



**TOWN OF SOUTHERN SHORES RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION
CONCERNING DIGGING DANGEROUS HOLES ON THE BEACH
#2022.09.02**

WHEREAS, in recent years coastal communities, including communities on the Outer Banks, have seen an increase in the number and size of holes being dug on the beach by recreational beach users; AND

WHEREAS, large beach holes can collapse, trapping humans and marine life, in some cases resulting in serious injury or death; AND

WHEREAS, large holes on the beach can cause damage to vehicles and equipment, particularly after dark or in periods of low visibility; AND

WHEREAS, in May 2022 an 18-year-old boy was killed on the beach in New Jersey when he and his sister became trapped in a hole they were digging; AND

WHEREAS, Bradley Maron, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School has studied sand-hole collapses over the years; in a 2007 letter to the Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, Maron documented 52 cases in the United States from 1997 to 2007 in which people were buried by collapsing beach sand; AND

WHEREAS; there is limited awareness of the dangers these holes pose, particularly by visitors to our coastal communities; AND

WHEREAS, several coastal communities have adopted ordinances that address this issue; however, these ordinances have limited remedies to promote effective compliance; AND

WHEREAS, the Town of Southern Shores Mayor has reached out to other North Carolina coastal towns and counties to gain support for an effort that would seek state legislation to provide stronger enforcement mechanisms for this issue; AND

WHEREAS, several communities have expressed interest in this issue and would be willing to support such an effort; AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Southern Shores, North Carolina expresses its support of state legislation which would increase our capacity to address the incredibly dangerous issue of holes on the beach.

Adopted this the 6th day of September 2022.

Elizabeth Morey, Mayor
Town of Southern Shores

ATTEST:

Sheila Kane, Town Clerk