



- WHEREAS, the Little Theater of Gastonia was founded in 1950 by visionary community members George Gray, Roger Grier, Jeanne Rauch, Edith Baugh, Catherine Groves, Pinkie Spargo, Naomi Cunningham, and Ennis Atkins, who shared a passion for the performing arts and a dedication to enhancing the artistic and creative culture of Gastonia; and,
- WHEREAS, over the past 75 seasons, the Little Theater of Gastonia has become a cornerstone of the community, providing exceptional live performances of plays and musicals and captivating and inspiring audiences from Gastonia and the region; and,
- WHEREAS, the Little Theater of Gastonia is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all citizens and has presented diverse and high-quality productions, including acclaimed performances of *Sweeney Todd*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sister Act*, and *Annie*, bringing joy and thought-provoking storytelling to audiences for over seven decades; and,
- WHEREAS, the Little Theater of Gastonia is committed to accessibility and outreach by partnering with esteemed organizations such as the African American Museum of History and Culture, the Gaston County Public Library, the Gaston County Museum of Art and History, and the City of Gastonia, as well as offering scholarships, free events, workshops, and Pay What You Can performances; and,
- WHEREAS, through its youth-focused initiatives, including summer camps, a youth improv troupe, master classes, drama classes, and mainstage productions, the theater is actively cultivating the next generation of artists and performers and has provided a platform for hundreds of local and regional actors to bring the transformative power of live performance to our community and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners celebrates the

75th Season of the Little Theater of Gastonia

and encourage all citizens to recognize this historic milestone and the vital role that the Little Theater of Gastonia continues to play in enriching the cultural vibrancy of Gaston County and surrounding communities.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis

Cathy Cloninger, Vice-Chair

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan