WHEREAS,   the United States faces a profound tragedy with over 21,000 homicides annually, underscoring the critical need to remember and support the victims and their families; and,

WHEREAS,   North Carolina ranks 6th in the United States for deaths by homicide, reflecting the urgent need for continued efforts in victim support and violence prevention; and,

WHEREAS,   the Gaston County District Attorney's Office launched its first Families of Homicide Support Group in 2024, a significant step in providing dedicated support to those affected by violent crime; and,

WHEREAS,   we believe in honoring the memory of victims and acknowledging the resulting long term trauma for families and communities. This National Day of Remembrance is an essential way of promoting public awareness and remembering our loved ones; and,

WHEREAS,   the collective efforts of the Gaston County District Attorney's Office, Gaston County Department of Survivor Services, Gaston County Police Department, Gastonia City Police Department, First Baptist Church, Solid Foundations Counseling and supportive community members demonstrate a profound commitment to supporting grieving families in their healing journeys; and,

WHEREAS,   it is our unwavering commitment to honor those who have lost their lives to violent crime and to stand with families who have experienced such profound loss; and,

WHEREAS,   we urge all citizens of Gaston County to join in our first ever National Night of Remembrance for Murder Victims Candlelight Vigil on September 25th at the Rotary Pavilion beginning at 7:00 pm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims September 25th as

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR HOMICIDE VICTIMS

and we encourage all citizens to join in honoring the memory of the victims, supporting their families, and committing to the ongoing fight against violence in our communities.

_____
Chad Brown, Chairman

_____   _____
Cathy Cloninger   Kim Johnson

_____   _____
Allen R. Fraley   Tom Keigher

_____   _____
Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman   Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 19th Day of September 2024