



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON
SMOKE-FREE AND VAPE-FREE AWARENESS MONTH 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.

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 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 2019, through awareness of the dangers of e-cigarette use created by LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth and Teens for Healthy Youth, the Town Council of Bluffton voted unanimously to amend the Town's smoking ordinance 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, I, Larry Toomer, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, along with Town Council, do hereby proclaim November 2024 to be Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Awareness Month in Bluffton, South Carolina.

Larry C. Toomer, Mayor