

POST OFFICE BOX 549
101 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE
KITTY HAWK, NC 27949



PHONE (252) 261-3552
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TOWN WEB SITE: www.townofkittyhawk.org
EMAIL ADDRESS: info@kittyhawktown.net

January 18, 2024

Mike Causey
Commissioner of Insurance / State Fire Marshal North Carolina
Department of Insurance
1201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1201

Subject: Proposed homeowner insurance rate increase request by NC Rate Bureau

Dear Commissioner Causey,

The Town of Kitty Hawk has recently become aware of the NC Rate Bureau's requested increase for homeowners insurance rates, which would result in a 45.1% hike for our citizens. Like homeowners across North Carolina, our coastal families regularly face inflationary increases and continued high costs for food, building supplies, electricity, and fuel. However, the additional burden of such a requested increase could raise a \$200,000 home policy cost to over \$4,200, an increase of \$1,300!

The Town of Kitty Hawk Town Council has approved a *Resolution Opposing a Homeowners' Insurance Rate Increase Requested by the North Carolina Rate Bureau*. We urge you to deny this request and support working families in Kitty Hawk and across the state.

cc: Dare County local governments

Sincerely,

D. Craig Garriss
Mayor
File

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Resolution Opposing a Homeowners' Insurance Rate Increase Requested by the North Carolina Rate Bureau

WHEREAS, the N.C. Rate Bureau, a non-governmental entity created by the N.C. General Assembly, has filed for double-digit insurance rate increases with the N.C. Department of Insurance; and

WHEREAS, the requested insurance rate increases across the state (In Dare County, 45.1% for beach communities and 33.9% for inland areas) would become effective August 1, 2024, unless denied by N.C. Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey; and

WHEREAS, based upon \$200,000 of insurance coverage, the proposed increase would result in a \$4,220 cost (a \$1,300 increase) for beach community and a \$1,775 cost (a \$600 increase) for inland area homeowners; and

WHEREAS, for those homeowners with coverage through the N.C. Insurance Underwriters Association, N.C. law would impose an additional 15% surcharge, ultimately resulting in an insurance rate increase of 60.1% for beach communities and 48.9% for inland areas; and

WHEREAS, admitted insurance carriers are actively discontinuing coverage to limit coverage in coastal areas, decreasing the available options for Kitty Hawk families in securing coverage by insurance carriers; and

WHEREAS, the Kitty Hawk Town Council has consistently supported Town of Kitty Hawk families and affordable housing options, but such egregious insurance rate proposals only harm Town of Kitty Hawk families, making homeownership even more difficult; and

WHEREAS, homeowners will be priced out of the market, or be penalized by being forced to raise their deductible levels in an attempt to offset the requested astronomical insurance premiums; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Town Council for the Town of Kitty Hawk opposes the excessive insurance rate request, and requests the N.C. Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey to deny any rate increase for 2024; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Kitty Hawk Town Council encourages its citizens and others negatively affected by the proposed unwarranted rate proposals to share their thoughts through one or more of the following methods:

1. Email public comments in opposition (include your name and full address) to the N.C. Department of Insurance by February 2nd: 2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov;
2. Submit written public comments (include your name and full address) by February 2nd: Kimberly W. Pearce, Paralegal III, 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1201;
3. Attend the NCDOI's public comment forum (January 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the NCDOI: Jim Long Hearing Room, Albemarle Building, 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27603;
4. Attend the NCDOI's VIRTUAL public comment forum (January 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the following link:
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=mb3fe10c8f69bbedd2aaece485915db7e>.

This 18th day of January, 2024.

SEAL



D. Craig Garriss

D. Craig Garriss
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristin A. Fellenstein

Kristin A. Fellenstein
Town Clerk