



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19, marks the historic day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom -more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and has since become a national celebration of resilience, justice, and progress; and

WHEREAS, recognized as the longest-running African American holiday, Juneteenth serves as a powerful reminder of our nation's journey toward freedom and equality, providing an opportunity for communities to reflect on the past while committing to a more inclusive future; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper has publicly acknowledged the significance of Juneteenth at Aunt Charlotte McClee Day, further affirming its importance in North Carolina's history and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the 7th Annual Gastonia EbonyFest Juneteenth Festival celebrates African American history, heritage, and contributions through music, art, education, and community engagement, fostering unity and cultural appreciation throughout Gastonia; and

WHEREAS, The African American Museum of History & Culture plays a crucial role in preserving and sharing African American history, ensuring that Juneteenth remains a cornerstone of cultural awareness and education, with its Director, Mrs. Dorothy Guthrie, serving as a guiding force in its recognition and celebration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia recognizes Juneteenth as a time to honor African American achievements, promote social equity, and celebrate progress while acknowledging the ongoing work toward a just and inclusive society; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Richard Franks, Mayor of the City of Gastonia, along with the City Council, do hereby proclaim **June 19, 2025** as

JUNETEENTH

in the City of Gastonia and call upon all residents to join in celebrating this historic day.

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

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk