

**A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS
COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE “SPLASH INTO SAFETY” SWIM PROGRAM IN
DORCHESTER COUNTY TO PREVENT DROWNING**

WHEREAS, Dorchester County Council, South Carolina wishes to recognize across Colleton and Dorchester Counties, there were seven organizations that partnered together to launch the newly created Fun Fins swim program the Summer 2023 (now known as the “Splash into Safety” program) to teach children drowning prevention and increase water safety and swimming education in our community; and

WHEREAS, the seven community organizations that collaborated together to help launch this program and deserve recognition were: Summerville Family YMCA, Summerville Medical Center, Dorchester School District 4, Colleton County School District, Colleton County Parks and Recreation, Colleton Medical Center, and Dorchester County Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control ranks South Carolina as the 9th highest state in the U.S. for pediatric drownings. Every year in the U.S. there are an estimated 4,000 fatal drownings and 8,000 nonfatal drownings; and

WHEREAS, in four short weeks (two weeks in Colleton County’s Walterboro community followed by two weeks in Dorchester County’s St. George community), the program taught 335 children ages 5 to 11 years old in 30-minute sessions about sun safety, life jacket usage, what to know about traveling in a boat, the importance of adult supervision, and most importantly, tips on how to be comfortable and prepared in the water; and

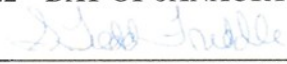
WHEREAS, this program transported a 24 foot long, 16 foot wide, and 3-foot-deep portable pool to rural communities, placing the pool in a central location to remove the barriers of transportation, and cost for families to participate; and

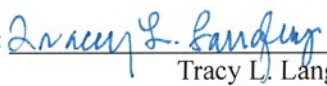
WHEREAS, the program helped remove equity barriers for minority children in particular, with 56.2% of the participants being African American, 31.5% Caucasian, 2.7% Hispanic, 1.4% Asian Pacific and 6% unlisted; and

WHEREAS, throughout the five-session course, there were remarkable mental and emotional changes in the children. Most arrived at the first session petrified by the water. The incredible swim instructors calmed their fears and began teaching a critical foundation of water safety. During the instruction, the children learned how to roll over and float if they landed face down in the water, learned about boat and sun safety, and the importance of always wearing a life jacket. By the fifth session, the children were running and laughing on their way to the pool, completely confident in their new abilities to save themselves in the water; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dorchester County Council does hereby proclaim its appreciation and support of the “Splash into Safety” swim program and thanks all the community partners for their collective efforts to educate the community on water safety measures to prevent drowning.

ADOPTED THIS 22nd DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

BY: 
S. Todd Friddle, Chairman
Dorchester County Council

ATTEST: 
Tracy L. Langley
Clerk to Council