



**RESOLUTION TITLE: REQUEST BY THE CITY OF LOWELL TO EXPAND THE
GASTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT TO
INCLUDE THE CITY OF LOWELL**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes ("NCGS") § 153A-301 and 153A-309.2 authorize the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to establish and define a service district in order to finance, provide, or maintain for the district certain services in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board followed all necessary and prescribed steps outlined under North Carolina General Statutes to properly research, define and establish a fire protection service district including establishing a rate cap pursuant to NCGS § 153A-309.2; and,

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2022, the Board established the unified Gaston County Fire Protection Service District effective July 1, 2022 and directed the Gaston County Tax Assessor/Collector to levy a special tax in an amount to be determined by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on behalf of Gaston County within said service district in addition to those levied throughout the County in order to finance, provide and maintain fire protection and rescue services within the newly defined and established service district in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell duly adopted a Resolution on April 12, 2022, requesting the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to include the City of Lowell in the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell has previously been cooperatively funding their fire and rescue services through the Lowell Fire Protection Service District, which will cease to exist on June 30, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes ("NCGS") § 153A-303 prescribes a process whereby municipalities may request the Gaston County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") to consider including municipalities within the county's fire protection service district, which has been created in order to finance, provide, or maintain certain services in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lowell acknowledged their responsibility for mailing written notice at least four weeks before the date of the public hearing to all property owners as shown by the County tax records as of the preceding January 1 of all property located in the municipality; and,

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

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Page 2

- WHEREAS, the City of Lowell acknowledged their responsibility to make available a report containing certain specified information to be prepared and filed with the Clerk to the Board; and,
- WHEREAS, the Board is authorized by NCGS § 153A-303 to extend service districts and levy additional taxes in a county service district to finance the level of service provided in the district that is not provided in the entire County; and,
- WHEREAS, the Clerk to the Board of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners made publication of the notice of the June 14, 2022 Public Hearing to consider the request from the City of Lowell, to include the City of Lowell in the Gaston County Fire Protection Service District, as set forth in NCGS § 153A-303.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. At the written request of the City of Lowell, the unified, countywide service district is hereby extended to include the City of Lowell, for the purpose of providing needed fire protection and rescue services within said district area. The municipal limits of the City of Lowell will now be recognized from here forward as an integral part of the "Gaston County Fire Protection Service District" consistent with North Carolina General Statutes.
2. At the written request of the City of Lowell, the Gaston County Tax Assessor/Collector shall levy a special tax in an amount to be determined by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on behalf of Gaston County and the City of Lowell within said service district in addition to those levied throughout the County in order to finance, provide and maintain fire protection and rescue services within the newly defined and established service district in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided, or maintained for the entire County.
3. At the written request of the City of Lowell, this Resolution extending the unified, countywide service district to provide fire protection and rescue services into the City of Lowell shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

Adopted this the _____ day of June 2022.