



County Commissioners of Charles County

PROCLAMATION 2023-25

National Public Health Week

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, has educated the public, policymakers, and health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared with people living in urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, preventable risk factors such as such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 U.S adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a person's health status can differ drastically by zip code due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care; and

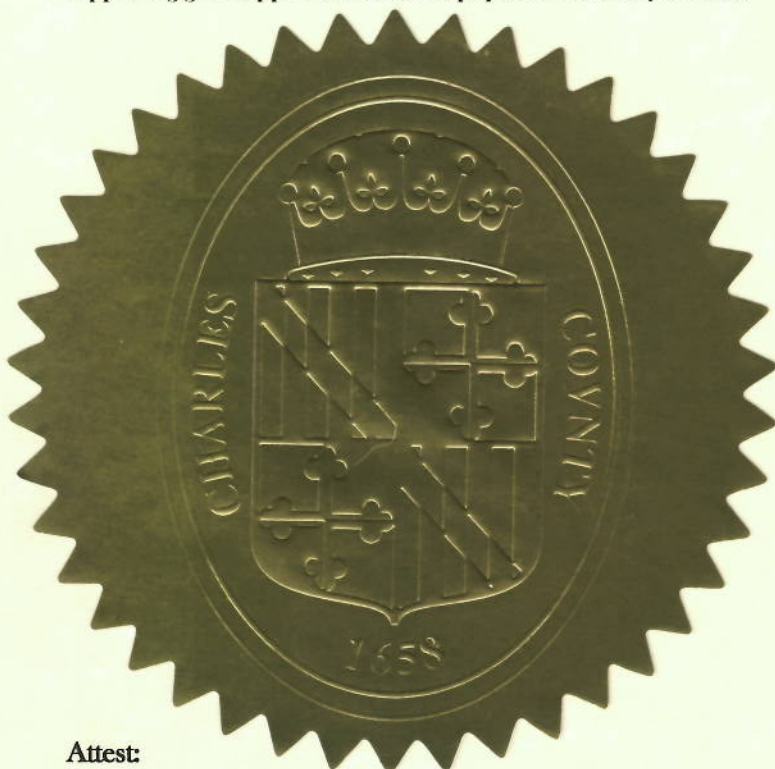
WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS, public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today's disease surveillance and control systems; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities and a growing number of local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health," feeling like we belong, being a part of our communities and fostering cultural connections supports our health and the quality of our lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim April 3-9, 2023, as **National Public Health Week in Charles County Month**, and do urge all residents to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits.



Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*

Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*

District 4

Gilbert O. Bowling, III

District 1

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.

District 2

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

District 3