



WHEREAS, all North Carolinians should be prepared for natural and man-made disasters as well as disease outbreaks; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina is traditionally an active state for tornadoes, straight-line winds, and severe thunderstorms; communities across the State experienced severe damage in 2023 with 24 tornado touchdowns, 139 flood incidents and 844 severe thunderstorms with damaging wind and hail; the National Weather Service in North Carolina also issued 51 tornado warnings, 751 severe thunderstorm warnings, and 106 flash flood warnings in 2023; and,

WHEREAS, every community, business, family and individual in Gaston County must be ready for natural and man-made disasters including tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, public disturbances, and disease outbreaks that might disrupt normal daily activities; and,

WHEREAS, all Gaston County residents can take a few simple steps to know the risks for their area and plan accordingly by making a family disaster plan, creating an emergency supply kit and staying informed; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County residents should know the risks for their area and plan accordingly, should help the elderly and those who cannot help themselves, and should include the safety of their pets and/or livestock in their emergency plans; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County Office of Emergency Management and Fire Services, North Carolina Emergency Management, and the State of North Carolina have collaborated to recognize September as North Carolina Preparedness Month to encourage Gaston County residents to be disaster-ready.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the month of September 2024 in Gaston County as

PREPAREDNESS MONTH

and encourages all County residents to make disaster-readiness a personal responsibility and priority, and to prepare for all disasters by assembling their emergency supply kits and updating their emergency plans.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 19th Day of September 2024