



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia believes that every person has the right to every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in nurturing environments that do not violate their safety, dignity, and humanity; and

WHEREAS, we all have a unique responsibility and opportunity to work collaboratively to create courageous and supportive environments that acknowledge the traumatic past; promote the healing of the wounds created by racial, ethnic bias, and build an equitable and just society where every person can thrive; and

WHEREAS, we believe that every person can make a simple change within himself or herself toward racial healing that can have a profound effect on an entire society; and

WHEREAS, we continue to dedicate ourselves to the principles of truth, racial healing and transformation, in order to bring the necessary changes in thinking and behavior that will propel our great city forward as a unified force where racial biases will become a thing of the past; and

WHEREAS, we believe that racial healing is vital and crucial to the education, social, mental, and overall well-being of *all*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia, in conjunction with others throughout the United States of America, acknowledges the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as the “National Day of Racial Healing,” and urges all citizens to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, in order to work together to ensure the best quality of life for every person; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia will continue to work through our diversity, equity and inclusion initiative to build awareness of the practices that build racial healing and to advance racial equity in our great city.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, proclaim that this city honors and recognizes Tuesday, January 16, 2024 as the “**National Day of Racial Healing.**”

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 16th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk