



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformation (CM) is a serious neurological disorder affecting more than 300,000 people in the United States, was first identified by Austrian Pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890's, and categorized in order of severity: CM types 0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3 and 4; and

WHEREAS, Chiari Malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance. This creates pressure on the cerebellum and brain stem and may block the normal flow of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain; and

WHEREAS, the cause of **Chiari Malformation** is unknown. However, scientists believe it is either a congenital condition caused by exposure to harmful substances during fetal development or that it can be a genetic condition, as it may appear in more than one family member; and

WHEREAS, symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred vision or double vision, difficulty swallowing and sleep apnea; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health is conducting research to find alternative surgical options to identify the cause of the malformations and create improved treatment and prevention plans.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, do hereby proclaim the month of **September 2024**, as

CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Gastonia and encourage all citizens to participate in the annual Conquer Chiari Walk Across America to be held Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the Dallas Park and other awareness events planned during the month.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 20th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk