



PROCLAMATION

Keeping the Lights on After School

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Town of Beaufort stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults.
- Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Club of the Coastal Plain's Beaufort Elementary School Unit and Teen Center provides significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 20 promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sharon Harker, Mayor of the Town of Beaufort, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2022, as **Lights on After School Day** in Beaufort, North Carolina and commits our Beaufort Community to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

Duly adopted this 20th day of October 2022.

Sharon Harker, Mayor

