

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION PLEDGING TO PRACTICE AND PROMOTE CIVILITY IN THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON

WHEREAS, a recent national survey found that 93% of Americans believe that incivility is a problem, with 68% considering it a “major” problem and 74% believing that incivility is increasing in America;

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the Town of Bluffton (the “Council”), the governing body of the Town of Bluffton of Bluffton, South Carolina (the “Municipality”), recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance;

WHEREAS, the Council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the Municipality;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council, as elected representatives of the community and stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the Council has determined to adopt this resolution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, AS FOLLOWS:

The Town of Bluffton pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body.

The elected officials of the Council enact this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the Town of Bluffton.

This pledge ensures all communication — both spoken and written — to be open, honest and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

This pledge ensures mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success.

This pledge ensures opportunities for finding common ground and engaging in civil discussion to seek solutions while actively listening and thoughtfully participating.

[signatures appear on following page]

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor Lisa Sulka

Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Toomer

Councilmember Fred Hamilton

Councilmember Dan Wood

Councilmember Bridgette Frazier

ATTEST:

Town Clerk, Kimberly Gammon