



## PROCLAMATION



**WHEREAS**, Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week began in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, this celebration of the living legacy of Gullah/Geechee history, heritage, and culture came about due to the work of St. Helena Island native, Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Queen Quet and Kwame Sha founded the "Gullah/Geechee Nation International Music & Movement Festival™" on St. Helena Island in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival is the culminating event of "Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week"; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort County now joins with all other counties and cities of the Gullah/Geechee Nation in these celebrations; and

**WHEREAS**, as a show of our support, we are calling on all citizens and visitors to Beaufort County to take part in the activities associated with these events which are part of global activities for the United Nation's International Decade of People of African Descent; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme for this year's celebration, which is being held in Beaufort County once again, is "Fa We Ancestas"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Beaufort County acknowledges the natives of the Gullah/Geechee Nation from Jacksonville, North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida throughout the Sea Islands and Lowcountry and support the honoring of their ancestors who built this region and the continuation of this rich cultural heritage,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Beaufort County Council does hereby proclaim the week of July 29 through August 6, 2017 as

### **Gullah / Geechee Nation Appreciation Week**

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.

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D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman