



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

WHEREAS, U.S. fire departments responded to 365,500 home fires in 2015, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and,

WHEREAS, U.S. home fires resulted in 2,560 civilian deaths in 2015, representing the majority (78 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths; and,

WHEREAS, newer homes are built with lightweight materials that burn faster than older home constructions and many of today's products and furnishings produce toxic smoke and gasses when burned, making it impossible to see and breathe within moments; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions contribute to a much smaller window of time for people to escape a home fire safely, with people having as little as one to two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds; and,

WHEREAS, a home fire escape plan provides the skill set and know-how to quickly and safely escape a home fire situation; and,

WHEREAS, a home fire escape plan includes two exits from every room in the home; a path to the outside from each exit; smoke alarms in all required locations; and a meeting place outside where everyone in the home will meet upon exiting; and,

WHEREAS, home fire escape plans should be developed by all members of the household; and,

WHEREAS, practicing a home fire escape plan twice a year ensures that everyone in the household knows what to do in a real fire situation; and,

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

WHEREAS, Gaston County's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and,

WHEREAS, the 2017 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of developing a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it twice a year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims October 8-14, 2017 as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

throughout this community. We urge all citizens to develop a home fire escape plan and practice it twice a year and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Gaston County's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2017.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Donald J. Grant, Jr.

Tracy L. Philbeck

Bob Hovis

Ronald E. Worley, Vice-Chairman

To be Adopted the 24th Day of October 2017