

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER, 2021, AS VAPING AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the federal government has declared youth e-cigarette use, or “vaping,” a nationwide epidemic, as vaping has increased dramatically across the country and in Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, The Florida Youth Tobacco Survey by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology revealed that 21.6 percent of high school students and 8.1 percent of middle school students used e-cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes are especially unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults due to their highly-addictive nicotine content, and developing young brains are more vulnerable to its effects, including reduced impulse control, deficits in attention and cognition, and mood disorders; and

WHEREAS, e-cigarette aerosol is not harmless water vapor, and the aerosol that users breathe and exhale from these devices can contain harmful substances, including cancer-causing chemicals and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead; and

WHEREAS, the focus of October, 2021, Vaping Awareness Month is to put accurate information about youth and adult e-cigarette use into the hands of our citizens, an important step to reversing this alarming trend in Indian River County; and

WHEREAS, Indian River County is advancing the goals and objectives of Vaping Awareness Month through a variety of public health activities, including town hall-style presentations, “vape-free” pledge drives at local middle and high schools, and other collaborative vaping-prevention efforts between the School District and the Substance Awareness Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA that October, 2021, be recognized as Vaping Awareness Month in Indian River County.

Adopted this 5th day of October, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams

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Laura Moss