

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$350,000 TO SMART START
OF FORSYTH COUNTY FOR PRE-K INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, as part of the FY 21-22 budget, the Mayor and City Council appropriated \$1.35 million to fund several crime prevention initiatives, including \$350,000 for Pre-K initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in March 2021, the Mayor and City Council, in coordination with the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Board of Education, approved a resolution to form the Early Childhood Education Task Force (Task Force) to lead the community in developing a plan to ensure that all of Forsyth County's children have access to high-quality Pre-K programs; and

WHEREAS, the Pre-K Priority, a coalition that was formed in 2014 by a group of early childhood professionals to explore how to improve the quality and number of Pre-K programs in Forsyth County, coordinated the work of the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the 32-member Task Force began meeting in June 2021 and presented their recommendations in November 2022; and

WHEREAS, with an initial focus on improving the quality of Pre-K programs in Forsyth County, the Pre-K Priority coalition has developed a proposal to deliver a two-year cohort project with specific high-quality resources and supports that currently are limited or non-existent; and

WHEREAS, the project will include thirty Pre-K classrooms across the following sites: four WS/FCS classrooms, four Head Start classrooms, eight North Carolina Pre-K classrooms in community sites, and 14 private/independent classrooms. The project will impact 540 Pre-K students and their families, as well as 60 Pre-K educators; and

WHEREAS, in June, Smart Start of Forsyth County applied for Forsyth County ARPA funding totaling \$3,826,406 on behalf of the Pre-K Priority to fund the two-year cohort project. The County Board of Commissioners awarded \$3.7 million to Smart Start of Forsyth County, resulting in a shortfall of \$126,406; and

WHEREAS, Pre-K Priority staff have worked with City staff over the last several weeks to develop a proposal for utilizing the City's appropriation of \$350,000 for Pre-K initiatives, as outlined in Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem hereby authorize an agreement under G.S. 160A-209 and G.S. 160D-1311 to contribute \$350,000 to Smart Start of Forsyth County, which will serve as the administering agency for these funds, to fund the Pre-K initiatives as outlined in Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agreement will establish metrics and reporting requirements to track the outcomes achieved with the City's funding.

.BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, with the City Attorney approving the agreement as to form and legality.