



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 24<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2017



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Fire Marshal Board Action

File #: 17-334

Commissioner Grant - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of October 8-14, 2017 as Fire Prevention Week and Adopt the Theme: Every Second Counts - Plan 2 Ways Out!

### STAFF CONTACT

Eric Hendrix - Fire Marshal - 704 866-3231

### BACKGROUND

National Fire Prevention Week is observed across the United States each year during the first full week (Sunday thru Saturday) that contains the date of October 9th. It commemorates the Great Chicago Fire, a conflagration that burned from Sunday, October 8, to early Tuesday, October 10, 1871. The fire killed up to 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles of Chicago, IL and left more than 100,000 residents homeless. In the United States, the first Presidential proclamation of Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) continues to be the international sponsor of the week. On the 40th anniversary (1911) of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America; the oldest membership section of the NFPA, sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day, deciding to observe the anniversary as a way to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The non-profit NFPA, which has officially sponsored Fire Prevention Week since its inception, selects the annual theme for Fire Prevention Week (2017 = Every Second Counts - Plan 2 Ways Out). When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week on October 4-10, 1925, he noted that in the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States. Calling the loss "startling", Coolidge's proclamation stated: "This waste results from the conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented... It is highly desirable that every effort be made to reform the conditions which have made possible so vast a destruction of the national wealth". SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

### ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation - Fire Prevention Week

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 | Brown | Fraley | Grant | Hovis | Keigher | Philbeck | Robie |
|----------|------------|----|----|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| 2017-250 | 10/24/2017 | TP | DG | A     | A      | A     | A     | A       | A        | U     |

### DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

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