

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-079

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3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

4

5 DATE March 18, 2024 COMMITTEE Human Services

6

7 **A Resolution declaring the month of April 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit**
8 **County, recognizing all individuals in our community on the autism spectrum and**
9 **celebrating the numerous ways in which they contribute to our communities and our lives,**
10 **for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.**

11

12 WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month has been recognized by advocates for decades and
13 April 2nd was declared Autism Awareness Day for the first time by the United Nations in 2008;
14 and

15

16 WHEREAS, in recent years, autistic people, their families, their friends, and allies have
17 moved toward observing Autism Acceptance Month rather than Autism Awareness Month to
18 decrease the stigma by emphasizing belonging and inclusion; and

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20 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are an
21 estimated 5.4 million adults in the United States with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), which
22 includes our family members, friends, classmates, colleagues, and neighbors; and

23

24 WHEREAS, the autistic community encompasses a wide range of people with ASD who
25 have varying abilities and needs, and a diverse array of identities, personalities, perspectives, skills,
26 talents, and accomplishments; and

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28 WHEREAS, people with ASD serve across our community as teachers, chefs, truckers,
29 artists, gardeners, technicians, writers, caregivers, nurses, construction workers, scientists and so
30 much more; and

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32 WHEREAS, people with ASD are able to achieve purposeful lives when afforded the
33 opportunities and support systems that each and every person deserves, acceptance being key to
34 overcoming barriers and achieving success; and

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36 WHEREAS, local organizations like the Autism Society of Greater Akron and national
37 organizations like the Autistic Self Advocacy Network provide information and support to both
38 autistic people and their loved ones as they learn and grow together; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Autism Society of Greater Akron has been providing support to Summit,
41 Medina, Portage, Wayne, and Stark Counties since 1987 and will recognize Autism Acceptance
42 Month in April 2024; and

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44 WHEREAS, Summit County understands the importance of cultivating acceptance to
45 achieve equity in education, employment, housing, and healthcare, and is committed to enacting
46 policies that advance the rights and needs of the autistic community.

47

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

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51

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2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

5

6 The month of April 2024 is hereby declared as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit
7 County and the residents and employees of Summit County are encouraged to join in this
8 acknowledgement.

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10 SECTION 2

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12 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
13 welfare of the residents of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of immediately
14 declaring April 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month in Summit County.

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16 SECTION 3

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

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22 SECTION 4

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

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31 INTRODUCED March 18, 2024

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33 ADOPTED April 1, 2024

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35 DocuSigned by:
Monique Willis
55605E400F5451

37 CLERK OF COUNCIL

38

39 APPROVED April 1, 2024

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41 DocuSigned by:
Executive Ilene Shapiro
CBD33E40D287473...

43 EXECUTIVE

44

45 ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 2, 2024

DocuSigned by:
Rita S Darrow
132AA5B69D28443...

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Voice Vote – YES: 9 – 0: Darrow, DeVitis,
Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, McKenney,
Rodgers, Schmidt, Wiedie Higham
ABSENT: Walters, Wilhite