



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

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

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected people across the lifespan and created new barriers for people accessing mental health and substance resources and treatment; and

WHEREAS, national and local campaign goals are to promote and disseminate quality substance use prevention and mental health promotion resources; 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, all of us have the power to be the best advocates for promoting positive mental health; and substance use prevention; and

WHEREAS, by increasing public awareness of, and action around positive mental health and substance use prevention; and

WHEREAS, by understanding these public health issues and new barriers created during the COVID-19 pandemic, we can work together to increase positive mental health enabling our citizens to live healthy and productive lives.

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 Bluffton, on behalf of the Town of Bluffton and Bluffton Town council, do hereby proclaim the month of May to be Mental Health and Substance Use Awareness Month in the Town of Bluffton.

Lisa Sulka, Mayor