



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Deaf Awareness Month started in 1958 with the focus on improving human rights of deaf persons, expanding the instruction of national sign languages, access to education, and access to information technology and services; and

WHEREAS, the deaf population includes individuals born profoundly deaf who use American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication, and includes people with a range of hearing loss who use hearing aids, assistive listening devices, or other forms of amplifications and communication modes; and

WHEREAS, according to research, across all age groups, approximately 600,000 people in the United States are deaf; and more than half of those are over 65 years of age; and

WHEREAS, according to the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in North Carolina (DSDHHS) about 15% of Gaston County's population suffers from hearing loss and that number is expected to increase; and

WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that people who are deaf have equal access to the many benefits and opportunities available in our community; and

WHEREAS, people who identify themselves as deaf belong to a cultural and linguistic community, with shared language, social norms, rules of behavior and history. This made our driving zeal for the deaf community grow; and

WHEREAS, Nitas Silent Hands, Incorporated, will provide services including helping to gain greater understanding of the American deaf and hard of hearing community and its culture and heritage, teaching about sign language as an essential human right and how it is growing in popularity, resources within our community such as sign language classes, and discovering ways to promote the human rights of deaf people and access to education and technologies; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim the month of September as

DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 7th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk