

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-117

First Reading Passage Requested

J. Dodson

SPONSOR Mr. Pry and Council of the Whole

DATE March 30, 2009

COMMITTEE Rules

A Resolution declaring the month of April 2009 as Autism Awareness Month in Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit County to participate in the Take Me Home Program and any events and programs offered by the communities, libraries, schools and governments of the County that promote autism awareness, for the Prosecutor, Sheriff and Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, learning and behavioral skills of those affected by it, and;

WHEREAS, across America, more than one million Americans have been diagnosed with autism and more cases of autism are being diagnosed annually at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Ohio, the identified incidents of autism have risen over 23,000% over the past 11 years; and

WHEREAS, at all levels of government, as set forth below, actions are being taken to address autism and its effects; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama is proposing to increase federal funding for the research, treatment, screenings, public awareness and support services for autism to \$1 billion annually by the end of his first term; and

WHEREAS, the State legislature is currently considering House Bill 8, which would require insurance providers to cover the treatment of autism in any individual, corporate or group health insurance policy; and

WHEREAS, locally, in 2007, Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh and Sheriff Drew Alexander began the Take Me Home Program which registers in a County database individuals who are unable to communicate vital information such as their name and address to law enforcement personnel in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, through the Take Me Home Program, law enforcement personnel from participating departments throughout Summit County are able to access said database to identify an individual and provide the necessary assistance to contact that person's family; and

WHEREAS, several national and international organizations have declared April to be Autism Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of promoting the Take Me Home Program and to promote activities and programs among Summit County's communities, libraries, schools and governments, this Council desires to declare the month of April 2009 as Autism Awareness Month in Summit County.

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 April 2009 is hereby declared Autism Awareness Month in Summit County and the residents of the County are hereby encouraged to participate in the Take Me Home Program if a member of their family is unable to communicate vital information such as their name and address to law enforcement personnel. Further, all residents of the County are encouraged to participate in any events and programs offered by the communities, libraries, schools and governments of the County that promote autism awareness.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of immediately declaring April 2009 as Autism Awareness Month in Summit County prior to the commencement of said month.

SECTION 3

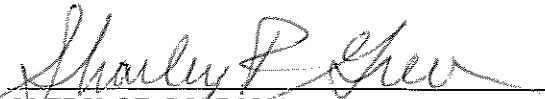
Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest possible time provided by law.

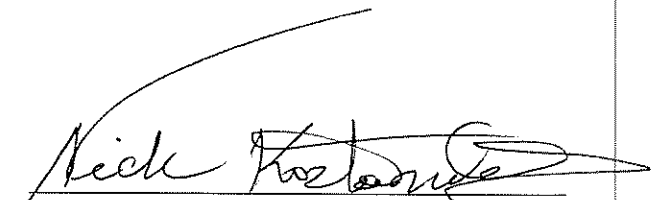
SECTION 4

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 March 30, 2009

ADOPTED March 30, 2009


CLERK OF COUNCIL


PRESIDENT

APPROVED March 30, 2009


EXECUTIVE

March 30, 2009
ENACTED EFFECTIVE

Voice Vote: 10-0 YES: Crossland, Schmidt, Comunale, Poda, Prentice
Smith, Crawford, Feeman, Rodgers, Kostandaras ABSENT: Shapiro