

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2023-291

**First Reading Passage Requested**

2

**(Executive Shapiro)**

3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4

5 DATE September 25, 2023

COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the week of October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as Digital Inclusion Week in**  
8 **Summit County, recognizing the importance of internet access and digital literacy and**  
9 **reaffirming the County’s commitment to digital equity for all Summit County residents, for**  
10 **the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

11

12 WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges  
13 to households without internet access, and to promote proven strategies to reduce roadblocks to  
14 digital access; and

15

16 WHEREAS, 12% percent of Summit County households do not have access to broadband,  
17 and data shows that certain groups of residents, including households with income below \$35,000,  
18 older adults (65+), and Black residents, have less access to Broadband than the overall population;  
19 and

20

21 WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to digital inclusion and equity through a number  
22 of programs, services, and investments aimed at closing the digital divide, having distributed over  
23 100 devices to seniors, 150 devices to schools and students, and internet access to low-income  
24 households through the Department of Job and Family Services and Direction Home Akron-  
25 Canton during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

26

27 WHEREAS, Summit County has continued this commitment by working with the National  
28 Digital Inclusion Alliance to align investments in Summit Connects, a countywide broadband  
29 initiative, with a broader digital inclusion strategy, including the formation of a Steering  
30 Committee and the development of a Digital Equity Framework; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Steering Committee, made up of government agencies, community  
33 organizations, and non-profits is working together to improve digital equity and inclusion by  
34 completing digital asset mapping across the County, building a Digital Equity Coalition, and  
35 beginning work on a larger strategic plan; and

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37 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
38 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit and its residents that the week  
39 of October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 be declared Digital Inclusion Week in Summit County, to raise  
40 awareness of the roadblocks to digital inclusion and reaffirming the County’s commitment to  
41 digital equity; and

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

45

46 SECTION 1

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48 The week of October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is hereby declared Digital Inclusion Week in Summit  
49 County, and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 2

5

6 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
7 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of  
8 declaring October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to be Digital Inclusion Week in Summit County.

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10 SECTION 3

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

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16 SECTION 4

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

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25 INTRODUCED September 25, 2023

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27 ADOPTED September 25, 2023

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29 DocuSigned by:  
  
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
F8D2DB1328E041B...  
31 CLERK OF COUNCIL

DocuSigned by:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ C65A946FF48A42A  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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33 APPROVED September 25, 2023

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35 DocuSigned by:  
  
36 \_\_\_\_\_  
CBD33E40D287473...  
37 EXECUTIVE

38

39 ENACTED EFFECTIVE September 27, 2023

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