



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON
BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month (NMAAM) is an annual campaign, observed throughout the month of October, to raise the public's awareness of the dangers of prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) reports that medicine abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the U.S., and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has classified medicine abuse as an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, over a decade and a half, opioid poisonings, intentional and accidental combined, have nearly doubled among children and adolescents. The National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over the counter and prescription medicines are to be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that using such medicines to get high or in large doses can cause serious and/or life-threatening consequences, and,

WHEREAS, the access children and teens often have to prescription medicines in home, friends, or relatives medicine cabinets and the lack of understanding by children and teens of the potential harms of these powerful medicines make it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of medicine misuse;

WHEREAS, educating the public about the dangers of medicine misuse, encouraging parents and individuals working with youth to talk about medicine misuse, mobilizing community members to safeguard their home medicine cabinets, and promoting misuse prevention are critical components of what must be a multipronged effort to curb over-the-counter and prescription medicine misuse:

WHEREAS, recognizing that the proper disposal of prescription drugs saves lives and protects the environment, National Rx Take Back Day, October 24, 2020, reduces access to unused or expired prescription medications leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluffton, SC now joins with and supports the efforts of the LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth Coalition to raise public awareness of the dangers of prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse.

NOW THEREFORE, I Lisa Sulka, along with Bluffton Town Council proclaim October 2020 as National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month in Bluffton South Carolina and encourage all residents to safely dispose of all unused or expired medication on Rx Take Back Day, October 24, 2020 and throughout the year at year-round drop off sites.



Lisa Sulka, Mayor