

RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE \$275,000 IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF THE DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION PROGRAM IN FORSYTH COUNTY, FORSYTH COUNTY DRIVE – DRIVER RESTORATION INITIATIVE AND VOCATIONAL EXPANSTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Forsyth County Driver's License Restoration program began in 2015 and to date has provided assistance to nearly 2000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.C.G.S. 160A-456, the program will afford some of the city's financially challenged or low-to moderate income citizens an opportunity to have their licenses restored and thus expand their employment opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the need for additional assistance and financial support for the program remains; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winston-Salem has been in conversation with the Forsyth County District Attorney and Clerk of Court regarding opportunities to partner and expand the reach of the program; and

WHEREAS, The Forsyth County DRIVE Program is a poverty reduction initiative forged through partnerships designed to help residents gain employment by restoring driver's licenses that have been previously suspended; and

WHEREAS, in the Winter 2018 Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology a study found that "clean slate clinic participants experience significant increase in average employment rates and average real earnings" 0with nearly 1,900 job categories requiring a driver's license; and

WHEREAS, that while not all jobs require a driver's license, having one is a very common requirement for the sorts of job that can actually lift people of out poverty; and

WHEREAS, with financial support of \$275,000 to hire dedicated staff for the program, operating expenses, marketing and outreach over an 18-month period, it's anticipated the program could be expanded to include at least four application cycles, and

WHEREAS, assistance from the City would support a Legal Assistant and Assistant District Attorney in the District Attorney's office and an Administrative Clerk in the Clerk of Clerk Office housed and reporting directly to the District Attorney and the Clerk of Court due to the need for staff to access proprietary information.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem authorize the City to take such steps as necessary to execute an agreement with the appropriate entity(s) for expansion of the driver's license restoration program.