CITY OF SOUTHPORT
RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB 496

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly is considering House Bill 496, entitled An Act Providing that Counties and Cities Shall Not Adopt Ordinances Regulating the Removal of Trees from Private Property Without the Express Authorization of the General Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would require all local governments to obtain special authorization from the General Assembly prior to enacting a tree protection ordinance and void all existing ordinances protecting existing trees that were established without special authority; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation is inconsistent with the State's laws regarding tree removal and preservation around outdoor advertising in addition to the State's historic preservation laws that allow local governments to protect the vegetation of historic sites; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation conflicts with G.S. 160D-921 regarding the ability of local jurisdictions to delay approvals following clear-cutting; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation creates a conflict with any prior development agreement planned development or special use permit approval that included tree preservation as a condition of approval; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation interferes with the ability of local governments to provide supplemental credit towards landscaping requirements for retained/preserved existing vegetation; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation could result in a more confusing regulatory framework as local governments would be required to receive individual express authority from the General Assembly, and

WHEREAS, the City of Southport has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for 17 years and has received expressed authorization from the General Assembly to regulate trees in SL 1987-242 to preserve, protect, and enhance one of the most valuable natural resources of the community and wishes to continue this duly established authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen of the City of Southport, North Carolina expresses its opposition to HB 496 and urges the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor of the State of North Carolina to oppose the proposed legislation.

Adopted this the 13th day of May, 2021

Joseph P. Hatem, M.D., M.P.H.
Mayor, City of Southport

ATTEST:

Dorothy Dutton, City Clerk

CITY OF SOUTHPORT CORPORATE SEAL 1792 NORTH CAROLINA