



Proclamation

WHEREAS, we celebrate the retirement of **Mr. Steve Gardner** after 40 years of service in education and coaching sports teams while serving on several athletic boards at the local and state levels; and

WHEREAS, **Mr. Gardner** is a Cleveland County native and 1976 graduate from Burns High School where he was a record-setting quarterback; and

WHEREAS, **Mr. Gardner** received academic and athletic scholarships and is a 1980 graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, where he played tight end for its football team; and

WHEREAS, **Mr. Gardner** was Assistant Football Coach at Oklahoma State University from 1983 to 1989, where he recruited Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders who went on to play in the NFL and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 **Mr. Gardner** made his way back to North Carolina as Assistant Football Coach at Hunter Huss High School, then as Head Coach in 1997 and Athletic Director since 2014; and

WHEREAS, **Mr. Gardner** is the longest-tenured head football coach in Hunter Huss High School's history and was the first African-American head football coach in the area at that time; and

WHEREAS, **Mr. Gardner** and his wife of 32 years, Sylvia, have two children, both graduates of Hunter Huss High School, and one grandson.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia congratulate **Mr. Steve Gardner** on the occasion of his retirement and wish him the best and continued success in his retirement and future endeavors.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 16th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk