



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the achievements of **Ms. Donna Lockett** who has faithfully served as Executive Director of Gaston Together for 21 years, fulfilling its mission to “bring people together to tackle big community challenges” by forming community partnerships to develop some of the most important collaborations in Gaston County; and

**WHEREAS**, since joining Gaston Together, **Ms. Lockett** has helped to support the Gaston Clergy and Citizen Coalition (GC3), a non-denominational group of ministers formed to improve community race relations which forged a covenant agreement with Law Enforcement throughout Gaston County to work to bring our community together across lines of race, creed, class, gender, and location; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2004, the GC3 has sponsored the annual MLK Unity Awards, which recognize current or former Gaston County residents who have performed exemplary community service to help build bridges of unity across lines of race, class, gender, faith, and/or among municipalities within the County and in 2015, **Ms. Lockett** was awarded with her own MLK Special Recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, during **Ms. Lockett’s** tenure, Gaston Together also: engaged the community to make Gaston County the first County to create and approve its portion of the regional Carolina Thread Trail; established the Pride in Gaston Traveling Tour that allows third-graders to visit local sites such as the Schiele Museum, Holy Angels, Stowe Gardens, and Crowders Mountain State Park; launched Gaston Career Climb, a community workforce development collaboration; established the Gaston Together Healthcare Commission, which has facilitated numerous healthcare initiatives, including the Gaston Controlled Substances Coalition which is preventing opioid addiction efforts in our community; and created the Civic Engagement Leadership initiative to engage young professionals in learning about and helping to create a bright future for Gaston County; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ms. Lockett** has always had a love for this great city that she calls home where she graduated with the last graduating class from Ashley High School in 1970.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby recognize and honor **Ms. Donna Lockett** for her many accomplishments and thank her for her long-standing commitment to serving our community by building bridges of unity and bringing people together.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.

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Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk