

PROCLAMATION


INTERFAITH HARMONY MONTH



- WHEREAS,** throughout the history of our cities and nation, we have intended to fully welcome people with diverse backgrounds and beliefs, many of whom were seeking relief from religious persecution, and to respect their freedom to practice their faith without fear, acknowledging that at times we succeeded and at other times failed; and
- WHEREAS,** the municipalities represented today respect and protect the rights, privileges and diversity of opinions held by area residents, people who represent a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** there has been a rise in violence against Jewish and Muslim people in our nation which has caused our local neighbors from Jewish and Muslim traditions to feel less safe and more uneasy in their daily lives; and
- WHEREAS,** the root teaching common to all faiths is the responsibility to cultivate harmony with your neighbor through open communication, mutual respect, common dignity, sincere understanding and unilateral cooperation, and the belief that this teaching is foundational to manifesting a civil society; and
- WHEREAS,** each of us has the capacity to reflect upon our thoughts and actions, recognize and transform internalized discriminations, and embody nonviolence in daily life for the benefit of ourselves and others; and
- WHEREAS,** this month is observed by many cities and towns across South Carolina as a time to spread the message of interfaith harmony, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions; and
- WHEREAS,** municipalities across the Lowcountry acknowledge the valued contributions that the Charleston Interreligious Council makes – in partnership with many different religious communities – to transcend religious, ideological, political and cultural differences; and
- WHEREAS,** we encourage all residents of the Tri-County area to take part in the full slate of interfaith events exploring the topic of harmony during the month of January, and to do this with the intention of eliminating antisemitism, islamophobia, and all other forms of hatred and discrimination in the state of South Carolina and beyond.

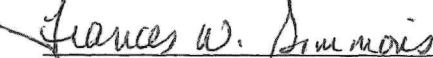
NOW THEREFORE, I, Frances Holbrook Lyon, Mayor of the Town of James Island and the members of Town Council, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2024 as Interfaith Harmony Month in the Town of James Island.

Effective this 21 Day of December, 2023.



Frances Holbrook Lyon
Mayor

ATTEST



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk