



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON
BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the abuse of prescription medications is a growing public health concern; and

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic threatens the well-being of every American. South Carolinian, and Blufftonian at every age, every socio-economic level, and in every neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, over 100 Americans die each day from opioid overdoses and in 2017, 748 South Carolinians died from opioid related causes, an increase of more than 20% since 2016 and the Medicare population has among the highest and fastest-growing rates of diagnosed opioid use disorder; and

WHEREAS, in the past decade, the number of infants born with opioid dependence has quadrupled; and

WHEREAS, over a decade and a half, opioid poisonings, intentional and accidental combined, have nearly doubled among children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, children of addicted parents or whose parents have died by overdose need physical, social, and emotional resources and supports; and

WHEREAS, too many families know the personal, emotional, and financial harm caused by prescription opioid addiction; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluffton, SC now joins and supports the efforts of the Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth Coalition in raising awareness around prescription drug abuse and the opioid crisis issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, along with Bluffton Town Council do hereby proclaim that the month of October be designated as **PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE/OPIOID DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH** and recognizing that the proper disposal of prescription drugs saves lives and protects the environment, the Town supports National Take Back Day, October 27, 2018, reducing access to unused or expired prescription medications leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal to be affixed this 9th Day of October 2018.



Lisa Sulka, Mayor