RESOLUTION NO. _______ 2014-451  

First Reading Passage Requested  
(J. Feeman)

SPONSORS  
Mr. Feeman, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Pry, Mr. Kostandaras, Mrs. Prentice, Mr. Roemer  
Ms. Shapiro and Council of the Whole

DATE  
October 6, 2014

COMMITTEE  
Public Safety

A Resolution expressing support for, and urging the Ohio General Assembly to pass House Bill 594 to ban the sale of powdered alcohol, encouraging local retailers not to carry the product, for the Council and Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, in spring of 2014, Arizona-based company Lipsmark, LLC announced that it would be marketing powdered alcohol under the name “Palcohol”; and

WHEREAS, a package of Palcohol weighs only an ounce, can fit into a pocket, and can be mixed with liquids, sprinkled into food, or even snorted, which increases the risk of abuse, binge consumption, and concealment; and

WHEREAS, powdered alcohol poses a particular risk for those who may be attracted to this easily portable, easily hidden form of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, underage drinking is a significant problem that threatens the health and safety of our youth, contributes to crime and impacts the entire community; and

WHEREAS, powdered alcohol is perhaps the most dangerous alcohol product introduced since alcoholic energy drinks, such as Four Loko, which were banned by the Food and Drug Administration in 2010; however, the Food and Drug Administration has refused to exercise its authority to order an investigation into the health risks of powdered alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Palcohol is being considered by the U.S. Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau for labeling approval as early as Fall 2014; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 594, which is currently pending in the Ohio House of Representatives, would ban the sale of powdered alcohol for human consumption in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the public health risks and potential for abuse created by powdered alcohol for outweigh any value it may have in the marketplace, and immediate action is necessary to prevent powdered alcohol from reaching the market.

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

SECTION 1

That Council hereby urges the Ohio General Assembly to pass house Bill 594 to ban the sale of powdered alcohol, and encourages local retailers not to carry the product.

SECTION 2

That the Clerk of Council be, and is here by authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Ohio General Assembly.
SECTION 3

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 House Bill 594.

SECTION 4

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 5

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 6, 2014

ADOPTED October 6, 2014

CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED October 7, 2014

EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE October 7, 2014

Voice Vote: 11-0 YES: Comunale, Crawford, Feeman, Kostandaras Kurt, Lee, Prentice, Rodgers, Roemer, Schmidt, Shapiro