



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair
Katie Kenlan, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Franklin Gomez Flores
Amanda Robertson

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Proclaiming May 25-31, 2025 as Chatham County 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 Chatham 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 21 Heat Advisories and 2 Excessive Heat Warnings in Chatham 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, Chatham County experienced temperatures greater than 95 degrees 11 days per year, and by the 2060s, Chatham County will experience these high temperatures on 46 days per year; and

WHEREAS, Chatham 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 Chatham County can be up to 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 NC has recognized heat as an important threat to the health and well-being of our residents and has collaborated with scientists, health experts, and community leaders to develop heat resilience resources; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has partnered with the Towns of Pittsboro and Siler City to develop the Chatham County Heat Action Plan to build local resilience to the health impacts of extreme heat and other climate hazards.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 25 – May 31, 2025, as “HEAT AWARENESS WEEK” in Chatham County, and commend its observance to all people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners encourages community members to sign up for Heat Health Alerts for heat advisories and excessive heat warnings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners 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.

Adopted, this the 19th day of May 2025.

Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Integrity – Respect — Collaboration — Community — Equity — Service — Accountability