, in the State of Ohio, and in Summit County, and encouraging residents to join in the acknowledgement, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the land on which Summit County was established was first inhabited ten thousand years ago by ancestors of the indigenous First Nations; and

WHEREAS, some Seneca, Cayuga, and Lenape (Delaware) peoples, displaced by colonial settlements, relocated from what is now the eastern United States to Northeast Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca and Cayuga (Mingo) and Lenape (Delaware) peoples were further displaced with the passing of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which uprooted indigenous people and forcibly moved them west to what is now Kansas and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 and 2017, in an effort to reconnect with the history of this land, The Lippman School forged a relationship with the Northern Cheyenne of Montana and, together, the tribe, the school, and the community walked the ancient trail known as the Portage Path; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 and 2019, students at The Lippman School partook in a problem-based learning challenge to unite the community around this historic site and to honor the first people who walked the Portage Path, and presented their solution, North American First People's Day; and

WHEREAS, Summit County Council then passed Resolution No. 2019-161, declaring the first Monday of each October as North American First People's Day, encouraging residents to learn about and appreciate the first stewards of this land and to recognize the atrocities endured by indigenous peoples of the past and present, as well as how these atrocities affect their descendants; and

WHEREAS, North American First People's Day moves our community toward a future of understanding and healing, where we value the brilliance and bravery of the First Nations and build relationships with indigenous communities, such as the Northern Cheyenne of Montana; and

WHEREAS, residents can participate in events such as Summit County Metro Parks' Portage Path Walk led by Northern Cheyenne nation members, archaeologist led "History of Portage Path" walk, Native Film Screening at the Akron Art Museum, and other community events throughout the week; and

WHEREAS, residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in celebrating North American First People's Day and raise awareness and appreciation for indigenous people in our community and beyond;

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

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SECTION 1

That this Council hereby expresses its respect and honor for the history, culture, and contributions of Native Americans by recognizing North American First People's Day in Summit County on October 5, 2026, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in the 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 October 5, 2026 as North American First People's 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 September 21, 2026

ADOPTED October 5, 2026

Signed by: Monique Willis
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by: Erin Dickinson
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED October 5, 2026

for
EXECUTIVE

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

ENACTED EFFECTIVE October 6, 2026