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MARK R. DAVIDSON, A.A.E.
Airport Director

FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Morticia "Tee-Tee" Parmon
City Council Member
Northeast Ward
101 N Main Street #230
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Email: morticiap@cityofws.org

Re: Wildlife Management – Request for Provision to City Code

Dear City Council Member Parmon:

Forsyth County is requesting your assistance in regards to wildlife management at Smith Reynolds Airport. Last year the City Council adopted a temporary measure to modify the City Code to allow Federal Wildlife officers to discharge rifles for the purpose of eliminating deer within the boundaries of Smith Reynolds Airport until August 19, 2020 (Ordinance #2019-18). In the interest of public safety, I formally request that the City consider a permanent change of the City Code or another temporary measure since the deadline is quickly approaching.

This past year, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Wildlife Services was able to harvest 27 deer which improved safety at the Airport. Prior to each deer harvest event, the County notified the City staff that the USDA officers would be at the Airport and there were no impacts or complaints from the residents once the harvest events started. In addition, the USDA was able to donate the meat to local Winston-Salem charities prior to the holidays which improved public relations.

The USDA advised that they use this lethal technique at other airports and they are successful in controlling the wildlife. All parties involved understand the close proximity of the neighbors and safety would be of high concern. The current wildlife population at the Airport has decreased and to continue to maintain a safe environment, it is important to have the option to use the USDA in the future to improve safety and possibly save lives.

Sincerely,

Mark Davidson

Mark R. Davidson, A.A.E.
Airport Director

cc: Dudley Watts, County Manager
Lee D. Garrity, City Manager