

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S \$40 MILLION BUDGET REQUEST
FOR BEACH RESTORATION**

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Beach Advocates were established in 2014 as the not-for-profit, non-partisan organization led by the elected officials and administrative staff of South Carolina beach communities to advocate for beach preservation funding, research and policy needs;

WHEREAS, Governor Nikki Haley's proposed budget includes \$40 million for beach nourishment in recognition of the importance of South Carolina beaches to the state tourism economy; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Joaquin demonstrated the value of well-nourished wide beaches with dune systems in preventing more extensive damage to critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in addition to storm protection, successful nourishment projects over the last 40 years have sustained our beachfront by restoring the ecological riches, economic opportunity and quality of life for both residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Provided this \$40 million is new revenue of the State's and not generated by a reduction in revenues from an already existing source that may be being used to support the preservation of beaches such as State Accommodations Taxes, or other existing needed revenue sources being received by local governments, \$40 million in state-funded beach maintenance is a good start to a forward-looking investment; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the State collected about \$51 million from the 2% Accommodations Tax, with the four coastal counties (Horry, Beaufort, Charleston and Georgetown) contributing \$45 million or 88% of the total; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2013 DNR study, the state value added (gross domestic product) from coastal tourism amounts to approximately \$3.5 billion, supporting 81,000 jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Beach Advocates Board of Directors calls on the elected officials of South Carolina to support the Governor's proposed \$40 million for beach nourishment provided the \$40 million does not reduce already existing revenue being received by local governments.

FURTHER, copies of this Resolution will be sent to the members of the South Carolina Legislature and forwarded to Governor Nikki Haley.

So, **THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** on this day, February 23, 2016 that the Mayor and City Council of the Isle of Palms, on behalf of the City, do hereby publicly support Governor Nikki Haley's proposed \$40 million budget request for beach restoration.


Dick Cronin, Mayor