



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mr. R. M. “Bud” Schiele and his wife Lily came to Gastonia and spent their lives from 1924 to 1957 with Boy Scouts of America operating the Piedmont Scout Council and training over 100,000 young men. During this time, they built significant collections of natural history specimens and historical objects, including taxidermy mounts, rocks, minerals, insects, American Indian artifacts, woven rugs, baskets, jewelry and much more; and

WHEREAS, In, 1957, Bud and Lily offered their significant collections to the community if a museum could be built. Bud and Lily Schiele had long dreamed of having a museum where their collection could be shared with the public and used to teach students; and

WHEREAS, A citizens’ committee led the effort to build a museum, including Albert Myers, Brice Dickson, D. R. LaFar, and Mr. Schiele. The museum was incorporated in 1960. Initial funding for the building was provided by Gaston County and the newly created non-profit Board of Directors funded the completion of the interior and installation of the exhibits; and

WHEREAS, On July 24, 1961, the Gaston Museum of Natural History opened to the public. In 1964, the City of Gastonia assumed operation of the museum and the name was changed to the Schiele Museum of Natural History in honor of Mr. Bud Schiele; and

WHEREAS, The Schiele has grown from the original 1,500 sq. ft. building to a 74,000 sq. ft. facility on a 20-acre campus with permanent and temporary exhibit galleries, a full-dome digital planetarium, the Matthews Belk Cannon Environmental Studies Center, the Torrence Green Roof, a Nature Trail with outdoor exhibits, and a newly expanded Farm with live animal displays; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 60 years, continued improvements and renovations have been made possible through the strong public-private partnership of the City of Gastonia and the Schiele Board of Trustees, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, The Mission of the Schiele Museum is committed to inspiring curiosity and understanding of science and the natural world through exceptional educational programs, exhibits, and research to serve our citizens as a regional attraction.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do commemorate and celebrate the Schiele Museum as a leader for 60 years, playing an important role in the quality of life in 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 20th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk