



## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS, Mr. Porter L. McAteer** has devoted 24 years of service to the citizens of Gastonia and Gaston County as an elected official having served 16 years (1978-1994) as a Gaston County Commissioner representing Gastonia Township including terms as Vice Chair and Chairman of the County Commissioners, 2 years as Mayor of Gastonia (1997-1999), and 6 years (2011-2017) on the Gastonia City Council representing Ward V, choosing not to seek re-election in the November 2017; and

**WHEREAS,** Porter is the only person in the history of Gaston County to serve as both Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners and as Mayor of Gastonia; and

**WHEREAS,** Porter has provided invaluable leadership and guidance on many significant projects during his tenure as a member of City Council, Mayor, and County Commissioner including the preservation of Ashley High School now known as Ashley Arms, the relocation of the City's water intake to Mountain Island Lake, and the construction of the Gaston County Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS,** After graduating from North Carolina State University in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering, Porter joined the faculty of Gaston Technical Institute (GTI) where he spent 4 years (1961-1965) before GTI was merged into Gaston College, where he spent the next 33 years (1965-1998) as a faculty member, and following his retirement in 1998 after a career of 37 years, the Gaston College Board of Trustees bestowed upon him the title of Faculty Emeritus; and

**WHEREAS,** Porter has also contributed his time and talents serving in leadership roles in numerous community and state organizations including: the North Carolina ABC Board of Directors, the Gastonia ABC Board, Gaston Health Care Board of Trustees, Gaston Boys Club Board of Directors, United Arts Council Founding Member and Board of Directors, Gaston County League of Women Voters Charter Member, the Gaston County Board of Social Services, the United Way, and many, many other organizations; and

**WHEREAS,** Porter and his wife, Elizabeth "Libby" Snuggs McAteer have completely renovated and continue to live in the home in Gastonia's Historic York-Chester neighborhood where Porter was raised; and

**WHEREAS,** Porter is considered by many of his constituents to be responsive and an advocate for neighborhoods with a Gaston Gazette editorial once describing him as "having his ear to the ground" and being in touch with the public.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, John D. Bridgeman, Mayor of the City of Gastonia, and the Gastonia City Council, do hereby express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for Porter's dedication and commitment to the City of Gastonia and wish him the best and continued success in future endeavors.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 21<sup>th</sup> day of November, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

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John D. Bridgeman, Mayor

Attest:

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Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk