

Proclamation

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, over 19% of households in Chapel Hill were estimated to have incomes below \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the local economy and many residents' incomes; and

WHEREAS, at 4,000 gallons of use per month, the average water and sewer bill in Chapel Hill requires more than 11 hours of work at minimum wage before taxes to pay; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, when OWASA temporarily suspended service disconnections for non-payment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the average past due amount per customer has more than tripled to over \$450; and

WHEREAS, clean water is critical to public health and the vitality of our community; and

WHEREAS, Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) is prohibited by law from providing discounted rates based on income; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) has partnered with the OWASA since 1997 to provide water and sewer bill assistance to members of our community through the Care to Share program; and

WHEREAS, over the last year, the Care to Share Program raised enough funds to help about 105 households to pay \$200 down on their past due balance; and

WHEREAS, it is easy for OWASA customers to contribute on their monthly water and sewer bill or through a one-time gift to the IFC's Care to Share Program; and

WHEREAS, during the month of November we celebrate thankfulness for what we have.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim **November 18, 2021** as

Care to Share Day

and urge members of the community who are able to help out, to make a difference for local families by contributing to OWASA's Care to Share program.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.

Sam Hemm