



WHEREAS, Gaston County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in Gaston County and visiting; and,

WHEREAS, fire remains a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and the presence of lithium-ion batteries in many household devices introduces unique fire risks; and,

WHEREAS, most of the electronics used in homes daily — including smartphones, tablets, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, e-scooters, and toys — are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which if misused, damaged, or improperly charged, can overheat, start a fire, or explode; and,

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) reports an increase in battery-related fires, underscoring the need for public education on the safe use of lithium-ion batteries; and,

WHEREAS, residents should follow three key calls to action: Buy only listed products, charge batteries safely, and recycle them responsibly to prevent battery-related fires; and,

WHEREAS, lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space, and improper use such as overcharging, using off-brand chargers without safety certification, or exposing batteries to damage can result in fire or explosion; and,

WHEREAS, the proper disposal and recycling of lithium-ion batteries help prevent environmental hazards and reduce fire risks in the home and community; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of fires through prevention, safety education, and community outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the 2025 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” serves to remind us of the importance of using, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries safely to reduce the risk of fires in homes and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims October 5-11, 2025 as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

throughout Gaston County.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis

Cathy Cloninger, Vice-Chair

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan

To be Adopted the 28th Day of October 2025