Council Member _____ made a motion to approve the following resolution. A vote of _____.

TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTATIN
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LEONARD ANTONELLI AND JACOB HILL BICYCLE SAFETY ZONE ACT OF 2025 ("LENNIE'S LAW")

RESOLUTION NO. # R-26-61

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain is committed to promoting the safety, health, and well-being of all residents and visitors, including those who utilize public roadways for cycling and other forms of active transportation; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina is home to a vibrant and growing cycling community, with many roadways—particularly in and around Black Mountain—serving as popular and heavily trafficked cycling routes; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2025, Leonard Antonelli ("Lennie", age 27) and Jacob Hill ("Jake", age 32) were tragically killed, while Griffin Tichenor was injured, when a commercial vehicle crossed the center line and struck them during a weekly group cycling ride near Woodfin, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this tragic crash underscores the urgent need for enhanced roadway safety measures to protect cyclists and prevent future loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill Bicycle Safety Zone Act of 2025, also known as "Lennie's Law," seeks to establish designated Bicycle Safety Zones on popular cycling routes across North Carolina, where stricter enforcement of posted speed limits and increased penalties for violations would apply; and

WHEREAS, "Lennie's Law" proposes a practical, cost-effective approach—modeled after school zone safety measures—that is non-invasive to private property owners and existing roadways, including the installation of clear signage designating bicycle safety zones to increase driver awareness and accountability; and

WHEREAS, data consistently identify excessive speed as a leading contributing factor in vehicle-cyclist collisions, and enhanced enforcement mechanisms can play a critical role in reducing such crashes; and

WHEREAS, local leaders and advocates have expressed support for the concept of bicyclist safety zones as a proactive step toward improving roadway safety; and

WHEREAS, regional partners, including the French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, are actively evaluating strategies to improve safety along key corridors further demonstrating the need for coordinated action; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain recognizes that safer roadways benefit all users, including motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, and contribute to a more livable, connected, and resilient community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Black Mountain that:

1. The Town of Black Mountain formally expresses its strong support for the establishment of a law that increases awareness and consequences for speeding on designated roadways that meet prescribed criteria for bicycle safety; and
2. The Town supports collaboration with state and regional agencies to identify and designate appropriate Bicycle Safety Zones within and near Black Mountain, based on data, community input, and demonstrated need; and
3. The Town encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to adopt this legislation to enhance cyclist safety through the establishment of Bicycle Safety Zones and increased penalties for speeding violations within those zones; and
4. The Town honors the memory of Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill and recognizes this legislation as a meaningful step toward preventing future tragedies.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 10th day of August 2026.

_____ Attest: _____

C. Michael Sobol
Mayor

Wesley M. Barker
Town Clerk