

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-157

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3 SPONSORS Executive Shapiro, Ms. Dickinson, Ms. Walters, Council as a Whole

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5 DATE May 13, 2024 COMMITTEE Human Services

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7 **A Resolution declaring Friday, June 7, 2024 as Gun Violence Awareness Day in Summit**
8 **County to honor and remember the victims and survivors of gun violence and to join in**
9 **calling for the prevention of gun violence by wearing orange, for the Executive, and declaring**
10 **an emergency.**

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12 WHEREAS, 43,142 people died from gun violence in the United States in 2023 according
13 to the Gun Violence Archive, which includes 19,050 homicides and 24,090 suicides; and

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15 WHEREAS, mass shootings are defined by the Gun Violence Archive as an incident where
16 at least four people were shot, either injured or killed, not including the shooter; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Gun Violence Archive reported 655 mass shootings in 2023 and as of
19 May 1, 2024 the number of mass shootings in the United States outpaced the number of days in
20 the year; and

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22 WHEREAS, gun violence in the United States has affected nearly every community, with
23 mass shootings since the last Gun Violence Awareness Day including the October 25, 2024
24 shooting in Lewiston, Maine which killed 18 people and injured 13 others, the February 14, 2024
25 shooting in Kansas City, Missouri which killed one and injured 22 others, including 11 children,
26 during the Super Bowl LVIII victory parade, and the April 29, 2024 shooting in Charlotte, North
27 Carolina which killed four law enforcement officers; and

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29 WHEREAS, according to a KFF analysis of data from the Centers of Disease Control and
30 Prevention (CDC) firearms surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death among
31 children aged 1-18 in 2020 and 2021, with preliminary data pointing to similar trends in 2022 and
32 2023; and

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34 WHEREAS, KFF reports the United States has the highest child and teen firearm mortality
35 rate among developed countries at 6.01 deaths per 100,000 among people aged 1-19, with the next
36 highest being Canada at 0.62 deaths per 100,000; and

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38 WHEREAS, reporting from the Akron Beacon Journal shows that since 2017, the County
39 has averaged 39 gun-related homicides per year, with over 35 reported in 2023, representing a
40 dramatic increase from an average of less than 20 per year from 2007 through 2016; and

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42 WHEREAS, data from Summit County Public Health and an analysis by the Akron Beacon
43 Journal show racial disparities in gun deaths as black residents account for between 74-76% of the
44 County's fatal gunshot wound victims, and black men in Summit County are 19 times more likely
45 to die of gun homicide than white men; and

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47 WHEREAS, among the highest responsibilities of elected officials is the obligation to
48 prevent and respond to violence, in this case gun violence, to protect the health and safety of the
49 community, and to address gun-related racial disparities; and

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51 WHEREAS, local officials are closest to their communities and best positioned to
52 understand the needs of residents and ensure their safety and wellbeing; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed at the age of 15 on a
5 playground in Chicago, spurring her loved ones to wear orange in her honor of her and other
6 victims of gun violence every year thereafter; and

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8 WHEREAS, leaders and residents are asked to join in mourning those lost and standing
9 together against gun violence by wearing orange on Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 7, 2024;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the commitment of the County of Summit to prevent firearms from ending up
13 in the wrong hands, to encourage responsible and safe ownership and use of firearms, and to reduce
14 gun violence and keep the community safe reminds steadfast;

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

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19 SECTION 1

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21 The day of Friday, June 7, 2024 is hereby declared Gun Violence Awareness Day in the
22 County of Summit to honor and remember victims and survivors of gun violence, reaffirm the
23 commitment to preventing gun violence, and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join
24 in this acknowledgment by wearing orange on that day.

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26 SECTION 2

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28 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
29 welfare of the residents and employees of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of
30 immediately declaring Friday, June 7, 2024 as Gun Violence Awareness Day in Summit County.

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32 SECTION 3

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

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38 SECTION 4

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

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46 INTRODUCED May 13, 2024

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48 ADOPTED _____

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51 CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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5 APPROVED _____
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9 EXECUTIVE
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12 ENACTED EFFECTIVE _____