



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

Resolution Opposing the Release of Helium Balloons

WHEREAS, the release of helium and lighter-than-air balloons can pose a significant environmental threat upon deflation if not disposed of properly, and

WHEREAS, latex balloons can remain inflated for approximately 12 hours, with a potential of traveling 180 miles in a 15 mph wind, and foil balloons may stay inflated for two weeks, with a range of 1,000 miles; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup event recorded over 104,000 deflated balloons found and collected, with almost half being in the United States; and

WHEREAS, whole, deflated foil and latex balloons or pieces of deflated balloons not only contribute to pollution and litter problems, but also can endanger marine life; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that marine and land-dwelling animals often mistake balloons for edible resources, leading to entanglement, choking, and intestinal blockages; and

WHEREAS, partially and fully deflated balloons often arrive in Kill Devil Hills and along the Outer Banks from others areas, carried by the wind and sea currents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Kill Devil Hills fully supports the scientific community, with its responsible release and tracking of balloons for the collection of meteorological and other scientific data; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Kill Devil Hills promotes the free expression of ideas, traditions, and community, while also encouraging everyone respect the environment; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Kill Devil Hills expresses its strong opposition to the release of helium and lighter-than-air balloons; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners encourages alternatives to the use of such balloons and directs Town Staff to support the education of residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors to alleviate the threat to wildlife and also promote the pristine natural environment on the Outer Banks.

This 24th day of April, 2024.

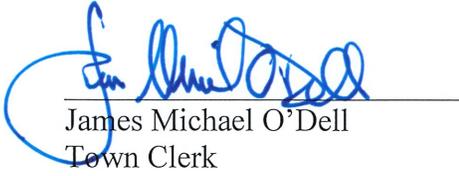
SEAL





John Windley
Mayor

ATTEST:



James Michael O'Dell
Town Clerk