

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-207

**First Reading Passage Requested**

2

**(G. Johnson)**

3

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro and Ms. McKenney

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5

DATE June 26, 2026

COMMITTEE Human Services

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**A Resolution declaring August 31, 2023 Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County, raising awareness of the opioid epidemic and asking residents to join in remembering and mourning the lives lost due to the epidemic, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

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WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day has been recognized by governments and non-governmental organizations since 2001; and

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WHEREAS, this day provides a time to remember and mourn those in our communities lost to an overdose as well as raise awareness about the dangers of drug use, substance use disorder, and the use of opioids; and

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WHEREAS, over 5,000 Ohioans died due to an overdose in 2020 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a 25% increase or over 1000 more lives lost; and

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WHEREAS, this crisis continues to ravage our community with over 200 residents in Summit County dying of an overdose in 2022 according to preliminary data from Summit County Public Health; and

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WHEREAS, the majority of overdose deaths in Ohio involved an opioid, with 81% of overdose deaths in 2020 involving fentanyl, up from 76% in 2019; and

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WHEREAS, in 2016, Executive Ilene Shapiro declared a state of emergency in recognition of the toll the epidemic was having on the community, causing hospitalizations and deaths; and

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WHEREAS, the County of Summit continues to battle the opioid epidemic and remains committed to providing resources for those affected by the epidemic; and

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WHEREAS, in 2022 alone, Summit County Public Health distributed 6,934 boxes of naloxone in Summit County via Project DAWN, partnered with local businesses to install naloxone boxes in high overdose areas, and continues to lead the way in life-saving harm reduction efforts; and

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WHEREAS, since receiving a financial settlement from opioid manufacturers and distributors, the Summit County Opiate Abatement Council has recommended, and Council has approved over \$14 million in grants to local organizations working to abate the epidemic; and

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WHEREAS, the settlement also included lifesaving medical supplies that have been distributed to local hospitals; and

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WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit that August 31, 2023, be declared Overdose Awareness Day in Summit County, raising awareness of the opioid epidemic and asking residents to join in remembering and mourning the lives lost due to the epidemic;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State

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of Ohio, that:

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 The day of August 31, 2023 is hereby declared Overdose Awareness Day in Summit  
7 County and the 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 31, 2023, as Overdose Awareness 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:  
*hauwen maush*  
35 F8D2DB132BE041B...  
36 CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:  
*Veronica R Sim*  
37 C65A946FE4BA42A...  
38 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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38 APPROVED June 26, 2026

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40 DocuSigned by:  
*Steve Shapiro*  
41 CBD33E40D287473...  
42 EXECUTIVE

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44 ENACTED EFFECTIVE June 27, 2026