

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF DORCHESTER

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 24-17

**PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2024, AS NATIVE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH IN DORCHESTER COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans have played a vital role in the life of our State, City, and Country, with their many contributions enhancing the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, a state-recognized sovereign nation has preserved the history, culture, and unique heritage of South Carolina's Native American people. The tribe continues to play an essential role in maintaining their ancestral traditions and enriching the cultural landscape of our county; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wassamasaw Tribe, whose ancestors include Edisto, Etiwan, Catawba, and Cherokee peoples, established a settlement community near Carnes Crossroads and the Wassamassaw Swamp in the late 1700s and have resided there ever since, contributing significantly to the history and development of Dorchester County; and

**WHEREAS**, historic Native American Indian missions and schools, including the Pine View Indian School, Barrows Mission, St. Barnabas Mission, Groomsville School, and Varner Indian School, were established to serve Native communities, playing a crucial role in educating and supporting Native peoples in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wassamasaw Tribe was historically known as the Summerville Indians and formally acknowledged as such by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1977, is among the Native American communities whose descendants still reside in Dorchester County and across South Carolina today, preserving their legacy and traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wassamasaw Tribe has a longstanding engagement with Dorchester County, actively participating in discussions on land and cultural preservation, and community development to ensure their needs and perspectives are incorporated into local governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Wassamasaw Tribe members have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and cultural contributions have greatly enriched the heritage of Dorchester County and the state as a whole; as evidenced in the cultural classes offered monthly along with the annual Wassamasaw Powwow; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Carolina General Assembly has recognized November as National Native American Heritage Month in South Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that Dorchester County Council hereby proclaim November 2024, as Native American Heritage Month in Dorchester County, and urge all citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the rich heritage and lasting contributions of Native American communities in our state.

**ADOPTED THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.**

BY: 

S. Todd Friddle, Chairman  
Dorchester County Council

ATTEST: 

Lona R. Conrad  
Clerk to Council