

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2022-123

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro & Council as a Whole
4 April 25, 2022

5 DATE _____ COMMITTEE Human Services

6
7 **A Resolution declaring the month of May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in**
8 **Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this**
9 **acknowledgement, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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11 WHEREAS, people across the United States experience mental health conditions that
12 impact their individual health and wellbeing as well as their relationship with the community; and

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14 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic affected interpersonal relationships by limiting
15 access to offices, schools, stores, stadiums, theaters, and museums, and limited access to mental
16 health services through a lack of in-person services and increasing or intensifying mental illness
17 and distress, thereby deteriorating the wellbeing of people across the country, including in Summit
18 County; and

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20 WHEREAS, the silver lining of the pandemic is a heightened awareness and understanding
21 of mental health, mental illness or distress, and mental wellbeing and its connection to physical
22 and overall health; and

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24 WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month, observed since 1949, has served as a
25 vehicle for awareness, education, and advocacy around mental health and provides an opportunity
26 for residents to highlight the difficulties of the past few years; and

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28 WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to improving the mental health of residents by
29 leading and collaborating on initiatives and programs that provide education, events, and services
30 involving mental health; and

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32 WHEREAS, Change Direction is a campaign by the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental
33 Health Services (ADM) Board that aims to change the culture around mental health in Summit
34 County and improve the emotional well-being of residents, and provides an opportunity for
35 community members and organizations to get involved in fostering mental wellness; and

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37 WHEREAS, other programs like Mental Health First Aid training offered by organizations
38 such as Love Akron provide other opportunities for residents to learn and raise awareness about
39 mental health; and

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41 WHEREAS, Summit County is currently participating in Upward Mobility, an Urban
42 Institute project focused on combating poverty, and one of this project's priorities is to increase
43 the mental wellness of Summit County by leveraging stakeholders like the ADM Board and NAMI
44 to improve the livelihoods of residents; and

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46 WHEREAS, Summit County residents experiencing a mental health crisis should always
47 see emergency help at 911 or 1-800-273-8255; and

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49 WHEREAS, supporting and educating the community on mental health and wellness is
50 crucial to preventing crises and fostering a healthy, thriving County; and

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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 May 2022 be declared
6 Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County and encouraging the residents of Summit
7 County to join 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 May 2022 is hereby declared Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit
15 County and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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17 SECTION 2

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19 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
20 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
21 immediately declaring May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Summit County to
22 encourage prompt and widespread dialogue about mental health during the month of May.

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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.

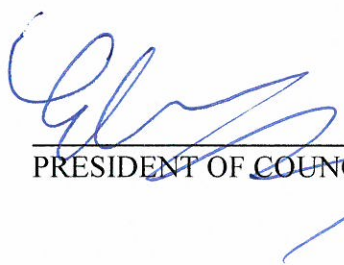
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30 SECTION 4

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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.

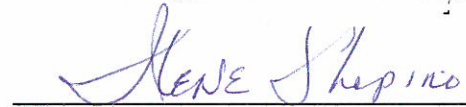
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39 INTRODUCED April 11, 2022

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41 ADOPTED April 25, 2022

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44 CLERK OF COUNCIL


PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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46 APPROVED April 26, 2022

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50 EXECUTIVE

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

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52 ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 28, 2022