



Town of Southern Shores

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A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES OPPOSING THE RELEASE OF BALLOONS

Resolution #2024-03-02

WHEREAS, The Town's Vision Statement stresses that the Town's identity is intimately tied to its natural resources and desire to protect its environment.

WHEREAS, the release of helium and other lighter-than-air balloons into the atmosphere has a deleterious effect on the environment when the balloons inevitably deflate; and

WHEREAS, Mylar and latex balloons which have washed ashore are a source of pollution which the Town of Southern Shores should decrease in order to eliminate the pollution, improve the Town's aesthetics, and reduce the amount of flotsam endangering marine and animal life; and

WHEREAS, these balloons, many of which land in the ocean, Jean Guite Creek or the Albemarle and Currituck Sound, represent the most common form of floating garbage and flotsam within 200 miles of the shore; and

WHEREAS, the effect that this pollution has on marine life is incalculable at the present time and that research has indicated that marine life and animals ingest these balloons as they appear near the surface because they believe they are spotting jellyfish or other edible resources; and

WHEREAS, that since animals and marine life are not able to process the balloons, they will either choke on the balloon or the balloon will form an intestinal obstruction; and

WHEREAS, the ability for a local government to regulate harmful impacts to the environment is essential in order to protect public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Town of Southern Shores, North Carolina, meeting on March 12, 2024, is opposed to the release of helium or lighter-than-air balloons into the atmosphere within the town of Southern Shores in order to protect the air, land, and waters of Southern Shores against environmental contamination and degradation and to protect the health and life of animals, birds, and fish.

Mayor,

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

This Legislature further finds and determines that