

Resolution #20-0426  
Resolution Book, Volume 2, Page 184

**RESOLUTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Winston-Salem's vision is to be a municipal government deserving of public confidence that provides excellent and innovative services, and is an active and cooperative partner in creating a vital community; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the City of Winston-Salem is to provide quality, affordable services that ensure the health, safety, and well-being of citizens, while collaborating throughout the community to ensure its economic, social, and environmental vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, a major strategic focus area is safe and secure community of which Public safety is the foundation upon which any successful city is built. Absent this, it is difficult to attract businesses, residents, or visitors, which in turn create the economic vitality that sustains our community; and

**WHEREAS**, gun violence continues to be a challenge across Winston-Salem; and

**WHEREAS**, firearm offenses not only include homicides and assaults against people, but also includes houses, apartments, and vehicles being shot into; and

**WHEREAS**, the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) has deployed a Team of specialized personnel for quick response to shooting events, who upon crime scene arrival are securing the crime scene and evidence, as well as interviewing potential witnesses and following investigative leads; and

**WHEREAS**, the Winston-Salem Police Department requests our residents to directly contact WSPD or Crimestoppers and provide information, descriptions (both of people and/or vehicles) or other investigative leads; and

**WHEREAS**, a high number of juveniles are armed and are committing firearm offenses and are not being held in “secure custody,” but are being released to parents/guardians and recommitting firearm offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, WSPD Executive Command spoke with Judges, the District Attorney’s Office, Elected Officials, Juvenile Intake Counselors, and the Department of Social Services to raise awareness of the concern with releasing armed juveniles; and

**WHEREAS**, WSPD is on track to seize over 1000 firearms again in 2020, and All WSPD divisions/units are focused on gun crimes in an effort to reduce this issue (Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Special Investigations Division, Violent Firearms Investigation Team (VFIT), Gang Unit, K-9, SWAT, Traffic Enforcement Unit, Park Rangers, DWI Task Force, Forensic Services Division, Evidence Management, Crime Analysis Unit, Public Safety Communications, Records Division, etc.)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem support the WSPD to utilize all laws and resources, including collaborations with the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office, as well as state and federal resources to reduce gun violence in our communities.