

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2012-0011

Sponsored by: <b>Councilmembers Miller, Simon, Conwell, Rogers and Connally</b>	<b>A Resolution</b> proclaiming the month of May of each year as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Disorder (MCS) is a chronic condition induced by exposure to toxic environmental chemicals, causing symptoms such as burning or stinging eyes, wheezing or shortness of breath, nausea, extreme fatigue, headache, poor memory or concentration, runny nose, skin rashes, sensitivity to light and noise, digestive upset, muscle and joint pain, rapid heartbeat, anxiety, and sleeping problems, and

WHEREAS, people with MCS typically have strong reactions to chemicals commonly found in the environment, such as perfumes, deodorants, paints, coatings on outdoor fences and furniture, chemicals applied to rugs and carpets, vehicle exhausts, and chemicals used in office equipment, and

WHEREAS, even though MCS is recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the US EPA, HUD, and the World Health Organization, MCS is still not well known or understood, and

WHEREAS, despite MCS not being well known or understood, it is quite common, with epidemiological studies showing incidence rates of 10-15% hypersensitivity to chemicals and 2-5% for diagnosable MCS, and

WHEREAS, we cannot in the modern world eliminate all potential chemical irritants but through greater awareness in the workplace, schools, medical community and other public settings, we can reduce the number of environmental triggers and afford MCS sufferers more understanding and respect, and

WHEREAS, several states and local communities have created MCS awareness observances centered on the month of May, which is appropriate since May marks the time when weather gets better, people start to spend more time outdoors and have a wider potential exposure to chemical triggers, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order to ensure that Cuyahoga County's first MCS Awareness Month observance can take place in May, 2012.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The Cuyahoga County Council and Cuyahoga County Executive hereby proclaim the month of May of each year to be Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County to promote awareness in Cuyahoga County about Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and about actions that can be taken to reduce chemical triggers and improve our environment for persons with MCS and others who could develop MCS through exposure to chemical triggers.

**SECTION 2.** It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order to ensure that the first Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month observance can take place in May, 2012, and to protect and improve the health of Cuyahoga County residents. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of the County Council, this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon the signature of the County Executive; otherwise it shall be in full force and effect after the earliest time permitted by law.

**SECTION 3.** That the Clerk of Council, in cooperation with Councilmembers, is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to all Mayors and Council Presidents of municipalities and all Public School Superintendents and School Board Presidents located in Cuyahoga County to encourage passage of similar legislation.

**SECTION 4.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Rogers, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Schron, Conwell, Jones, Rogers, Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Germana, Gallagher and Connally

Nays: None

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County Council President

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Date

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County Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Clerk of Council

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Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: January 24, 2012  
Committee(s) Assigned: Environment & Sustainability

Second Reading: February 14, 2012

Amended on the Floor: February 14, 2012

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: February 28, 2012

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