

The Town of Hilton Head Island



Proclamation

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 adults 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; and

WHEREAS, many of the e-cigarette particles contain toxic chemicals, which have been linked to heart and respiratory diseases and cancer; 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; and

WHEREAS, the e-cigarette use epidemic created an urgent need for education and resources to prevent and reduce youth and adult 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, in June 2024, through a proposal by Teens for Healthy Youth, the Town Council of Hilton Head Island voted unanimously to amend the Town's smoking regulations by adding electronic smoking devices; and

WHEREAS, together we can effect change to prevent and reduce smoking and vaping use and be the best advocates for promoting positive choices and healthy lifestyles for our youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, Alan Perry, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head, South Carolina, along with Hilton Head Town Council do hereby proclaim November 2024 to be **Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Awareness Month**.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed on this sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord, two-thousand and twenty-four.



Alan R. Perry, Mayor

Attest:

Kimberly Gammon, Town Clerk