



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 from fire; and

WHEREAS, nearly 3,000 people die each year as a result of home fires; and

WHEREAS, unattended cooking appliances are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, 2/3 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

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, automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80%; 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; and

WHEREAS, Gastonia's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, 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 2018 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - fire can happen anywhere" effectively serves to remind us of the dangers associated with cooking fires and to develop and practice home fire escape plans during Fire Prevention Week and year around;

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Gastonia do hereby proclaim October 7-13, 2018, 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 2018, 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 18th day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen.

Walker E. Reid, Mayor

Attest:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk