PROCLAMATION

Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Awareness Month

WHEREAS, smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States; and many youth who start smoking by age 11 are addicted by age 14; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarette use, also called vaping, has become increasingly common among youth and has increased among all adolescent demographic groups; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes contain nicotine and other harmful substances to the developing brain leading to negative impacts on attention and learning and nicotine exposure during adolescence can harm brain development and lead to addiction.

WHEREAS, many of the e-cigarette particles contain toxic chemicals, which have been linked to heart and respiratory diseases and cancer and studies show that vaping and smoking significantly increase the likelihood of a COVID-19 diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the US Surgeon General, the American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and the American Cancer Association have proclaimed vaping a serious public health issue among youth; and
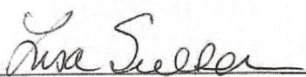
WHEREAS, the youth e-cigarette use epidemic created an urgent need for education and resources to prevent and reduce youth vaping; and

WHEREAS, the LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth and Teens for Healthy Youth are working to educate and increase awareness about the dangers of youth vaping; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluffton, South Carolina approved including vaping to their Smoking Ordinance in 2019; and

WHEREAS, all of us have the power to effect change to prevent and reduce youth vaping use and to be the best advocates for promoting positive choices and healthy lifestyles for our youth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, South Carolina, along with Bluffton Town Council do hereby proclaim November 2021 to be Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Awareness Month in Bluffton, South Carolina. I urge all community members to support our youth in making positive decisions and to take appropriate measures to prevent smoking and vaping.

Lisa Sulka
Lisa Sulka, Mayor