



City of Winston-Salem

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2511 • WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27102

J. ALLEN JOINES
MAYOR

October 20, 2022

Mr. William Royston
Recreation and Parks Director
City of Winston-Salem
P. O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-2511

Dear Mr. Royston:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to the Recreation and Parks Commission to name the Salem Lake Marina Event Center after former Alderman Virginia K. Newell, (Dr. Virginia K. Newell Event Center). I feel it would be a proper way to honor her many years of service to the City of Winston-Salem.

In 1977, Virginia K. Newell was elected as one of the first African American females as a member of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen (now City Council) for the East Ward. She served 16 years and worked tirelessly for better housing, racial unity, and economic independence.

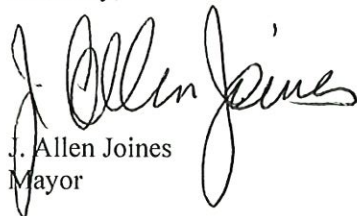
In the East Ward, Dr. Newell initiated the African American bank, the East Winston Shopping Center, ten investment clubs, and served on an economic platform that developed and built Ivy Arms Apartments and Community Center.

Being a strong advocate for children, Dr. Newell was the founder of the YWCA's "Best Choice Center," an academically focused program that provides afterschool care, enrichment activities, and summer camp for children of low-income families.

On October 7, 2022, Dr. Newell celebrated her 105th birthday (at the Salem Lake Marina Center). She continues to support the importance of voter registration and remains an integral part of Winston-Salem's community through her tireless dedication to education and the betterment of her fellow citizens.

I hope that you will look upon this request favorably and present it to the full Commission at the next meeting. Upon approval by the Commission, I know it must be presented to the City Council for final approval.

Sincerely,



J. Allen Joines
Mayor