



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Ms. Maria Howell, a Gastonia native, is a nationally and internationally recognized actress and singer who has carved out a successful career in TV, movies, theater, and music; and

WHEREAS, she grew up in the City's Myrtle School community, attended Gaston County public schools, graduating from Hunter Huss High School and then from Winston-Salem State University. During high school and college, she worked summers for the Parks & Recreation Department and was an active member and avid choir member of her home church, St. Paul Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Howell made her film debut in the Academy Award nominated, *The Color Purple* and has co-starred in many other films including *Daddy's Little Girls*, *Mississippi Damned*, *The Blind Side*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and the Oscar-nominated *Hidden Figures*. Her TV credits include a recurring role in Bounce TV's "Saints & Sinners," as well as guest appearances in Lifetime's hit series "Army Wives," Marc Cherry's "Devious Maids," NBC's "Revolution" and "Aquarius," CBS's hit "Criminal Minds," the CW's "The Game" and "The Vampire Diaries" and the USA network's "Necessary Roughness;" and

WHEREAS, Ms. Howell is also a song stylist in her own right, having shared the musical stage with such legendary artists as Nancy Wilson, George Benson, Ray Charles, Earl Klugh and Ronnie Laws and performed at Atlanta's famous Samba Jazz Café for nine consecutive years, one of the longest running acts at that jazz club; and now hosts a live Hollywood music series called #DUETS; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Howell has returned home to share her wealth of knowledge and expertise in the entertainment industry with aspiring actors and singers here in her hometown in a seminar called "A Conversation with Maria Howell," being held on Wednesday, July 18, entirely free of charge, to inform and encourage the next generation of Gastonia talent.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and City Council do hereby congratulate Ms. Maria Howell on her extraordinary success in the entertainment industry and express our appreciation for her willingness to return home to share her knowledge and experience with the City's entertainment industry hopefuls.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this 17th day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen.

Walker E. Reid, III, Mayor

Attest:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk