



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Public Works

Board Action

File #: 24-294

Board of Commissioners - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute Any Necessary Contract Documents with Foundation Forward, Inc. and the City of Gastonia for the Installation and Maintenance of the Charters of Freedom

STAFF CONTACT

Daniel K. Ziehm, PE - Public Works - 704-862-6795

BUDGET IMPACT

No additional County funds.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

N/A

BACKGROUND

At a previous meeting, Foundation Forward, Inc. made a presentation to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners regarding the Charters of Freedom. Foundation Forward, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, apolitical, and areligious educational organization. The goal of Foundation Forward is to educate people and preserve American history. Foundation Forward provides easy and open access for all to the founding documents: The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

The scope of the project is to design and build a replica of the Charters of Freedom display as exhibited in the National Archives Rotunda, Washington, D.C. The display must be central and open to the community, with high visibility, voluminous foot traffic, and easy access for school children, veterans, and all others. The bases of the settings will be constructed with concrete and brick veneer, and the Charters of Freedom documents will be original size on ¼ inch etched bronze and covered by a sheet of engineered industrial viewing glass. The setting will also include a plaque and a vault with a time capsule sealed inside.

Gaston County has met with Foundation Forward, Inc. representatives multiple times to review potential locations and the mutually agreed upon preferred location is the Rotary Pavilion. A map showing the location of the Charters of Freedom setting is attached to this Board Action.

(Continued on Page 2)

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	RWorley	Vote
2024-235	06/25/2024	TK	BH	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

Board of Commissioners - Public Works - To Authorize the County Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute Any Necessary Contract Documents with Foundation Forward, Inc. and the City of Gastonia for the Installation and Maintenance of the Charters of Freedom

Page 2

Foundation Forward, Inc. will fund construction of the Charters of Freedom setting. Site costs, restoring concrete sidewalks, long-term maintenance, etc. will be the responsibility of Gaston County.

Approval of this Board Action by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners authorizes County staff to work with Foundation Forward, Inc. and the City of Gastonia for the design, construction, and future maintenance of the Charters of Freedom located at the Rotary Pavilion. Further, approval of this Board Action authorizes the County Attorney to negotiate and draft any necessary agreements, including encroachment and maintenance agreements required by Foundation Forward, and/or the City of Gastonia and authorizes the County Manager, or her designee, to execute said agreements.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Foundation Forward Letter of Intent and Charters of Freedom Site/Location Map

DRAFT

March 23, 2023

Your County, City, State

Chairman, Your Name

Address

City, State 11111

Re: Your County - Charters of Freedom

Letter of Intent

Whereby a presentation was made by Foundation Forward, Inc. to Your County, and The Board of Commissioners, having taken the matter under consideration, then voted to accept the terms outlined in this Letter of Intent and the attached Addendum, necessary for the placement of the Your County Charters of Freedom setting from Foundation Forward, Inc. in City, State.

By this letter, Foundation Forward, Inc. affirms its intent to place a four-part setting with brick facade, which will consist of the Declaration of Independence, four pages of the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as displayed in The National Archives, in Washington, D.C., along with an additional display of the Civil Rights Amendments. This setting will also include Donors Recognition Pedestal(s), a Field of Honor consisting of engravable pavers, and a Time Capsule Vault.

The selected and approved site will be Location, located at Address. This site was selected jointly by Foundation Forward, Inc. and the County for its prominent location, providing high visibility, high foot traffic, and easy access by school children and veterans.

All funds for this project will be kept in a Truist Bank account in Burke County, North Carolina under the account named "Foundation Forward, Inc." Foundation Forward, Inc. will make the County's account balance available to Chairman Your Name, upon request.

Any and all site preparation, ADA compliance, AND/OR any new landscaping upon completion of the construction, that may be necessary or desired, will be the responsibility of the County (or City) of Name, as outlined in the attached Addendum. The targeted start date will be determined by the Foundation's current build schedule, and will be subject to a Pre-Construction Conference and the completion of the Construction Checklist (provided during the aforementioned PCC). Planning for a dedication ceremony will begin when the construction process is approximately 75% completed (generally after the facade is constructed).

Time Capsule letter packets will be mailed out to Community Leaders, Educational Institutions, Law Enforcement, Veterans Groups, and Local Businesses and Organizations. These letters are to be returned via SASE envelope to be included in the time capsule that will be sealed during a Time Capsule and Donors Recognition ceremony to be conducted at least 5-6 months after the Dedication. Additional letters, pictures, flash drives, and some small memorabilia may also be included.

Foundation Forward, Inc.

By: _____

Date: _____

Title: Founder, Vance Patterson

Your County, State

By: _____

Date: _____

Title: Your Name

Foundation Forward, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

www.chartersoffreedom.com • info@chartersoffreedom.com • Phone: 828-522-1400

FOUNDATION FORWARD LETTER OF INTENT - ADDENDUM
(Revised October 1, 2022)

POINT OF CONTACT - The process of receiving a Charters of Freedom setting begins with The County establishing a Point of Contact (POC) who Foundation Forward will coordinate with throughout the process. The POC must form a Committee for promoting community involvement and planning the Dedication Ceremony, Time Capsule Ceremony, and any other related events. Foundation Forward's Resources and Communications team will work with your POC and Committee to get this message out so your community can get the most out of this project, taking ownership as the process takes place.

FUNDING – If you have received a letter of intent from Foundation Forward then plans are in place to design, build, and dedicate your Charters of Freedom setting. We know that people like to participate in these projects by donating money, materials, labor, or other forms of support. Often, local governments or groups decide that they would like to add to the overall layout of the setting by including curb cuts, sidewalks, aprons, flagpoles, benches, landscaping, etc. These items are considered optional and are not covered by the overall scope of work that Foundation Forward provides.

SITE PREPARATION – Any utilities, trees, bushes, boulders, or concrete **MUST** be moved so Foundation Forward can proceed with the excavation of the site. The ground must be fairly level and free of standing water. Once the site is prepared Foundation Forward will begin excavation and construction of the setting. If a county backhoe is available and can assist, this is not required but would be greatly appreciated.

CONSTRUCTION – Unless otherwise agreed upon, Foundation Forward, Inc. will be responsible for all of the construction of the setting. Any assistance from the community via donated masonry, electrical, trade classes, etc. is appreciated, but not required.

ELECTRICAL – While it is not necessary to have power to the setting, having 110-volt outlets for speakers and teachers works very well for presentations, ceremonies, and celebrations at the site. If low voltage power is provided to the back of the setting, Foundation Forward will include an LED package to light the chambers so the setting will glow at night and the documents can be viewed.

ADA ACCESSIBLE – The setting itself is ADA Compliant, with the proper height and angle for viewing. Approach sidewalks and an apron in front of the setting may be ADA requisite and would be the responsibility of The County. Foundation Forward will incorporate the Field of Honor area of engravable pavers, measuring 6' x 12', in front of the US Constitution. This area does not require concrete, but these specifications must be met if The County includes an apron. Foundation Forward installs the pavers and will assist with the layout and design of the apron.

TIMELINE – Typically the timeline from the signing of the Letter of Intent to the Dedication Ceremony is around six months. Delays in weather and other unforeseen circumstances can lengthen this process, while other factors including donated labor and materials can shorten the process. A sample timeline can be provided.

DEDICATION – Foundation Forward has dedicated over 40 settings across the country, so our experience is thorough. We will provide you with a sample Dedication Program that can be modified, within the existing four-page layout, to showcase your community and culture. Typical dedications last 45 minutes complete with bands, choirs, color guards, speeches, and a presentation by Foundation Forward which includes a traditional cannon salute to The Articles of The United States Constitution. It is a life experience for all to attend.

ADDITIONAL SETTINGS – We have found there are sometimes requests for additional Charters of Freedom settings in a county. This requires special consideration and approval making sure they do not conflict with one another in attention or Community Support.



Proposed Charters of
Freedom Setting



0 15 30
Feet

Although strict accuracy standards have been employed in the compilation of this map, Gaston County does not make or imply any warranties or assume any responsibility for the information presented on this map or its use. This map is for illustrative purposes only.

This map may not be resold or otherwise used for trade or commercial purposes without the expressed written consent of Gaston County, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §122-10.

Prepared by: Gaston County
Date: June 27, 2024