



Proclamation

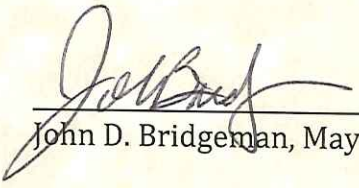
- WHEREAS,** each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus; and
- WHEREAS,** lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that ravages different parts of the body and is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with, and a challenge to treat; and
- WHEREAS,** lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks miscarriages, and organ failure; and
- WHEREAS,** lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS,** while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus - disparity that remains unexplained; and
- WHEREAS,** 53,000 North Carolinians are affected by lupus.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John D. Bridgeman, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim the month of **May** as

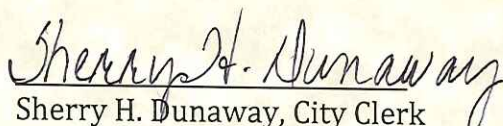
Lupus Awareness Month

And urge its citizens to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the North Carolina Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.


John D. Bridgeman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk

