

Resolution #24-0605
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**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM'S
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the 2025 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly will formally convene on or about January 29, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Winston-Salem City Council has identified the need for the enactment of the following bills and has approved submission of the same to the Forsyth County Legislative Delegation for introduction, support, and ratification by the General Assembly during its 2025 Legislative Session:

1. A Bill to Be Entitled an Act Granting Additional Authority to Local Governments to Assist or Incentivize Developers of Affordable Housing. System development fees (“SDFs”) are a one-time charge assessed against new development to pay for facilities needed to support growth or to recoup costs for existing stormwater and water facilities. Essentially, SDFs are used to pay annual debt service or to fund future expansion related water and stormwater projects. Fees are based on a comprehensive financial study and are updated every five years. This bill, if enacted, will authorize cities to exempt certain properties from or provide a reduction in SDFs for properties developed for affordable housing purposes.
2. A Bill to Be Entitled an Act to Amend the Enabling Laws Relating to City-County Planning and Zoning in Forsyth County and the City of Winston-Salem. This bill, if enacted, will allow the Winston-Salem City Council to authorize the Planning Board to make final decisions regarding certain rezoning matters, such as those that are noncontroversial, which such expedite the approval process for developers.
3. A Bill to Be Entitled an Act to Amend the Enabling Laws Relating to the Civil Service Board of the City of Winston-Salem. In August 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation requiring the cities of Greensboro and Winston-Salem to create a civil service board (“CSB”) for employees in the classified service in the police and fire departments, except the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief of Police, Assistant Chiefs of Police, the Fire Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief, and Assistant Fire Chiefs. The CSB is a five-member board with two people elected by the employees in the classified service in the police and fire departments (one per department), one person appointed by mutual agreement of the police and fire chiefs, one person appointed by city council

and the last person appointed by the CSB. The current legislation allows for the election/ appointment/selection of former employees to said CSB, provided they have been separated from city employment for a period of not less than seven consecutive years prior to service on the CBS. This bill, if enacted, would include the additional requirement that the former city employee must have been separated in good standing from city employment, and without a sustained conduct violation(s) or disciplinary action(s), in particular one that would make the former employee ineligible for rehire by the city, as determined by the city. Given the authority of this board to overturn the decisions of the police chief, fire chief, and even the city manager, it is imperative that the integrity of the board and the impartiality of its membership be maintained free from undue influence and bias, or at least the perception of such, which might result from a former employee with a sustained conduct violation(s) or disciplinary action(s), especially one relating to truthfulness, honesty, excessive use of force, and the like. The bill, if enacted, would help guard against such.

WHEREAS, the package also includes four resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the first resolution seeks the repeal of Section 160D-912.1 enacted by Senate Bill 607, which would require the city to essentially compensate, twice, sign owners for signs that must be removed in accordance with the sign ordinance adopted by the Winston-Salem City Council in 2007, although the city, through the 17-year amortization period, has allowed such owners to recoup their investment; and

WHEREAS, the second resolution seeks the repeal of language recently added to Section 160D-601(d), via Senate Bill 382, regarding downzoning in nonresidential areas which essentially removes any future zoning authority in such areas; and

WHEREAS, the third resolution requests funding for affordable housing, the purchase of a ladder truck for Fire Station 19, and to address significant stormwater issues.

WHEREAS, the fourth resolution requests the repeal of the Funding Limitation set forth in G.S. 136.189.11(d)(3)(c) as it pertains to bicycle and pedestrian funding.

Winston-Salem City Council
APPROVED
January 6, 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Winston-Salem City Council hereby approve the submission of the resolutions and the bills attached hereto and incorporated herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Winston-Salem City Council hereby authorize City staff to work cooperatively with the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors' Coalition and the North Carolina League of Municipalities on their duly adopted advocacy agendas, to the extent that the issues and goals identified therein are consistent with the interests of the City.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.