



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control estimated 90,237 overdose deaths occurred in the United States of America over a 12-month period ending September, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gastonia affirms and acknowledges the harm and hardship caused by drug overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the purpose of International Overdose Awareness Day as a time to remember loved ones lost to overdose and to end the stigma of drug-related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge the more than 3,146 North Carolina residents who lost their lives to overdose in 2020 together with the countless more affected forever; and

**WHEREAS**, we resolve to continue our part in reducing the incidents of overdose in our community, which claimed the lives of more than 48 Gaston County residents in 2021 and has already claimed 19 lives in the first half of 2022, which represents a 375% increase over this same time period in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, we affirm that the people affected by overdose are our sons and daughters, our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, and who deserve our love, compassion, and support.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2022 as

## **OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

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

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Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk