



Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Motto of the City of Gastonia is “Great place, great people, great promise”; and

WHEREAS, our children represent the potential of our community to achieve that promise; and

WHEREAS, the children of our community are reliant on our adult citizens to provide the necessary resources to achieve their potential; a stable environment including adequate shelter, nourishment, and education; and also freedom from physical, emotional, psychological or spiritual abuse and subsequent trauma; and

WHEREAS, professionals across multiple disciplines regularly convene to address needs and develop resources to educate and inform the public of child safety concerns, including: nonprofit agencies, public schools, department of health and human services, law enforcement, the judicial system, and support systems including the medical, faith, and counseling communities; and

WHEREAS, evidence based practices show that regular and consistent public education regarding child abuse prevention, including models of awareness, appropriate preventative action and systematic therapeutic treatment in fact significantly reduces reports of child abuse over time in a community

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia, Gaston County, and the State of North Carolina are committed to preventing child abuse, and call upon citizens from all walks of life to participate in that prevention;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim **April 2017** as

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

and urge its citizens to join together in creating a safe and nurturing community where children can achieve their potential and promise free from abuse.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed this the 21st day of March, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen.

John D. Bridgeman, Mayor

Attest:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk