



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

**WHEREAS**, all of us have the power to be the best advocates for promoting substance use prevention and positive mental health; 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 health and productive lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Lisa Sulka, Mayor of Bluffton, on behalf of the Town of Bluffton and Bluffton Town Council do hereby support the efforts of the Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth Coalition in raising awareness about positive mental health and substance use prevention issues and proclaim the month of May to be Mental Health and Substance Use Awareness Month in the Town of Bluffton.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2020.

Lisa Sulka, Mayor