



**TOWN OF BLUFFTON**

**NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE AWARENESS MONTH  
PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, during the month of May, a national health observance is dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around positive mental health and substance use prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, rates of substance use and reports of depression, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and serious mental illnesses have increased; and

**WHEREAS**, half of all lifetime cases of mental illness and substance use begin by age 14 and three-fourths by age 24; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals who suffered with social isolation, fear, anxiety, loss, and uncertainty during COVID-19 are suffering from or may be at-risk for mental and/or substance use disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, this national month of awareness celebrates the efforts of communities and organizations coming together to raise awareness about the importance of positive mental health and substance use prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of Bluffton, SC now joins and supports the efforts of the LowCountry Alliance for Healthy Youth Coalition in raising awareness about positive mental health and substance use prevention issues the following proclamation:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Lisa Sulka, Mayor of the Town of Bluffton, along with Town Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **May** to be **Mental Health and Substance Use Awareness Month**.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Bluffton to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.



Lisa Sulka, Mayor