

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES AFTER RELEASE (SOAR) PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the SOAR Program was inspired by residents' suggestions from a "Stop the Violence Rally" spearheaded by Southeast Ward Council Member James Taylor, Jr. in February 2014. Months later it was initiated with the support of the Winston-Salem Council Members as a program that focuses on helping ex-offenders find gainful employment, become productive members of society, and reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, a critical element of success with the SOAR program has been working with non-profit and community organizations that provide education and vocational training; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winston-Salem has partnered with these organizations to provide participants with personal and professional development sessions including goal-setting, business and resume' writing, interviewing skills, and oral communication; and

WHEREAS, thirty-one former offenders have been hired under the SOAR program and assigned to labor and administrative support positions in the Vegetation Management, Properties and Facilities Maintenance (Custodial Division), Recreation and Parks, Fairgrounds, and Community and Business Development (Code Enforcement Division); and

WHEREAS, SOAR participants Alvin Allen, Robert Brinkley, Joel Goodson, Frank Hill, Audriana Lewis and Alisha Shell-Nelson have taken pride contributing to their community by working 32 hours each week, being paid the City's living wage, and have displayed the type of hard work and dedication it takes to have Successful Outcomes After Release.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem do hereby recognize and commend partners of the SOAR program and the six citizens who are currently participating.