



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

Resolution in Support of the J-1 and H-2B Visa Exchange Visitor Programs

WHEREAS the Town of Kill Devil Hills, its citizens, local businesses, and visitors depend on and value the students who participate in the J-1 and H-2B Visa Exchange Visitor Programs – Summer Work Travel Programs (SWTPs) to meet the demands of visiting tourists during the summer season; and

WHEREAS the Presidential Proclamation issued on June 22, 2020, suspended the SWTPs through December 31, 2020, with the possibility of extension; and

WHEREAS due to the suspension and loss of SWTPs participants, host employers have needed to reduce services and operating hours, close off portions of their facilities, and turn away customers; and

WHEREAS a recent survey of SWTPs host employers found the average employer laid off or furloughed 13 employees each, and lost on average \$250,000 in revenues, because of the loss of SWTPs participants; and

WHEREAS the Town of Kill Devil Hills is committed to ensuring American employees are protected during these difficult economic times, but that not nearly enough Americans are applying for the seasonal jobs offered in Kill Devil Hills and northeastern North Carolina, and unquestionably not enough to replace the lost SWTPs participants; and

WHEREAS the Presidential Proclamations 10014 and 10052 have a specific provision for periodically reviewing the suspension of programs like the SWTPs from the Proclamations' suspension, such as the 30 and 60 day reviews directed by the modifications to Section 4 of the Presidential Proclamation 10014; and

WHEREAS Section 3(b)(iv) the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020, provides that the Secretaries of State and/or Homeland Security can determine which groups, like SWTPs, can be exempted from the suspension because their entry would be in the national interest of the United States; and

WHEREAS Section 4(a)(i) of the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020, further directs those Secretaries, along with the Secretary of Labor, to define categories like the SWTPs program to be exempted per the procedures of Section 3(b)(iv) who can facilitate the immediate and continued economic recovery of the United States can determine which groups, like SWTPs, can be exempted from the suspension because their entry would be in the national interest of the United States; and

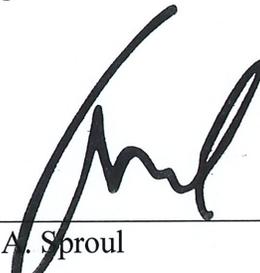
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, determines the immediate resumption of the SWTPs is necessary to the immediate and continuing economic recovery of businesses within our community and throughout Dare County and northeastern North Carolina, wholeheartedly endorses the State Department's SWTPs, and

1. Petitions the White House to issue a National Interest Exemption for Economic Recovery during the next 60-Day Review, concluding on September 22, 2020, as provided by Section 3(b)(iv) and 4(a)(i) of the Presidential Proclamation of June 22, 2020;
2. Asks the congressional delegation representing the Town of Kill Devil Hills to engage the White House in support of this National Interest Exemption;
3. Directs Town Staff to forward a copy of this Resolution to the President and all congressional members representing the citizens of Kill Devil Hills;
4. Encourages all Town residents to participate in events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the need for the resumption of the SWTPs and to engage their congressional representatives asking them to support this program as well; and
5. Supports the Outer Banks International Student Outreach Program (ISOP) and SWTPs sponsors as they help our Town resume this program.

This 14th day of September 2020.

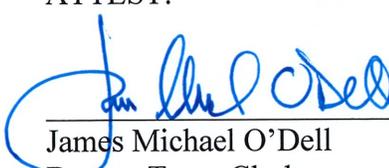
SEAL





Benjamin A. Sproul
Mayor

ATTEST:



James Michael O'Dell
Deputy Town Clerk