



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities was founded in 1924 in Lawrence, Kansas, as the American Municipal Association by state municipal leagues seeking more coordination and national representation as cities, towns, and villages expanded rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the nonpartisan National League of Cities is the oldest and largest organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States, representing the interests of more than 19,000 cities, towns, and villages across the country; and

WHEREAS, today, the National League of Cities works in partnership with 49 state municipal leagues across the country to strengthen local leadership, drive innovation, and influence the federal policies that impact local programs and operations; and

WHEREAS, as the voice of cities, towns, and villages in Washington, DC, the National League of Cities has successfully championed federal legislative solutions that support municipalities and has worked closely with Congress and the Executive Branch to educate policymakers on the realities of local implementation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia is a proud member of the National League of Cities, and has benefited from the organization's research, technical expertise, federal advocacy and opportunities to learn from other local governments; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the bedrock of American democracy, providing 336 million residents with the most accountable, responsive, inclusive, ethical, and transparent government in the world; and

WHEREAS, from the nation's smallest villages to its largest cities, America's local governments have been essential in transforming the United States of America into the greatest, most influential nation in world history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia was first incorporated in 1877 and is proudly served today by Mayor Richard Franks and Council Members, Robert Kellogg, Dave Kirlin, Jim Gallagher, Charles Odom, Jennifer M. Stepp, and Donyel Barber, with a municipal workforce of over 900 dedicated public servants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, hereby proclaims **May 2024** as **National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month** in celebration of America's local governments and the National League of Cities' historic centennial anniversary.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 7th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk