



WHEREAS, Mrs. Laurel Roe Morris began employment with the Gaston County Library on March 2, 1987, and held positions as a Reference Librarian Supervisor, Collection Development Supervisor, Assistant Director and Director; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris subsequently was employed therein as the Director until her retirement on October 1, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris has provided support and leadership to the Gaston County Public Library for 33 years where her accomplishments included:

- Overseeing the automation of library services in the mid-90s from the card catalog
- Supporting the "Standing on a Box: Lewis Hine's National Child Labor Committee Photography in Gaston County, 1908" exhibition which garnered the Library the **2011 Harlan Joel Gardin Award for Excellence in the Public Humanities**
- Serving on the Loray Mill Historical Committee which worked with Preservation NC and the UNC Digital Innovation Lab to establish the Kessell History Center
- Advocating for and overseeing many renovations to the Gaston County Library facilities (including the rebranding of two locations to technology centers)
- Partnering with Gaston County Schools and other private schools to initiate a WOW (WithOut Walls) virtual library card for most Gaston County students; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris served the greater library community through her presidential term in the North Carolina Public Library Director's Association. Her experience and innovation has helped to strengthen North Carolina Public Libraries for future generations; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris served as Chair for the Gaston County Early Literacy Collaborative, where she brought together community members to highlight early literacy initiatives around the county; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris faithfully served as a Girl Scout within the community leading a troop for many years and creating the Green Angels group to encourage communication among the various troops in Gaston County. Laurel also started the Girl Scout Lego League which has grown to a state-wide competition focusing on engineering through robotics; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Morris continues to serve the community through Rotary International with a presidential term beginning in 2021 where she has been recognized as a **Multiple Paul Harris Fellow** again in February 2020 for her fundraising endeavors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners commends and congratulates

Laurel Roe Morris

upon her retirement for 33 years of dedicated service to the Gaston County Community and wishes her well.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown, Vice Chairman

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 10th Day of November 2020