

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE HONORABLE  
DERWIN L. MONTGOMERY FOR HIS SERVICE AS EAST WARD  
COUNCIL MEMBER**

**WHEREAS**, Derwin L. Montgomery began serving the East Ward as a Council Member in 2009. A native of Hopkins, South Carolina, he came to Winston-Salem in 2006 to attend Winston-Salem State University. There he served as a member of the Student Senate, and President of the WSSU Chapter of the NAACP among other areas of service; and

**WHEREAS**, while a senior at Winston-Salem State University and at the age of 21, he was elected to the Winston-Salem City Council representing the city's East Ward and became the youngest African-American elected official in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Montgomery has served as Chair of the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee, as well as Vice Chair and member of the Public Works Committee, a member of the Finance Committee and the Public Safety Committee. In addition, he served on the Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, Piedmont Triad Film Commission Board of Directors, RiverRun Film Festival Board of Directors, NC League of Municipalities Board of Directors, a member of the Young Elected Officials Network, and the NC Black Municipal Officials; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, having received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science concentrating in Public Administration, Council Member Montgomery continued his education at Wake Forest University School of Divinity and is a 2018 graduate of Duke Divinity School. Council Member Montgomery is a 2017 graduate of Leadership North Carolina. After serving as Youth Minister at First Calvary Baptist in Winston-Salem, he was called to be the Senior Pastor in 2012 and in 2014 was named Executive Director of the Bethesda Center for the Homeless; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Montgomery believes that one should be the change one wants to see in the world while never giving up. He is an advocate for those less fortunate in our society. Council Member Montgomery is tenacious and observing when implementing what is best for the community and his compassion for the residents of the East Ward and citizens of Winston-Salem compel his call to action. For his services, he has been recognized with the City of Winston-Salem's MLK Young Dreamers Award, The On Common Ground MLK Award, The Winston-Salem State University Young Alumni 40 Under 40 Award, The Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Award, The Triad Business Journal 40 Under 40 Award, was named one of the Top 50 Young Political Stars in North Carolina by Longleaf Politics, and named one of The 50 Most Influential African-Americans in the Triad by Black Business Ink; and

**WHEREAS**, Council Member Montgomery championed the "Fight for 15" an hour and fought relentlessly to increase the minimum wage for City employees, forced the City to create an Affordable Housing Ordinance, and the creation of the Affordable Housing Coalition that guided strategic housing investment for the city's lower income population.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Winston-Salem, its Mayor, and its City Council hereby thank Council Member Derwin L. Montgomery for his outstanding leadership, vision, dedication and commitment to public service, and his contributions to the improvement of the East Ward and its citizens.