



WHEREAS, Gaston County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our County; and,

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and,

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 2,700 people in the United States in 2022, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 360,000 home fires; and,

WHEREAS, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or with no working smoke alarms; working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires almost in half; and,

WHEREAS, smoke alarms sense smoke well before you can, alerting you to danger in the event of fire in which you may have as little as 2 minutes to escape safely; and,

WHEREAS, it is important that residents install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, and to make sure their smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, residents should test their smoke alarms at least once a month and should implement and practice a fire escape plan to increase their safety from fire; and,

WHEREAS, Gaston County first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim October 6–12, 2024 as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

and urge all the citizens of Gaston County to make sure their homes have working smoke alarms and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Gaston County's fire and emergency services.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 22nd Day of October 2024