



**TOWN OF NAGS HEAD RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION  
CONCERNING DIGGING DANGEROUS HOLES ON THE BEACH**

**WHEREAS**, in recent years coastal communities, including communities on the Outer Banks, have seen an increase in the number and size of holes being dug on the beach by recreational beach users; AND

**WHEREAS**, large beach holes can collapse, trapping humans and marine life, in some cases resulting in serious injury or death; AND

**WHEREAS**, large holes on the beach can cause damage to vehicles and equipment, particularly after dark or in periods of low visibility; AND

**WHEREAS**, in May 2022 an 18-year-old boy was killed on the beach in New Jersey when he and his sister became trapped in a hole they were digging; AND

**WHEREAS**, Bradley Maron, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School has studied sand-hole collapses over the years; in a 2007 letter to the Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, Maron documented 52 cases in the United States from 1997 to 2007 in which people were buried by collapsing beach sand; AND

**WHEREAS**; there is limited awareness of the dangers these holes pose, particularly by visitors to our coastal communities; AND

**WHEREAS**, several coastal communities have adopted ordinances that address this issue; however, these ordinances have limited remedies to promote effective compliance; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Nags Head Mayor has reached out to other North Carolina coastal towns and counties to gain support for an effort that would seek state legislation to provide stronger enforcement mechanisms for this issue; AND

**WHEREAS**, several communities have expressed interest in this issue and would be willing to support such an effort; AND

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Nags Head, North Carolina expresses its support of state legislation which would increase our capacity to address the incredibly dangerous issue of holes on the beach.

Adopted this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Cahoon".

Benjamin Cahoon, Mayor  
Town of Nags Head

ATTEST:  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carolyn F. Morris".  
Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk

