



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Judge Michael K. Lands, an esteemed resident of Gastonia, has devoted the past 39 years to serving the citizens of Gaston County as Assistant Public Defender from 1984 to 1990, and elected as Gaston County District Attorney from 1990 to 2006, and elected District Court Judge for Gaston County from 2007 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lands graduated from North Mecklenburg High School in 1977 and graduated from Wake Forest University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts degree before attaining a Juris Doctor at the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lands has received numerous awards including Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow; Gaston College Department of Criminal Justice and Paralegal's Distinguished Service Award in 2006; recipient of the 2018 Gaston Together Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Award; and most recently recipient of the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2022, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lands has given back to this community in a multitude of ways including Growth Group teacher at Parkwood Baptist Church, past youth sports coach, and past member of the Gastonia East Rotary Club.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, here do recognize and congratulate

JUDGE MICHAEL K. LANDS

on his retirement and thank him for his longstanding commitment to our community, wishing him the best in his future retirement endeavors.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 17th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.

Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk