



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

MEMORANDUM

April 24, 2019

TO: KDH Board of Commissioners
FROM: Mayor Sheila F. Davies, Ph.D.
REF: Mayor's Agenda

1. Resolutions

- A. Resolution Supporting the More Powerful NC Campaign (Attached MA-1A)**
- B. Resolution Opposing North Carolina House Bill 486 That Would Change the Definition of Commercial Fishing (Attached MA-1B)**

Both of these resolutions were recently adopted by the Dare County Board of Commissioners, and I recommend our Board follow suit.

A motion or motions would be in order.



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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MORE POWERFUL NC CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic, overdose deaths, and substance misuse pose a threat to the life, health, and well-being of North Carolina residents; and

WHEREAS life expectancy in the United States has declined for three years in a row for the first time since World War I, fueled in large part by a record number of drug overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS more people die from drug overdoses than car crashes evidenced by the fact that more than 13,000 North Carolina residents lost their lives to unintentional opioid overdoses between 1999 and 2017; and

WHEREAS the number of unintentional opioid overdose deaths in our state was nearly 17 times higher in 2017 than it was in 1999 and during 2017 more than 2,000 North Carolinians lost their lives to opioid overdoses, which represents an average of more than five people a day; and

WHEREAS for every opioid overdose death, there are nearly two hospitalizations and nearly four emergency department visits in North Carolina (based on 2017 data); and

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic has contributed to a rise in Hepatitis C and heart valve infections (endocarditis), among other serious and costly health consequences; and

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic has contributed to a significant rise in the number and rate of hospitalizations associated with drug withdrawal in newborns and a rise in the number of children in foster care; and

WHEREAS the economic cost of the opioid crisis exceeded \$500 billion in 2015 – equal to 2.8 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that year – according to the White House Council of Economic Advisers; and

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic has imposed significant and continuing costs on our healthcare, criminal justice, and social service systems; and

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic has imposed major costs on private employers and the overall economy due to excess sick days, disability claims, diminished productivity, and lost productivity due to incarceration and premature death; and

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic, overdose deaths, and substance misuse causes pain, suffering, and loss to individuals, families, and communities that can never be measured; and

WHEREAS an effective response to the opioid epidemic combines prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and law enforcement strategies – including those outlined in North Carolina’s Opioid Action Plan and described on www.MorePowerfulNC.org; and

WHEREAS an effective response to the opioid epidemic requires commitment and collaboration among federal, state, and local governments as well as healthcare providers, businesses, foundations, non-profits, universities, colleges, schools, community coalitions, faith communities, and other community partners.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners will continue to actively join forces with others in addressing the opioid epidemic by encouraging community members with substance use disorders to connect with treatment and recovery resources; offering support and assistance to their families and loved ones and supporting community members in treatment and recovery by getting the facts about addiction, treatment and recovery, helping to dispel myths and misconceptions, and reducing stigma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners encourages community members to dispose of leftover medications and to secure needed medications that remain in the home; and encourages community members to talk to their children, families, and loved ones about risks related to drug misuse and methods for coping with social pressure, stress and other challenges. Furthermore, the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners will continue its effort to involve law enforcement, district attorneys, judges, and court personnel, to connect individuals with substance use disorders to drug treatment and other services such as recovery courts.

Adopted this the 24th day of April, 2019.

SEAL

Sheila F. Davies, Ph.D.
Mayor

ATTEST:

James Michael O’Dell
Deputy Town Clerk



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RESOLUTION OPPOSING NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE BILL 486 THAT WOULD CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING

WHEREAS, the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners has steadfastly supported North Carolina's Commercial Fishermen who are a vital part of our State's history, heritage, and culture and represent a crucial component of the economy for Kill Devil Hills and other coastal communities. According to the NC Division of Marine Fisheries, the sales impact of the harvesting and sale of commercial seafood is \$388,325,000 and the income impact of employed commercial fishermen is \$166,066,000; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 486 proposes to drastically raise the annual Commercial Fishing license fee and impose burdensome requirements on commercial license holders, who are still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of House Bill 486 is yet another attempt to redefine commercial fishing, which would be detrimental to North Carolina's Commercial Fishing Industry. In fact, last year the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission embarked on an effort to change the criteria of what constitutes a commercial fishing operation by imposing, among other things, that license holders document annual seafood landings of at least 1,000 pounds; and

WHEREAS, the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners on January 31, 2018, again on March 12, 2018, and yet again on June 15, 2018 adopted unanimous resolutions opposing any change in the definition of commercial fishing based on the following - - -

- No other professional license issued by the State dictates a level of participation in order for its holders to qualify. Furthermore the definition of what constitutes commercial fishing in North Carolina has already been determined by the General Assembly and has long been established in section 113-168 of North Carolina's General Statutes.
- Imposing an arbitrary level of participation based on landings would unfairly have a harsh and punitive effect on coastal communities hit by hurricanes and other natural disasters where many commercial license holders, whose income generating season may have been entirely wiped out by a storm, are forced to temporarily divert their time and talents to other business enterprises.
- Those who engage in commercial fishing already suffer because of government overregulation that imposes severe quotas and unnecessary restrictions on fishing seasons, limits, and gear forcing many to take on additional jobs and engage in part-time businesses in order to support their families.
- In October of 2010, the Marine Fisheries Commission empaneled a Fishing License Review Taskforce, which examined in detail the requirements for holding a commercial fishing license and concluded that the definition contained in the General Statutes was adequate and therefore there was no real need to modify the definition of what constitutes

a commercial fisherman. In its Final Report the Taskforce clearly stated its recommendation that “no changes are needed to the existing definition;”

WHEREAS, House Bill 486 is an attempt to fix something that is not broken and would jeopardize coastal communities whose economy and wellbeing are dependent upon both full-time and part-time commercial fishermen who are small, independent businesses that work hard under adverse conditions to put fresh, healthy North Carolina seafood on American tables.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners reaffirms its unwavering commitment to North Carolina’s commercial fishing industry by strongly opposing House Bill 486, or any other action, that would change the definition of Commercial Fishing or cause harm to North Carolina’s Working Watermen.

Adopted this the 24th day of April, 2019.

SEAL

Sheila F. Davies, Ph.D.
Mayor

ATTEST:

James Michael O’Dell
Deputy Town Clerk