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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-262 **First Reading Passage Requested (E. Dickinson)**

SPONSORS Ms. Dickinson, Mr. Ford, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Wilhite, Mrs. Darrow, Mr. Donofrio, Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

DATE September 28, 2026 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

A Resolution reaffirming the commitment of the County of Summit to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the protection of freedom of speech, freedom of the press and expression, for County Council and Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that government shall not abridge the freedom of speech or of the press, among other fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, freedom of speech is a fundamental constitutional protection that permits individuals to express opinions, ideas, criticism and other forms of expression without government suppression based solely upon the content or viewpoint of such expression; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to express differing opinions and viewpoints is an essential component of a free and democratic society and supports open public discussion and civic participation; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment protects speech and expression that may be unpopular, controversial, critical of government or otherwise disagreeable to some members of the community, subject to limitations recognized by the Constitution and applicable law; and

WHEREAS, public officials and governmental institutions have an important responsibility to respect constitutional rights and to maintain an environment in which residents may participate in public discourse without fear of government retaliation for constitutionally protected expression; and

WHEREAS, the protection of freedom of speech extends to individuals regardless of their political, social, religious, philosophical or other viewpoints, and the government has an obligation to administer its laws and policies consistent with applicable constitutional protections; and

WHEREAS, the exchange of ideas, public criticism, debate and peaceful expression contribute to an informed citizenry and are important components of representative government; and

WHEREAS, reaffirming the principles embodied in the First Amendment demonstrates the County of Summit's commitment to constitutional government, individual liberty, open public discourse and the right of residents to participate in civic life through lawful expression; and

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

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SECTION 1

This Council and Executive reaffirm its commitment to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and to protecting the freedom of speech, freedom of the press and expression of the residents of the County of Summit, consistent with the Constitution and applicable federal and state law.

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.

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 County 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 28, 2026

ADOPTED September 28, 2026

Signed by: Monique Willis
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CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by: Erin Dickinson
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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED September 28, 2026

Signed by:
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EXECUTIVE

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

ENACTED EFFECTIVE September 29, 2026