

A RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN EPILEPSY (SUDEP) AND TO OBSERVE SUDEP AWARENESS ACT ON OCTOBER 26, 2025.

WHEREAS, epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects approximately 3.4 million Americans, including an estimated 140,000 Ohioans, and impacts individuals and families across our community; and

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) is a leading cause of mortality in people with epilepsy, accounting for approximately 1 in 1,000 deaths annually among those living with the condition; and

WHEREAS, awareness of SUDEP remains limited among patients, families, and even healthcare providers, resulting in many individuals being uninformed about their risk and the steps that may help reduce that risk; and

WHEREAS, providing accurate, evidence-based information about SUDEP empowers patients and families to make informed healthcare decisions, advocate for themselves, and take preventive measures when possible; and

WHEREAS, when a patient is properly informed about SUDEP, they can take steps to mitigate the risk of it occurring, including taking anti-epileptic medications as prescribed, prioritizing sleep, maintaining regular doctor visits, avoiding alcohol and recreational drugs, identifying and avoiding seizure triggers, and utilizing seizure detection and alert devices; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has taken important action through the passage of House Bill 229, the Brenna Brossard SUDEP Awareness Act, observed in Ohio on October 26, 2025, requiring healthcare practitioners to share information on SUDEP with patients diagnosed with epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, October 15, 2025, is recognized internationally as SUDEP Action Day, a time to honor lives lost, support families, and raise awareness across communities; and

WHEREAS, local communities, schools, health professionals, and organizations play a vital role in raising awareness, supporting families, and promoting education about epilepsy and SUDEP; and

WHEREAS, to further advance awareness and prevention efforts, Council desires to designate the month of October 2025 as “SUDEP Awareness Month”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF AVON LAKE, STATE OF OHIO:

Section No. 1: That this Council expresses its strong support for SUDEP awareness, education, and advocacy, recognizing the importance of ensuring that all individuals living with epilepsy, and their families, are informed about SUDEP risks and resources.

Section No. 2: That this Council hereby designates the month of October 2025 as “SUDEP Awareness Month” to promote greater awareness of and prevention efforts for Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.

Section No. 3: That this Council honors the memory of those lost to SUDEP and acknowledges the strength and advocacy of families who have turned their grief into action for the benefit of others.

Section No. 4: That this Council encourages community partners, healthcare providers, schools, and organizations to promote SUDEP education and resources in order to help prevent unnecessary loss of life.

Section No. 5: That the Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Department of Health, local healthcare institutions, and epilepsy advocacy organizations as an expression of Avon Lake’s support.

Section No. 6: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: 9/22/2025

/s/Jennifer G. Fenderbosch
Council President

POSTED: 9/26/2025

APPROVED: 9/23/2025

ATTEST: /s/Valerie E. Rosmarin
Clerk of Council

/s/Mark A. Spatzel
Mayor