

*Town of Chapel Hill*

# Proclamation

**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 over 10 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 amount past due per customer has more than tripled; 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 70 households pay their water bill; 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 Care to Share Program; and

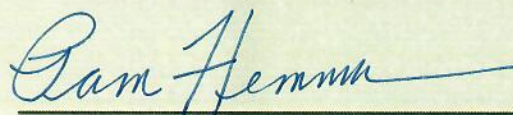
**WHEREAS**, during the month of November we celebrate thankfulness for what we have.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim **November 19, 2020** as

## **“Care to Share Day”**

in the Town of Chapel Hill and encourage those who are able to help local neighbors by supporting the Care to Share program.

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

  
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