

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-04**

**A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS BY ALL PERSONS IN PUBLIC INDOOR AREAS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS**, SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus), the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 and the surge of the DELTA variant in our community and across the country, is a serious health concern especially for those who are unvaccinated; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Isle of Palms Council adopted Emergency Ordinance 2020-10 on June 26, 2020 requiring the use of face coverings in certain circumstances on the Island effective July 1, 2020 and was subsequently extended by Emergency Ordinance 2020-13, by Emergency Ordinance 2020-14, by Emergency Ordinance 2021-01, by Emergency Ordinance 2021-02, by Emergency Ordinance 2021-03, and by Emergency Ordinance 2021-04; and

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Ordinance 2021-04 subsequently expired in July 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the State is still experiencing a significant number of identified new COVID-19 cases, and as of Tuesday, August 17, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (“DHEC”) is reporting that there have been 550,365 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 8,964 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, if COVID-19 cases materially increase in the State and in the City of Isle of Palms, the demand for medical, pharmaceutical, personal, and general cleaning supplies may overwhelm sources of supply; the private and public sector work force may be negatively impacted by absenteeism; and the demand for medical facilities may exceed locally available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, health authorities, including the CDC, the Surgeon General of the United States, and DHEC have recommended the use of face coverings in certain circumstances as a means of preventing the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting the coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the CDC guidelines, it is recommended that to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent spreading it to others, fully vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors in public if in an area of substantial or high transmission;

**WHEREAS**, the State of South Carolina has made vaccines available for people 12 years and older; and

**WHEREAS**, reported vaccination rates remain among the lowest in the country, with less than 45 percent of eligible South Carolinians fully vaccinated by the end of July, according to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC); and

**WHEREAS**, among the 14,262 reported cases reported from July 1-31, 2021, DHEC found that 88% of cases were considered not fully vaccinated; and among the 550 reported cases of hospitalized patients, 77% were considered not fully vaccinated; and among the 110 reported deaths, 79% were considered not fully vaccinated; and

**WHEREAS**, Charleston County has a “high” level of coronavirus transmission as of August, 2021, according to the CDC.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, that it is strongly encouraged and recommended that all persons wear face coverings when indoors in public spaces, including, but not limited to, retail establishments, food service establishments, and government buildings located within the corporate limits of the City of Isle of Palms.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE 24TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.



Jimmy Carroll, Mayor

