STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD)

PROCLAMATION

HONORING FAIRFIELD COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS AND SUPPORTING AGENCIES FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS RESPONSE TO THE FIRE AT THE HEALTHCARE SC FACILITY IN WINNSBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, beginning in the late evening hours of **August 16, 2026**, Fairfield County experienced an extraordinary emergency when a major fire occurred at the HealthCare SC facility in Winnsboro, SC; and

WHEREAS, during this nearly four-day emergency, firefighters from throughout Fairfield County, together with neighboring fire departments and supporting emergency agencies, responded swiftly and courageously to the fire, confronting dangerous conditions and significant challenges to protect lives, property, and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, in the finest tradition of South Carolina's fire and rescue services, these men and women answered that call without hesitation, bringing personnel, apparatus, specialized equipment, training, experience, courage, and determination to Fairfield County; and

WHEREAS, the response required exceptional teamwork, coordination, and professionalism among fire service personnel and supporting agencies, whose combined efforts helped contain the emergency, protect surrounding properties, and minimize the potential impact of the incident on the community; and

WHEREAS, their response demonstrated that the bonds among South Carolina's fire, rescue, emergency services and public safety communities extend far beyond jurisdictional boundaries and are founded on a shared commitment to protect life, property, communities and one another; and

WHEREAS, the successful response was strengthened by the contributions of emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officers, dispatchers, emergency management personnel, public works personnel, utility providers, municipal and county staff, neighboring fire departments, and other agencies and individuals who provided critical assistance throughout the incident; and

WHEREAS, Fairfield County recognizes that behind every responder who answered the call were families, coworkers, departments and communities that also made sacrifices so that assistance could be provided to Fairfield County continuously throughout this extended emergency; and

WHEREAS, Fairfield County recognizes that effective emergency response depends not only upon the actions of those on the front lines, but also upon the countless individuals working behind the scenes to provide communications, logistical support, traffic control, medical assistance, equipment, rehabilitation, and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield County Council wishes to publicly recognize and express its sincere gratitude to every firefighter, first responder, supporting agency, and community partner whose professionalism, courage, and cooperation contributed to the response and recovery efforts following this incident; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the **FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL** hereby extends profound and heartfelt gratitude to the **FAIRFIELD COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS** and **ALL SUPPORTING AGENCIES** for their courageous, professional, and dedicated response to the this emergency. We desire this appreciation be more than momentary and that the service rendered by these courageous men and women be permanently recognized as an example of the very best of public service, neighbor helping neighbor, and South Carolinians coming together in a time of adversity. This shall forever remain a meaningful part of Fairfield County's history.

SO ORDERED THIS THE 14TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

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Clarence Gilbert, Chairman
District 7

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Carl E. Bell, Vice-Chair
District 4

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Dan Ruff, District 1

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Don Goldbach, District 2

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Peggy Swearingen, District 3

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Doug Pauley, District 5

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Oren Gadson, District 6

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

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Kimberly Roberts, Ed. D.
Clerk to Council