

Proclamation

HEAT AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, extreme heat is known to significantly impact health through heat-related illness or death and worsening of cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cerebrovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, heat season starts in Orange County in June and the greatest health risks occur in the first weeks of the heat season as people's bodies adjust to the heat; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the National Weather Service issued twelve (12) Heat Advisories and one (1) Excessive Heat Warning in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, climate change is responsible for more frequent and severe heat waves and this warming trend is expected to continue; and

WHEREAS, between 1983 and 2014, on average, Orange County experienced temperatures greater than 95 degrees on eight (8) days per year and by the 2060s, Orange County will likely experience these high temperatures on 28-41 days per year; and

WHEREAS, Orange County and other North Carolina communities, both urban and rural, now have more nights with temperatures that do not go below 70 degrees, and the risk of heat-related illness and death increases when temperatures stay high overnight; and

WHEREAS, heat-related illnesses can affect anyone, regardless of age or physical condition, they disproportionately affect infants and children, pregnant women, older adults, outdoor workers, athletes, low-income individuals who are more likely to live in locations without easy access to air conditioning, and people with underlying health conditions; and

WHEREAS, summer temperatures in urban heat islands in Carrboro can be up to eleven (11) degrees warmer than surrounding areas and these urban heat islands are located in low income, communities of color that have fewer trees and more pavement; and

WHEREAS, heat-related illnesses are preventable, and monitoring and minimizing the health risks associated with heat is a shared responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has recognized heat as an important threat to the health and well-being of residents and has collaborated with scientists, health experts, and community leaders to develop heat resilience resources; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro has partnered with the Orange County and the Towns of Chapel Hill and Hillsborough to draft a Heat Action Plan to build local resilience to the health impacts of extreme heat and other climate hazards;

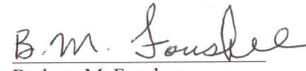
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 25 – May 31, 2025, as "HEAT AWARENESS WEEK" in Carrboro, and commend its observance to all people;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council encourages community members to sign up for OC Alerts and monitor both orangecountync.gov/heat and facebook.com/orangecountyncgov for heat advisories and excessive heat warnings; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council urges the community to take simple steps to stay safe during heat waves, such as reducing time outside, visiting cooling centers if you do not have access to air conditioning in your home, and staying hydrated to help reduce heat stress and improve the health of our community.

This the 20th Day of May 2025.


Barbara M. Foushee

