RESOLUTION NO. 2014-314

SPONSOR Mr. Pry, Ms. Kurt, Mr. Comunale, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Feeman, Mr. Kostandaras, Ms. Lee, Ms. Shapiro, Mr. Schmidt, Mrs. Prentice

DATE June 30, 2014 COMMITTEE Planning

A Resolution expressing support for Gay Games 9 to be held from August 9 to 16, 2014 in Akron and Cleveland, and encouraging the citizens of Summit County to join in this expression of support, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Gay Games were conceived in 1980 by Dr. Tom Wadell in order to build a legacy of cultural, social, and political change for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community; and

WHEREAS, the Gay Games have continued to create an athletic environment open to all people regardless of age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, or athletic ability, thus being consistent with the policies and Codified Ordinances of the County of Summit, which has already extended non-discrimination protection based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and has provided bereavement leave, sick leave and healthcare benefits for domestic partners; and

WHEREAS, several sporting events will be taking place within the boundaries of Summit County, including softball, golf, a marathon, the rodeo, track and field, soccer, and martial arts; and

WHEREAS, the total economic impact of the Gay Games is estimated to total over $40 million for the Northeast Ohio region, which in turn benefits local business, both large and small, and County and local governments that rely on much needed tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Gay Games are an internationally renowned set of sporting events that are predicted to draw 11,000 participants from across the world to Northeast Ohio who will be staying in hotels, eating at restaurants, utilizing local amenities, and positively benefiting both small and large business in Summit County; and

WHEREAS, the Gay Games continue to provide a positive impact upon the community even after the Games have ended through a developed Sustainability Plan that targets economic improvement, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship as the key factors of success; and

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes the dignity of all individuals, and encourages events such as Gay Games 9 that recognize the value, contributions and equality of all people, regardless of what they look like or who they love; 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 to express support for the Ninth Gay Games to be held in Cleveland/Akron in 2014 and to encourage the citizens of Summit County to join in this expression of support for the dignity of all citizens of the County.

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

SECTION 1

This Council expresses its support for Gay Games 9 to be held from August 9 to 16, 2014 in Akron and Cleveland, and encourages the citizens of Summit County to join in this expression of support.

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 reason of immediately expressing support for the Ninth Gay Games to be held in Cleveland/Akron in 2014 before the Games begin in August.

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 June 16, 2014

ADOPTED June 30, 2014

CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED July 1, 2014

EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE July 1, 2014

Voice Vote 9-1 YES: Comunale, Crawford, Feeman, Kostandaras Kurt, Lee, Roemer, Schmidt, Shapiro
NO: Rodgers
ABSENT: Prentice