



WHEREAS, fire protection services are provided to the citizens of Gaston County by a total of 26 different municipal, volunteer, and/or combination fire departments; and,

WHEREAS, these fire departments continuously strive to improve the services they provide to the citizens of their districts; and,

WHEREAS, one such improvement is to participate in a "Rate Reduction Survey" conducted by the NC Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal as part of the NC Response Rating System (NCRRS); and,

WHEREAS, back in June officials spent several days touring and inspecting the Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments evaluating their equipment, equipment maintenance, facilities, personnel, training, availability of water sources, 911 call center, fire inspections, fire investigations, and public fire safety education capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments successfully lowered their ratings from a class 4 to a class 3 and a class 6 to a class 4 respectively; and,

WHEREAS, the NCRRS ranges from one (highest or best) to ten (lowest or not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments across NC and the country falling into the 9S category; and,

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2017 residential, commercial, and industrial property owners should check with their insurance companies to determine if they qualify for an insurance rate reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners recognizes and commends the members of both the

Lowell and New Hope Fire Departments

for their hard work, sacrifice of time, and tremendous dedication to reducing the cost of fire protection for the citizens they serve.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman