



February 8, 2019

For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka  
Public Information Officer  
Town of Bluffton  
20 Bridge Street  
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910  
(Office) 843.706.4534  
(Cell) 843.540.2274  
(Email) dszpanka@townofbluffton.com  
(Facebook) Town of Bluffton Government  
(Twitter) @TownofBluffton

**Mayor Lisa Sulka Inducted into Town of Bluffton's Wall of Honor  
Ceremony Held February 12 at 5:30 p.m.**

Town Council members will induct Mayor Lisa Sulka into the Town of Bluffton's Wall of Honor February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., prior to the Town Council meeting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. This ceremony and the following Town Council meeting will be held in the newly-renovated Town Hall, located at 20 Bridge Street.

Corinne Reeves, a member of the Wall of Honor Committee, said Mayor Sulka was nominated because she epitomizes the town's slogan, "Heart of the Lowcountry."

"She wraps her arms around the entire community," Reeves said. "She is Bluffton's first female mayor; however, she is much more than that. Her daily commitment to this community, especially the young people is unparalleled. She is often taking calls from students helping them with college essays or applications and they often check back with Lisa when they return to town. I don't know many elected officials who show that kind of devotion in their professional, elected and personal lives."

The Wall of Honor is located adjacent to the Charles E. Ulmer Auditorium in Town Hall.

## **Mayor Lisa Sulka**

As mayor and as a Town Council member, Mayor Lisa Sulka has used her limitless energy to guide Bluffton through, a housing boom, a recession and a recovery which has positioned Bluffton as one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Southeast.

Mayor Sulka's political career began with her tenure on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee in 2000. Through the urging of the late Mayor Pro Tempore Oscar Frazier, she ran and won a town council seat in 2004. Just four years later in 2008, Lisa ran and won Bluffton's mayoral seat. Eleven years later, she remains mayor of this town.

Sulka led the Town's economic development charge as she partnered with Clemson University in 2012 to create the Don Ryan Center for Innovation. The Center was the first business incubation center in a non-metropolitan area of South Carolina.

As an ardent advocate for the community's youth, Mayor Lisa Sulka strives to encourage their professional and personal choices as she reminds them they are our town's future.

Lisa is a co-founder of an organization called "Molding Men of Bluffton." Together with faculty members and friends of Bluffton High School, she coordinates speakers to inspire members of the Bluffton High School football team off the field. Each Wednesday during the football season, business and community leaders feed the team dinner and share their testimony of success. These meetings allow these young men an opportunity to network with community leaders as those leaders share stories designed to build character, confidence and community.

Mayor Sulka also began the Mayor's Service Award program in 2015. This program designed to instill a "servant's heart" in our youth, encourages and acknowledges students' volunteer hours with numerous local organizations each year.

To keep our community safer, Mayor Sulka also helped launch a Distracted Driving campaign last year through a partnership with Bluffton Police Department and Bluffton High School's seniors. Through multiple social media posts and videos featuring herself and high school students, she is helping spread awareness of how to prevent the consequences of distracted driving.

In addition, she serves as an honorary Trustee for the Heritage Classic Foundation. This foundation annually grants several scholarships to local high students.

Beyond her official duties, Mayor Sulka is a strong advocate for Bluffton's youth. She says she hopes her actions, whether it is writing recommendations to colleges for students or helping them with their applications or just reminding them that Bluffton's adults are rooting for them, have made an impact on their lives. Mayor Sulka says she believes our youth are our future and she hopes her encouragement is part of their path.

No matter how many more years Mayor Sulka serves Bluffton, a picture which is seared in the memories of many residents, is Lisa standing out in Hurricane Matthew soaking wet, giving updates nearly every hour. Her live streams garnered more than 30,000 views and up to 500 shares as many non-residents tuned in to always receive the latest information during this time of uncertainty. This was the first major storm in our region in nearly 60 years. Mayor Sulka even asked people to give them their addresses if they wanted her to personally drive by their homes and give them an update. She drove around for hours and provided an update for each person who requested one.

Bluffton has experienced a dramatic transformation since Mayor Sulka began her political service. It is now the fifth largest town in South Carolina in land mass and more residents and businesses continue to come here to experience a high quality of life and a pro-business culture. Despite the changes, one thing remains constant – Mayor Lisa Sulka care about this community, its culture, its economy and most importantly, its future leaders – the youth of this town.

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