

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-126

**First Reading Passage Requested**  
**(B. Nelsen)**

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3  
4 SPONSORS Ms. Shapiro, Mr. Schmidt and Council of the Whole

5  
6 DATE May 11, 2020 COMMITTEE: Planning

7  
8 **A Resolution authorizing the County Executive to execute a grant agreement with the**  
9 **Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce in an amount not to exceed \$5,400,000.00 to be used**  
10 **to fund grants to Summit County small businesses through the Summit County COVID-19**  
11 **Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program and other assistance to Summit County**  
12 **small businesses necessary as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and declaring such**  
13 **expenditure necessary due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus**  
14 **Disease 2019 (COVID-19), for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-094, this Council created the Summit  
16 County COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program (the "Program") to provide  
17 grants of up to \$5,000 to Summit County small businesses who have been adversely affected by  
18 the COVID-19 pandemic to pay for ordinary and necessary business expenses; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the County partnered with the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce (the  
21 "Chamber") to manage the Program on behalf of the County pursuant to certain Program  
22 Guidelines that were also adopted pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-094; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, as authorized by this Council in Resolution No. 2020-094, the County  
25 further entered into a grant agreement with the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce in an  
26 amount not to exceed \$530,000.00 to paid from the County General Fund, and a Community  
27 Development Block Grant contract in an amount not to exceed \$220,000.00, for a total amount  
28 of \$750,000.00, with \$730,000.00 for distribution to Summit County small businesses and  
29 \$20,000.00 to pay the costs of the Chamber in administering the Program; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, local communities, non-profit organizations and private persons contributed  
32 an additional \$816,000.00 to the Program, thus allowing a total of \$1,546,000.00 to be  
33 distributed to Summit County small businesses through the Program; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, despite the success of the Program in efficiently distributing \$1,546,000.00  
36 to Summit County small businesses, the devastating economic effects of the COVID-19  
37 pandemic have far outpaced the amount of money previously distributed and several Summit  
38 County small businesses that applied and were otherwise eligible were not able to receive grant  
39 funds through the Program; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, in addition to those small businesses that applied and were otherwise  
42 eligible to receive funds that did not receive funds due to the limited amount of funding  
43 available, other small businesses in Summit County may be able to utilize grant funds through  
44 the Program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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4 WHEREAS, due to the limited availability of funds and the need to benefit businesses  
5 with a higher number of employees, the Program eligibility criteria previously limited eligible  
6 businesses to those with between three and twenty-five employees, thereby excluding businesses  
7 with less than three employees, despite the fact that those businesses make up a sizable portion  
8 of all small businesses in Summit County and are also severely impacted by the COVID-19  
9 pandemic; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the County has received funds through section 5001 of the federal  
12 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”); and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the federal Department of the Treasury has issued certain guidance and  
15 frequently-asked-questions stating that grants to small businesses to provide financial relief as a  
16 result of the COVID-19 pandemic are permissible uses of the funds the County received under  
17 section 5001 of the CARES Act; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the County Executive desires to execute a grant agreement with the  
20 Chamber in an amount not to exceed \$5,400,000.00, of which \$5,000,000.00 will be used for  
21 additional grants to Summit County small businesses through the Program, \$300,000.00 will be  
22 used to provide other assistance to Summit County small businesses necessary as a result of the  
23 COVID-19 pandemic, and \$100,000.00 will be used to administer the use and distribution of the  
24 grant funds. A copy of the grant agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted in Resolution No. 2020-094, the County  
27 Executive has modified the Program’s guidelines to allow the funds granted to the Chamber to  
28 be used to provide additional funding to (i) small businesses that applied and were otherwise  
29 eligible but did not receive funding, (ii) additional small businesses that did not initially apply for  
30 grant funds, and (iii) small businesses with less than three employees. A copy of the Program’s  
31 modified guidelines are attached hereto as Exhibit B; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
34 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to authorize the County  
35 Executive to execute the aforementioned grant agreement with the Chamber to provide  
36 additional grants to Summit County Small Businesses; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, this Council further finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent  
39 information, that the expenditure of \$5,000,000.00 under the aforementioned grant agreement  
40 with the Chamber is necessary due to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19  
41 pandemic, and is being done in compliance with the provisions of section 5001 of the federal  
42 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

43  
44 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State  
45 of Ohio, that:

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4 SECTION 1

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6 This Council hereby authorizes the County Executive to execute a grant agreement with  
7 the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) in an amount not to exceed  
8 \$5,400,000.00 to be paid from funds received from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and  
9 Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), of which \$5,000,000.00 will be used for additional  
10 grants to Summit County small businesses through the Summit County COVID-19 Small  
11 Business Emergency Relief Grant Program (the “Program”), \$300,000.00 will be used to provide  
12 other assistance to Summit County small businesses necessary as a result of the COVID-19  
13 pandemic, and \$100,000.00 will be used to administer the use and distribution of the grant funds.  
14 A copy of the grant agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.

15  
16 SECTION 2

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18 This Council finds and declares that the expenditure of \$5,400,000.00 under the  
19 aforementioned grant agreement with the Chamber is necessary due to the public health  
20 emergency with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is being done in compliance with the  
21 provisions of section 5001 of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

22  
23 SECTION 3

24  
25 This Resolution is declared to be an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and  
26 welfare of the residents of the County of Summit and for the further reason to immediately  
27 authorize the County’s financial assistance to Summit County small businesses who have been  
28 adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic so that the same can be commenced and completed  
29 as expeditiously as possible.

30  
31 SECTION 4

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

36  
37 SECTION 5

38  
39 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to  
40 the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all  
41 deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in  
42 meetings open to the public, in compliance with legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the  
43 Ohio Revised Code.

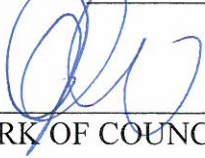
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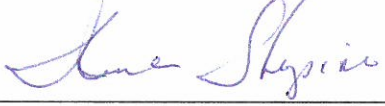
INTRODUCED May 11, 2020

ADOPTED May 11, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED May 12, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EXECUTIVE

May 12, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ENACTED EFFECTIVE

Voice Vote YES: 11-0 Dickinson, Donofrio, Feeman, Koehler, McKenney, Prentice, Rodgers, Schmidt, Sims, Walters, Wilhite