

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-208

First Reading Passage Requested

2 (G. Johnson)

3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Mr. Donofrio, Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Dickinson,
4 Mr. Wilhite, Ms. Wiedie Higham, Ms. Darrow, Ms. Walters, Ms. Sims

5 DATE June 26, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the day of August 26, 2023 as Summit County Pride Day, encouraging**
8 **residents to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community and the Akron Pride Festival**
9 **and Equity March, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

10

11 WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community has seen significant progress in advancing equality
12 and equity for people of all sexualities and genders, including accomplishments like the
13 decriminalization of LGBTQ+ identities, protections against discrimination on the basis of
14 sexuality in the workplace, and the landmark ruling on marriage equality; and

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16 WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community continues to see barriers old and new to achieving
17 full equality, equity, and acceptance in society, especially in relation to the rights of trans and non-
18 binary people to participate fully in public life; and

19

20 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately more likely to experience anxiety and
21 depression than their heterosexual counterparts, and Black, Latino, and indigenous LGBTQ+
22 people face multi-faceted forms of discrimination that continue to make housing, employment,
23 and services more difficult to attain; and

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25 WHEREAS, pride is a tradition forged in solidarity, liberation, and celebration where
26 LGBTQ+ people and their allies join in protest and performance to reject the status quo and grow
27 their vision for a more just, more equal society; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Akron Pride Festival is an annual celebration observed in August to unify
30 and affirm the LGBTQ+ people and allies to advance diversity, equality, and acceptance in the
31 community; and

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33 WHEREAS, numerous residents, organizations, and businesses donate their time, talent,
34 and financial support to ensure the Akron Pride Festival is a success; and

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36 WHEREAS, the County of Summit is committed to fostering a community where all
37 residents and all families are safe and accepted so that they may thrive; and

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39 WHEREAS, the County of Summit is proud to support the annual Akron Pride Festival,
40 which attracts people from around the region to celebrate and enjoy the march, shows, vendors,
41 and more; and

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43 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
44 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that August 26, 2023, be
45 declared Summit County Pride Day, encouraging residents to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+
46 community and the Akron Pride Festival and Equity March;

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

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 August 26, 2023 is hereby declared Summit County Pride Day in Summit County, and the
7 residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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9 SECTION 2

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11 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and
12 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
13 immediately declaring August 26, 2023, as Summit County Pride Day in Summit County.

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15 SECTION 3

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

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21 SECTION 4

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

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30 INTRODUCED June 26, 2026

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32 ADOPTED June 26, 2026

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34 DocuSigned by:
35 hauven maush
36 F8D2DB132BE041B...
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:
Veronica R Sim
C65A946FE4BA42A...
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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38 APPROVED June 26, 2026

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40 DocuSigned by:
41 Gene Shapiro
42 CBD33E40D287473...
EXECUTIVE

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44 ENACTED EFFECTIVE June 27, 2026