



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the **Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III**, is celebrating his retirement after 28 years as a Superior Court Judge for Gaston County and North Carolina, preceded by 20 years of service as a private attorney and in the Public Defender's Office; and

**WHEREAS**, **Judge Caldwell** grew up in Gastonia and graduated from Hunter Huss High School, the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a B.A. in political science and government in 1971 and the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1973; and

**WHEREAS**, **Judge Caldwell** served in private practice, as the Chief Public Defender, as Superior Court Judge since 1993, and as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Gaston County since 1995 overseeing the courthouse administration of our judicial district; and

**WHEREAS**, **Judge Caldwell** is a recent President of the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges as well as a member of both the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission and the Pattern Jury Instruction Committee and received the Trial Judge of the Year Award in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, **Judge Caldwell** has given back to this community in a multitude of ways including Chairperson of Gaston-Lincoln Mental Health Authority, Gaston Community Action, Crisis Assistance Ministry, the Little Theater of Gastonia, Pioneer Girl Scout Council Board Member, Gaston Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, Horizon House, and Gaston Alternatives, and he also serves as a lay preacher preaching in many churches of various denominations in Western North Carolina, and has taught classes at Gaston College and Gardner-Webb University, and was an Adjunct Faculty Member at the Charlotte School of Law; and

**WHEREAS**, some notable honors **Judge Caldwell** has received include the Family Advocate Award from the Gaston County Commission on the Family, the Citizen of the Year Award from the Gastonia Civitan Club, and the Martin Luther King Unity Award from Gaston Together; and

**WHEREAS**, **Judge Caldwell** continues to serve our community as member of the Rotary Club of Gastonia, the Advisory Board for Cornerstone Christian Center, and a trustee of the Hall Charitable Foundation.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, recognize and congratulate **the Honorable Jesse B. Caldwell, III** on his retirement and thank him for his long-standing commitment to serving our community.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

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Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk