



## TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

*Land Where Flight Began*

### **Resolution in Support of the J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program**

**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 Visa Exchange Visitor Program - Summer Work Travel Program (SWTP) to meet the demands of visiting tourists during the summer season; and

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

**WHEREAS** due to the suspension and loss of SWTP 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 SWTP 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 SWTP 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 SWTP participants; and

**WHEREAS** the Presidential Proclamations 10014 and 10052 have a specific provision for periodically reviewing the suspension of programs like the SWTP 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 SWTP, 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 SWTP 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 SWTP, 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 SWTP 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 SWTP, 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 for 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 SWTP 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 SWTP sponsors as they help our Town resume this program.

This \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

SEAL

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Benjamin A. Sproul  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Michael O'Dell  
Deputy Town Clerk