



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

WHEREAS, according to the National Fire Protection Association in 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,630 deaths and 10,600 injuries. On average, seven (7) people died in a home fire per day during 2012 to 2016; and,

WHEREAS, these numbers show that home fires continue to pose a significant threat to safety and in a typical fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape from the time a smoke alarm sounds; and,

WHEREAS, this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" works to educate people on the importance of escape planning and practice to help you make the most of the time you have in an emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims October 6-12, 2019, as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

throughout this community. We urge all citizens to "Plan and Practice Your Escape" and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Gaston County's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2019.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown, Vice-Chairman

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley