

RESOLUTION NO. 34-2023

TITLE: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY 2023 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN BARBERTON AND ENCOURAGING THE RESIDENTS OF SUMMIT COUNTY TO JOIN IN THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, people across the United States experience mental health conditions that impact their individual health and wellbeing as well as their relationship with the community; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic affected interpersonal relationships by limiting access to offices, schools, stores, stadiums, theaters, and museums, and limited access to mental health services through a lack of in-person services and increasing or intensifying mental illness and distress, thereby deteriorating the wellbeing of people across the country, including in Barberton; and

WHEREAS, the silver lining of the pandemic is a heightened awareness and understanding of mental health, mental illness or distress, and mental wellbeing and its connection to physical and overall health; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month, observed since 1949, has served as a vehicle for awareness, education, and advocacy around mental health and provides an opportunity for residents to highlight the difficulties of the past few years; and

WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to improving the mental health of residents by leading and collaborating on initiatives and programs that provide education, events, and services involving mental health; and

WHEREAS, Change Direction is a campaign by the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board that aims to change the culture around mental health in Barberton and improve the emotional well-being of residents, and provides an opportunity for community members and organizations to get involved in fostering mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, other programs like Mental Health First Aid training offered by organizations such as Love Akron provide other opportunities for residents to learn and raise awareness about mental health; and

WHEREAS, Summit County is currently participating in Upward Mobility, an Urban Institute project focused on combating poverty, and one of this project's priorities is to increase the mental wellness of Summit County by leveraging stakeholders like the ADM Board and NAMI to improve the livelihoods of residents; and

WHEREAS, Barberton residents experiencing a mental health crisis should always see emergency help at 911 or 1-800-273-8255; and

WHEREAS, supporting and educating the community on mental health and wellness is crucial to preventing crises and fostering a healthy, thriving County; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the residents

of Barberton that May 2023 be declared Mental Health Awareness Month in Barberton and encouraging the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Barberton, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Council of the City of Barberton hereby declares the month of May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Barberton and the residents of Summit County are encouraged to join in this acknowledgement.

SECTION 2. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, convenience and welfare of the City of Barberton and the inhabitants thereof, for the reason that it is necessary to authorize a change order for additional funds as soon as possible because the final invoice is now due, and provided it receives the necessary votes required by the City Charter, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval; otherwise to be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed March 13, 2023

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Approved _____ 2023

Mayor