



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on May 21, 1881, the United States National Lawn Tennis Association (USTA) was founded in New York City, New York, to create rules and standards for the emerging game of lawn tennis; and

WHEREAS, the USTA is the nonprofit, national governing body for tennis in the United States, and leads the promotion and growth of the sport at every level of play, from beginners to professionals at the US Open Tennis Championship; and

WHEREAS, the USTA is the largest tennis organization in the world, with more than 550,000 members from every corner of the country; and

WHEREAS, the USTA proudly partners with local tennis programs to showcase the important health, social, and educational benefits of tennis, and to make the sport available to everyone, regardless of age, environment, condition, or ability, through its USTA Adaptive grants; and

WHEREAS, the latest research by the Physical Activity Council shows that more than 23.8 million Americans played tennis in 2023, an unprecedented 25 percent increase in participation over 2020 and the highest number of players since the PAC study began in 2007; and

WHEREAS, by increasing the accessibility of tennis for citizens of Gastonia of all ages and ability, the USTA has contributed to making our community happier and healthier; and

WHEREAS, USTA has declared the month of May as National Tennis Month to encourage players, organizations, facilities, retailers, tennis manufacturers and others to promote local programs and activities, at parks and facilities to showcase tennis and to spread the word about the sport and its benefits, and to help players and non-players alike find courts and opportunities to play in their communities.

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 **May 2024**, as **National Tennis Month** and hereby urge the citizens of Gastonia to become aware of and support National Tennis Month.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 21st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk