



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the City of Gastonia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our City; and
- WHEREAS,** fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at the greatest risk with nearly 3,000 deaths each year as a result of home fires. Unattended cooking appliances are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths. Two-thirds of home cooking fires start with ignition of food or other cooking materials; and
- WHEREAS,** working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half and automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80%; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Fire Protection Association recommends at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home (including the basement), outside all sleeping areas, and in all bedrooms; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Gastonia's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and proper education because residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will, therefore, be more likely to survive a fire; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." This year's theme reinforces the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly. In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest-running public health observance on record.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Gastonia do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2022, as:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

in the City of Gastonia and urge all citizens to protect their homes and families by heeding the important messages of Fire Prevention Week 2022, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of North Carolina's fire and emergency services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed this the 4th day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-two.

Walker E. Reid, Mayor

Attest:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk