

Resoluton #20-0144
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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$1.0 MILLION TO THE
COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND FOR FORSYTH COUNTY AND AN AGREEMENT
WITH UNITED WAY OF FORSYTH COUNTY AND THE WINSTON-SALEM
FOUNDATION TO ADMINISTER THE FUNDS**

WHEREAS, over the last two weeks, President Trump, Governor Cooper, and Mayor Joines have declared national, state and local emergencies in response to COVID-19, the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, across North Carolina, Governor Cooper has issued a stay-at-home order, closed K-12 schools, and limited mass gatherings to no more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to mitigate partially the economic shock of the pandemic in the state, Governor Cooper has relaxed certain processes for people who have become unemployed or underemployed to apply for unemployment benefits; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, Mayor Joines issued a stay-at-home order to slow the spread of the virus locally; and

WHEREAS, the city already is experiencing the impact of these preemptive, yet necessary, measures; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, Mayor Joines and officials with United Way of Forsyth County, The Winston-Salem Foundation, and Forsyth County announced the creation of the COVID-19 Response Fund for Forsyth County; and

WHEREAS, the fund was established by a partnership between United Way of Forsyth County, The Winston-Salem Foundation, Forsyth County, and Community Organizations Active in Disaster to support local community members impacted by the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the City will contribute up to \$1 million to match contributions to the new fund, dollar for dollar; and

WHEREAS, the initial goal of this partnership was to raise at least \$2 million for this effort, and already, pledges totaling over \$3.1 million have been committed toward the fund; and

WHEREAS, United Way of Forsyth County and The Winston-Salem Foundation will administer the fund, providing one-time operating support to existing agencies that work with the communities that are impacted disproportionately by the coronavirus and the economic consequences of the pandemic. The fund will not distribute assistance directly to individuals; and

WHEREAS, officials noted that the community's established relief agencies have policies and procedures in place for vetting requests for assistance; thus, expanding what these agencies already are doing seemed to be the most efficient way to distribute assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City's contribution will provide one-time operating support to the local non-profit organizations selected to receive funding through the COVID-19 Response Fund for Forsyth County to assist low and moderate-income residents economically impacted by the COVID-19 virus consistent with G.S. 160A-456. This one-time operating support shall be used to increase the capacity of the selected local non-profit organizations to serve the growing population of residents impacted by COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem hereby authorize a contribution of \$1.0 million to the COVID-19 Response Fund for Forsyth County as a matching grant to provide one-time operating support to existing agencies to assist low and moderate-income residents economically impacted by the COVID-19 virus consistent with G.S. 160A-456. This one-time operating support shall be used to increase

the capacity of the selected local non-profit organizations to serve the growing population of residents impacted by COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council hereby authorize the City to enter an agreement with United Way of Forsyth County and The Winston-Salem Foundation to administer the COVID-19 Response Fund for Forsyth County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and City Secretary hereby are authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City, with the City Attorney's approval as to form and legality.