



Proclamation

WHEREAS, just like those who came before us, it is our duty to protect the children of the City of Gastonia and maintain communities in which they may all be given the opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, we understand and recognize that there is a racial divide in our country and we must all work earnestly to heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious bias and build an equitable and just society so that all children can thrive; and

WHEREAS, children have the right to be provided every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in nurturing environments that don't violate their safety, dignity and humanity; and

WHEREAS, every single person has the capability to make a simple change within him or herself that can have a profound effect on an entire society; and

WHEREAS, if we all dedicate ourselves to the principles of truth, racial healing and transformation, we can all bring about the necessary changes in thinking and behavior that will propel this great city forward as a unified force where racial biases will become a thing of the past; and

WHEREAS, racial healing is a vital and crucial commitment to the education, social, mental and overall well-being of *all* our children; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia in conjunction with others throughout the United States of America, acknowledges the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as the "National Day of Racial Healing," and urges all citizens to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a means to working together to ensure the best quality of life for every child.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, proclaim that this city honors and recognizes the Tuesday following the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as the "**National Day of Racial Healing.**"

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 19th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk