



Proclamation

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates the month of **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 can cause severe damage tissues and organs in the body and, in some cases, can cause death, and;

WHEREAS, more than 5 million people worldwide and over 50,000 North Carolinians suffer the devastating effects of this cruel and mysterious disease with over 100,000 young women, men, and children around the world newly diagnosed each year with Lupus, the great majority of whom are women of childbearing age; and

WHEREAS, medical research efforts into Lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for Lupus patients are under-funded in comparison to diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

WHEREAS, many physicians worldwide and statewide are unaware of symptoms and health effects of Lupus, causing people with Lupus to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities worldwide about the debilitating impact of Lupus.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim the month of **May, 2024** 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's call for increased public and private sector funding for medical research about Lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public, and recognition of Lupus as a significant public health issue.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 7th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne Gibbs, City Clerk