

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-226

First Reading Passage Requested
(V. Sims)

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3

4 SPONSOR Ms. Sims, Mr. Wilhite, Ms. Walters, Ms. Shapiro

5

6 DATE _____

COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

7

8 **A Resolution honoring the life and work of Congressman John Robert Lewis, a Civil**
9 **Rights Icon and 17 term member of the United States House of Representatives**
10 **for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death on July 18, 2020.**

11

12 WHEREAS, Congressman Lewis was one of the "Big Six" leaders of groups who
13 organized the 1963 March on Washington. He fulfilled many key roles in the civil rights
14 movement and its actions to end legalized racial segregation in the United States; and

15

16 WHEREAS, in 1965, Congressman Lewis led the Selma to Montgomery marches across
17 the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In an incident which became known as "Bloody Sunday", armed
18 Alabama police attacked unarmed civil rights demonstrators, including Lewis, fracturing his
19 skull. Images from that day shocked the nation and galvanized support for the Voting Rights Act
20 of 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

21

22 WHEREAS, Lewis, a Democrat who served as the US representative for Georgia's 5th
23 Congressional District for more than three decades, was widely seen as a moral conscience of
24 Congress because of his decades-long embodiment of nonviolent fight for civil rights. As a child,
25 he wanted to be a preacher, and as a young man, he fulfilled his dream of becoming an ordained
26 minister. His passionate oratory was backed by a long record of action that included, by his
27 count, more than 40 arrests while demonstrating against racial and social injustice; and

28

29 WHEREAS, as follower and colleague of Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman Lewis
30 participated in lunch counter sit-ins, joined the Freedom Riders in challenging segregated buses
31 and – at the age of 23 – was a keynote speaker at the historic 1963 March on Washington.
32 Angered by the unfairness of the Jim Crow South, he launched what he called "good trouble"
33 with organized protests and sit-ins. In the early 1960s, he was a Freedom Rider, challenging
34 segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South and in the nation's capital; and

35

36 WHEREAS, despite the "Bloody Sunday" attack and other beatings, Lewis never lost his
37 activist spirit, taking it from protests to politics. He was elected to the Atlanta city council in
38 1981, then to Congress six years later; and

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40 WHEREAS, during his career in Washington, he focused on fighting against poverty and
41 helping younger generations by improving education and health care. He also co-wrote a series
42 of graphic novels about the civil rights movement, which won him a National Book Award; and

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44 WHEREAS, Congressman Lewis was born on a Troy, Alabama, cotton farm into a
45 segregated America on February 21, 1940. In his lifetime, he lived to see an African American
46 elected president, and in 2011, after more than 50 years on the front lines of the civil rights
47 movement, Lewis received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom
48 from that President, Barack Hussein Obama.

49

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

52

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-226

2 PAGE TWO

3

4 SECTION 1

5

6 This Council and Executive recognize Congressman John Robert Lewis, a stalwart
7 champion in the on-going struggle to demand respect for the dignity and worth of every human
8 being and his lifelong dedication to non-violent activism and advocacy in the struggle for equal
9 justice in America and encourage the residents of Summit County to join in this
10 acknowledgement.

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12 SECTION 2

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14 The Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Congressman
15 Lewis' former district office (Georgia Congressional District 5 – Congresswoman Nikema
16 Williams) and the Congressional Black Caucus (Congresswoman Karen Bass, Chair).

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18 SECTION 3

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20 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
21 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit.

22

23 SECTION 4

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25 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight (8) members, it shall take
26 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the County Executive; otherwise it shall
27 take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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29 SECTION 4

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31 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
32 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
33 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,
34 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section
35 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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37

38 INTRODUCED July 27, 2010

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40 ADOPTED _____

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43 _____

44 CLERK OF COUNCIL

45

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

46 APPROVED _____

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49 _____

50 EXECUTIVE

51

52 ENACTED EFFECTIVE _____