

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: November 7, 2022

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager
William L. Mayo, Fire Chief

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Authorizing the Fire Chief to Execute Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreements with Other City, County, and Incorporated Fire Departments.

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The Winston-Salem Fire Department (WSFD) is seeking approval of a resolution, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §166A-19.72 authorizing mutual/automatic aid agreements of a reciprocal nature with other city, county, and incorporated fire departments. Under the powers provided in §166A-19.72 and § 58-83-1, WSFD seeks the ability to provide and/or receive assistance in the form of lending personnel to work temporarily with personnel of the requesting agencies, as well as the lending of equipment and supplies.

Upon the submittal of a written request for assistance by either the Fire Chief or the head of the requesting agency, the approval of this resolution would permit WSFD to either extend or receive such temporary support as would promote the prompt, efficient, and unhindered receipt of fire protection services. The support rendered would be at no additional cost to the City, as each entity would bear the costs of its own involvement. The Fire Chief may at any time refuse a request or cease to provide departmental assistance to the requesting agency without penalty. Further, agreements covered under this resolution would be entered into with the terms having been approved by the City Manager, and the legality of the documents approved by the City Attorney.

Committee Action:

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|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Committee | Public Safety 11/7/2022 | Action | Approval |
| For | Unanimous | Against | |

Remarks:

In such times as fire departments are experiencing significant staffing shortages, the approval of this resolution would authorize the WSFD to temporarily receive assistance in the form of personnel or equipment should the department be overtaxed – thereby avoiding interruptions to fire protection services. Such support could also be extended to a requesting agency as the Fire Chief may deem necessary and/or prudent.

The Fire Chief believes that the ability to partner with other city, county, and incorporated fire departments to extend and receive temporary assistance to support prompt, efficient, and unhindered fire protection services is in the best interests of the citizens of Winston-Salem.