

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS AVENUES TO ASSIST THOSE CONVICTED OF OPIOID OFFENSES ONLY**

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the North Carolina General Assembly established a Task Force on Sentencing Reforms for Opioid Drug Convictions (“Task Force”); and

**WHEREAS**, it is clear that a number of municipalities within the state of North Carolina including the City of Winston-Salem continue to endure the negative impacts of the opioid crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, those convicted solely of opioid related offenses are in many cases the victims of this crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, said offenders/victims need assistance in a number of ways; and

**WHEREAS**, said assistance may be in the form of sentence reductions and early release programs, where appropriate, and programs that support reintegration back into society.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Winston-Salem City Council strongly encourages the Task Force and the North Carolina General Assembly to consider various avenues to assist those convicted solely of opioid offences, including but limited to sentence reductions and early release, where warranted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Winston-Salem City Council hereby authorizes city staff, consistent with this expression of support herein, to work with the appropriate legislative personnel and state officials in furthering this legislative priority.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.