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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-277

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro , Mrs. McKenney, Council as a Whole

DATE October 5, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

A Resolution declaring the month of October 2026 as Safe Sleep and SIDS Awareness Month, highlighting the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome ("SIDS") among infants, the importance of safe sleep practices in reducing SIDS, and uplifting families with newborns, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome ("SIDS") is defined as the sudden and unexpected death of an infant due to natural or unnatural causes where all other possible causes of sudden unexplained death have been ruled out, and is the leading cause of death among infants between 1 month and 1 year old; and

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths ("SUID") is defined as a broader category of unexplained deaths that lack the investigatory rigor of SIDS but still include unexpected, unexplained deaths among infants; and

WHEREAS, SUID account for an estimated 3,400 infant deaths each year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and though rates have declined since the 1990s, significant racial and ethnic disparities persist; and

WHEREAS, safe sleep practices, including always placing babies on their backs, removing all toys, pillows, blankets, and bumpers, prioritizing sleep in a crib, and using a pacifier at nap or bedtime, can all help prevent SIDS and other health risks; and

WHEREAS, educating parents and families in Summit County is crucial to preventing SIDS and other health risks; and Full Term First Birthday is a collective impact collaborative advocating for policies, educating our community, and informing our Greater Akron residents about programs that promote healthy, full-term pregnancies and ensure every child celebrates a first birthday; and

WHEREAS, through the use of data-driven initiatives, evidence/community-based practices and community voice, the Full Term First Birthday collaborative is dedicated to increasing awareness and the elimination of unsafe sleep in Summit County; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health is promoting the #ClearTheCrib Challenge, an awareness campaign to educate families about the importance of a safe sleeping environment which includes placing babies on their backs, in a crib and with no objects in the sleep area; and

WHEREAS, infant health is of major importance to the overall health and wellbeing of families in Summit County; 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 October 2026 be declared Safe Sleep and SIDS Awareness Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgement;

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

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SECTION 1

The month of October 2026 is hereby declared Safe Sleep and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (“SIDS”) Awareness Month 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 of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately declare October 2026 as Safe Sleep and SIDS Awareness Month in Summit County.

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 October 5, 2026

ADOPTED October 26, 2026

Signed by: Monique Willis
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CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by: Erin Dickinson
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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED October 26, 2026

Signed by:
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EXECUTIVE

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

ENACTED EFFECTIVE October 27, 2026