



- WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and,
- WHEREAS, word about the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation was delayed some two and one half years, to June 19, 1865, in reaching authorities and African-Americans in the Southern United States; and,
- WHEREAS, the celebration of the end of slavery, which became known as Juneteenth, is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States and has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and,
- WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and celebrates the successes gained through education and greater success and reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream; and,
- WHEREAS, the first Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassurance, prayer, and the gathering of family members and neighbors and today is a time of remembrance and celebration within communities throughout the country that promotes and cultivates knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all people and cultures; and,
- WHEREAS, Gaston County is proud to celebrate this historic day for the third time and is excited to join the Fifth Annual Juneteenth celebration along with the City of Gastonia, Gastonia Police Department, Hope Youth Network and our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office on **Saturday, June 17, 2023:** Juneteenth Health Conference 2023 at Highland Health Center, 609 N. Highland Street – 10:00 am; Youth Barber Shop Wrap Session (Gym) and Gastonia EbonyFest Juneteenth Festival (Ball Field) at Erwin Center along with Live DJ, Performances and Speakers – 1:00 pm; then at 5:30 pm Honoring Charlotte McClee, Gastonia's formerly Enslaved First Midwife-1870 at the African American Museum of History and Culture, 300 S. Firestone Street, Suite P and on **Sunday, June 18, 2023: Gastonia EbonyFest Juneteenth Parade** followed by Gastonia EbonyFest Juneteenth Festival at the Rotary Centennial Pavilion – 5:00 pm and on **Monday, June 19, 2023: Gastonia EbonyFest Juneteenth Festival – 6:00 pm** followed by vendors, food, speeches and fireworks at the Rotary Pavilion.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of all of Gaston County, do hereby declare June 19, 2023 as

## ***Juneteenth***

in Gaston County, North Carolina and urge all citizens to join in celebrating this day of significance in the history and heritage of our nation and County.

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Cathy Cloninger

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Kim Johnson

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Allen R. Fraley

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Tom Keigher

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Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

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Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of June 2023