

## Information Item

**Date:** December 11, 2017

**To:** The City Manager

**From:** Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager

**Subject:**  
Report on Alleyways in the City of Winston-Salem

**Strategic Focus Area:** Livable Neighborhoods

**Strategic Objective:** N/A

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



The City of Winston-Salem has over 1,000 alleyways and unopened rights-of-way located throughout the City. The higher concentrations are located in older parts of the City which were built when developments were more inclined toward this type of construction. Both commercial and residential areas have alleyways, and the conditions of the alleyways ranges from paved and used to unconstructed and only shown on paper.

Alleyways, whether residential or commercial, were almost always built by developers and dedicated for public use. The City does not currently build alleyways, and staff has not found any evidence of past alleyway construction by the City.

The City policy on alleyways is that only those alleyways used by the City for functions such as garbage service are maintained by the City. There are approximately less than 10 such alleys and all are in the urban core of the City.

State Statutes allow the City to close and abandon alleys and streets whether those alleys or streets were maintained by the City or not, and the City Council regularly considers requests from adjacent property owners to do this.

City staff get occasional requests to perform maintenance activity on an alley in the City from adjacent property owners but the vast majority of alleyways are treated as part of their land or common space by adjacent property owners.