



WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the Southern United States; and,

WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater success and reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream; and,

WHEREAS, the first Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer, and the gathering of family members and neighbors and today is a time of remembrance and celebration within communities throughout the country that promotes and cultivates knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County is proud to celebrate this historic day for the second time and is excited to join the Third Annual Juneteenth celebration along with the City of Gastonia, Gastonia Police Department, Hope Youth Network and our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at Erwin Center for the Teen Basketball Tournament and Summit from Noon – 5:00 pm and on Sunday, June 19, 2022 the First Parade on Main Street at 3:00 pm followed by vendors, food, speeches and fireworks at the Rotary Pavilion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of all of Gaston County, do hereby declare June 19, 2022 as

Juneteenth

in Gaston County, North Carolina and urge all citizens to join in celebrating this day of significance in the history and heritage of our nation and county.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Tracy L. Philbeck

Kim Johnson

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 28th Day of June 2022