

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2022-016

First Reading Passage Requested
(Executive Shapiro)

2
3 SPONSORS Executive Shapiro & Ms. Sims & Council as a Whole

4
5 DATE January 31, 2022

COMMITTEE Human Services

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7
8 **A Resolution declaring the month of February 2022 as Black History Month in Summit**
9 **County, recognizing the accomplishments made by Black Americans while facing incredible**
10 **adversity throughout history, as well as acknowledging the challenges of the present, for the**
11 **Council and the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

12
13 WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement has prompted historians and educators to expand
14 the teaching of Black history as well as recognize the contributions of Black scientists, artists,
15 educators, athletes, politicians, business people, religious and spiritual leaders, and countless
16 others that reflect the greatness of the United States and Summit County; and

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18 WHEREAS, locally, one of the first Black History Month recognitions was proposed and
19 celebrated by the faculty of the Center of Pan-African Culture and the members of Black United
20 Students at Kent State University in 1970, conferring local significance to what would become a
21 national event in 1976; and

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23 WHEREAS, current movements for racial justice and equality continue to press for the
24 tenets of the Civil Rights Movement, such as equal treatment under the law, and increased
25 awareness about black and brown identities; and

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27 WHEREAS, following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, Summit County joined state,
28 county, and local governments across the county in declaring racism as a public health crisis to
29 address how racism – not race – causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness,
30 incarceration, poverty, poor educational outcomes, and poor health outcomes in the Black
31 community; and

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33 WHEREAS, the work of the Racism as a Public Health Crisis Special Review Committee
34 is ongoing, with the aim of enacting real change and promoting racial equity in the County of
35 Summit; and

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37 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to expose health disparities perpetuated
38 by racism, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noting in November of 2021 that
39 hospitalizations among Black Americans due to COVID-19 are 2.6 times higher and deaths among
40 black Americans due to COVID-19 are 1.9 times higher compared to white Americans; and

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42 WHEREAS, Black History Month continues the conversation around the achievements
43 and challenges of Black Americans, shedding light on how resilience has led to stories of
44 inspiration and hope; and

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46 WHEREAS, Vice-President Kamala Harris represents part of this narrative, serving as the
47 first Black and Asian American female vice president in the history of the United States, and
48 inspiring young people of color to pursue their dreams; and

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50 WHEREAS, the Executive and this Council hope to share this message of this perseverance
51 and hope at the start of a new year, and

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
5 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that February 2022 be declared
6 Black History Month in Summit County, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join
7 in this acknowledgement;

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

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12 SECTION 1

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14 The month of February 2022 is hereby declared Black History Month in Summit County
15 and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement and recognize
16 the role that racial diversity and inclusion plays in strengthening our community.

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18 SECTION 2

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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 and for the further purpose of
22 immediately declaring February 2022 as Black History Month in Summit County.

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24 SECTION 3

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


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30 SECTION 4

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

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38 INTRODUCED January 31, 2022

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40 ADOPTED January 31, 2022

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44 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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48 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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50 APPROVED February 1, 2022

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52 
EXECUTIVE

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

ENACTED EFFECTIVE February 1, 2022