



## TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

*Land Where Flight Began*

### **Resolution in Support of Legislation Concerning Dangerous Holes on the Beach**

**WHEREAS**, in recent years coastal communities along North Carolina's coast, as well as the nation's coasts, have witnessed an alarming trend in recreational beachgoers digging sizeable holes in the sand, and leaving them unattended and unfilled; and

**WHEREAS**, these large beach holes can collapse, trapping beachgoers of all ages, resulting in serious injury or in some cases, death; and

**WHEREAS**, large holes on the beach can cause physical injury to unwitting beachgoers such as walking and running enthusiasts or children, who may be injured from falling into a deep hole in periods of low visibility; and

**WHEREAS**, essential staff and equipment, including vehicles, may accidentally enter these beach holes, resulting in injury / damage, and disruption of emergency services; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2007 letter to the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Maron, Maron, and Haas) documented 52 cases in which U.S. beachgoers were buried by collapsing beach sand, resulting in 31 deaths (1997 to 2007); and

**WHEREAS**; the Town of Kill Devil Hills has strived to disseminate information and educate the public directly on the danger of large holes on the beach, which culminated the Town's coordination of a May 20, 2022, press conference in which ocean rescue representatives from the various local governments in Dare County participated, and multiple members of the print, online, and television media attended, resulting in statewide and national coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Kill Devil Hills understands that comprehensive and uniform statewide legislation promoting a local government's ability to address holes on the beach and protecting public safety and welfare is warranted; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** That the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, requests the General Assembly consider legislation that would increase a local government's ability to address the incredibly dangerous issue of holes on the beach.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town of Kill Devil Hills encourages other coastal communities to educate the public about this serious ongoing issue and promote safety for all beachgoers.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

SEAL



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Michael O'Dell", written over a horizontal line.

James Michael O'Dell  
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin A. Sproul", written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin A. Sproul  
Mayor