

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BEAUFORT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS
TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus disease-2019 (“COVID-19”) is a disease which has spread across the globe infecting millions of people with a significantly high rate of death, particularly among those who are elderly or medically vulnerable; and,

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization determined the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and,

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, former Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar, II, declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in order to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 throughout the population and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be a national emergency; and,

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations and to slow the spread of COVID-19, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 117, which included measures, among others, limiting mass gatherings to no more than 100 persons, temporarily closing public schools, and urging compliance with Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) recommendations on social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, after March 17, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued multiple Executive Orders to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina. Of particular importance, the Executive Ordering requiring the wearing of masks or face coverings expired on July 30, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 17, 2020 the Mayor of the Town of Beaufort (“Town”) issued a Declaration of State of Emergency, said declaration having expired previously, implementing certain restrictions designed to protect the public health; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus has developed a variant, the Delta variant, which is far more contagious and fatal than other variants; and,

WHEREAS, the Delta Variant is the dominant form of the COVID disease currently in our State; and,

WHEREAS, although while vaccinated persons are far less likely to contract COVID-19, the Delta variant has infected vaccinated persons and can be retransmitted to others by vaccinated individuals, all as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and,

WHEREAS, from July 19, 2021 until August 1, 2021, Carteret County has experienced a 915% increase in active COVID cases; and,

WHEREAS, from July 4, 2021 through August 7, 2021, positive results from COVID testing in Carteret County have increased from 1.4% to 11.3%; and,

WHEREAS, in our region hospitalizations on account of COVID 19 have increased 186% from July 19, 2021 to August 11, 2021, and during the same time period hospitalization increased 258% statewide; and,

WHEREAS, in our region Intensive Care Unit ("ICU") utilization on account of COVID 19 has increased 195% from July 19, 2021 to August 11, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the percentage of Carteret County residents who are fully vaccinated is approximately 49% of the total population, leaving over 50% who are not vaccinated. The percentage of North Carolinians who are fully vaccinated is 47%, leaving over half of the State's population unvaccinated; and,

WHEREAS, there is no currently approved vaccine for children under the age of 12, and two elementary schools are located within the corporate limits of the Town; and,

WHEREAS, thousands of people travel into Town of Beaufort on a daily basis to work, shop, recreate and seek various goods and services; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services have issued guidance calling for all people, to include

vaccinated individuals, to wear masks in indoor spaces when they are around people with whom they do not share a residence, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, representatives of the Town have conferred with Carteret County's Public Health Director and Carteret Health Care and confirmed that the rate of infections in Carteret County is at a level requiring prompt action to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to preserve medical supplies and hospital capacity to treat those with COVID-19 and other serious illnesses and injuries; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential to slow viral transmission and community spread as much as possible to protect the population in general, and particularly the most vulnerable citizens and children under 12 years old, and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed; and,

WHEREAS, prompt action now in cooperation with the public can reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and prevent the need for greater restrictions in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted in NC General Statute Section 160A-174, the Commissioners of the Town of Beaufort resolve and ordain as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are made an integral component of the actions of the Commissioners herein taken.

Section 2. The Ordinance attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference is necessary to prohibit and abate acts, omissions and conditions detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the Town's citizens and the peace and dignity of the Town. The Ordinance is designed to mitigate and slow the spread of COVID-19 within the Town.

Section 3. The Ordinance is hereby adopted and enacted with an effective time and date of 12:01 am on August 24, 2021. The duration of this ordinance will be reviewed by the Board Commissioners at its Regular and Work Session meetings.

This the 23rd day of August 2021.

TOWN OF BEAUFORT

BY: _____
EVERETTE NEWTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALLEN COLEMAN, TOWN CLERK