



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON
NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Whereas, National Medicine Abuse Awareness is an annual campaign to raise the public's awareness of the dangers of medicine misuse.

Whereas, the misuse and abuse of medicines can be extremely dangerous and can result in death or other serious side effects; and

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

Whereas, people are dying due to illicitly manufactured drugs mixed with fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, pressed into pills made to look like pharmaceutical drugs; and

Whereas, according to the Academy of Pediatrics, between 2019 and 2020, the years of life lost to unintentional overdose doubled among ages 10-19, with fentanyl contributing to over 80% of these deaths; and

Whereas, the disbursement of funds from the Town of Bluffton's allotment of the Opioid Settlement Funds to LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth, will be dedicated to social media campaigns targeting youth about the dangers of medicine misuse and the dangers of counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl; and

Whereas, the Town of Bluffton joins with and supports the efforts of the LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth and Teens for Healthy Youth to raise public awareness of the dangers of medicine misuse and counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Mayor Larry Toomer, along with Bluffton Town Council do hereby proclaim the month of October to be **National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month** in the Town of Bluffton South Carolina and encourage all residents to safely dispose of unused or expired medication on Rx Take Back Day, October 26, 2024, and throughout the year at year-round Rx drop off sites.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this proclamation on the 8 day of October 2024.



Larry C. Toomer, Mayor