



Proclamation

*On a motion from Councilor Ennis Fant
Members of Greenville County Council wish to recognize*

NATIONAL YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and future of Greenville County depend upon ensuring our youth have the opportunity to grow, learn, and reach their full potential in safe, supportive environments; and

WHEREAS, prevention science proves that the most effective strategy is investing upstream—strengthening protective factors in our families, schools, workplaces, and faith communities before experimentation escalates into lifelong consequences; and

WHEREAS, adolescence is a critical window for neurological and emotional development, making early prevention and intervention vital to helping young people build resilience, coping skills, and healthy decision-making patterns; and

WHEREAS, prevention is a shared ecosystem where parents, caregivers, educators, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and civic leaders all play an essential role in fostering a sense of belonging and open communication; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County is home to dedicated community partners, such as RIZE Prevention, that actively contribute through youth substance use prevention, individualized coaching, social media safety education, and caregiver training; and

WHEREAS, sustaining these efforts requires continuous community investment, cross-sector collaboration, and a commitment to uplifting the strengths and voices of young people; and

WHEREAS, National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month offers our county a distinct opportunity to translate awareness into action, ensuring every young person has access to the supportive relationships and accurate information they need to thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Greenville County Council does hereby recognize October 2026 as

NATIONAL YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH

In Greenville County

and calls upon all sectors of our community to unite in strengthening local prevention and early intervention efforts; recognizing the individuals, organizations, schools, professionals, volunteers, parents, caregivers, and youth whose daily efforts contribute to a healthier, safer, and more connected community, and encourages continued collaboration to make prevention a sustained priority.

Signed this 20th day of October, 2026

*Benton Blount, Chairman
Greenville County Council*

