



# Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the City of Gastonia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our City; and
- WHEREAS,** fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at the greatest risk for fires; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 3,500 people die each year as a result of home fires; and
- WHEREAS,** unattended cooking appliances continue to be the leading cause of home structure fires and associated injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** two-thirds of home cooking fires start with ignited food or other cooking materials; and
- WHEREAS,** working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires to half; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Fire Protection Association recommends at least one smoke alarm be installed on every level of the home (including the basement), outside all sleeping areas, and in all bedrooms; and
- WHEREAS,** automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80%; and
- WHEREAS,** residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will, be more likely to survive a fire; and
- WHEREAS,** Gastonia’s residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Gastonia’s first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and proper education; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2024 Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!” strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. The campaign calls to action: **INSTALL, TEST, and REPLACE.**

**NOW THEREFORE,** the Mayor and Council of the City of Gastonia do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2024, as:

## “Fire Prevention Week”

in the City of Gastonia and urge all citizens to protect their homes and families by heeding the important messages of Fire Prevention Week 2024, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of North Carolina’s fire and emergency services.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Franks, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk