

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-250

First Reading Passage Requested
(Executive Shapiro)

2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro & Council as a Whole

4
5 DATE August 21, 2023 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

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7
8 **A Resolution declaring September 8-17, 2023, as Welcoming Week in Summit County,**
9 **recognizing refugees, immigrants, new citizens, and the contributions they make to our**
10 **community, as well as the challenges and roadblocks they face, and declaring an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, the week of September 8, 2023, is nationally celebrated as Welcoming Week;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, during Welcoming Week, organizations and communities bring refugees,
16 immigrants, new citizens, and all residents together to affirm the importance of welcoming and
17 inclusive spaces in building a better community; and

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19 WHEREAS, Welcoming Week provides an opportunity for neighbors to share stories
20 about their lives, experiences, and identities that help us empathize and work toward shared goals;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, in 2015, Summit County Council voted unanimously to declare Summit
24 County a Welcoming County and participate in the global celebrations of Welcoming Week each
25 year; and

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27 WHEREAS, each day offers a theme, ranging from civic engagement to education to
28 safety, that provides a platform for communities to discuss inclusion and support for new residents;
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, the International Institute of Akron has resettled approximately 500 refugees
32 from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar (Burma), Iraq, and
33 Afghanistan in the Federal Fiscal Year 2024; and

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35 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),
36 last year saw a dramatic increase in the number of refugees across the world, moving from 27.1
37 million in 2021 to 35.3 million in 2022; and

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39 WHEREAS, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), there were
40 an estimated 281 million migrants across the world in 2020 who were displaced from their
41 communities; and

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43 WHEREAS, as crises, conflicts, instability, poverty, and violence continue to displace
44 people in countries such as Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Haiti,
45 Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Ukraine, Summit County stands ready as a home to those who
46 need it; and

47
48 WHEREAS, ensuring all residents, new citizens, immigrants, and refugees of all
49 backgrounds are welcomed is crucial for a growing and thriving community where residents are
50 free to start a business, earn an education, create art, begin a family, purchase a home, make
51 friendships, and plant roots; and

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1 WHEREAS, Summit County aims to be this welcoming community; and

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4 PAGE TWO

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

8

9 SECTION 1

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11 The week of September 8-17, 2023 is hereby declared Welcoming Week in Summit
12 County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgment.

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14 SECTION 2

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16 This Resolution is therefore declared an emergency in the interest of refugees, immigrants,
17 new citizens, and all residents of the County of Summit and for the purpose of immediately
18 declaring the week of September 8-17, 2023 as Welcoming Week in Summit County.

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20 SECTION 3

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

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26 SECTION 4

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

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35 INTRODUCED August 21, 2023

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37 ADOPTED August 21, 2023

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39 DocuSigned by:
hauenenmaush

40 F802DB132BE041B...
CLERK OF COUNCIL

41

42 August 21, 2023

43 APPROVED _____

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45 DocuSigned by:
Steve Shapiro

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EXECUTIVE

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48 ENACTED EFFECTIVE August 22, 2023

49 Voice Vote – YES: 10 – 0: Darrow, DeVitis, Dickinson, Donofrio, McKenney, Schmidt, Sims, Walters,
Wiedie Higham, Wilhite
Absent: Rodgers

DocuSigned by:
Veronica R Sim

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL