

Resolution #23-0342
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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL
CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 TO LEGAL AID OF NORTH
CAROLINA, WINSTON-SALEM OFFICE FOR EVICTIONS
DIVERSION RIGHT-TO-COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2021, the City Council and Mayor approved the Annual Appropriation and Tax Levy Ordinance of Winston-Salem and Program Budget Ordinance to fund the Eviction Diversion Right-to-Counsel Program in the amount of \$100,000 for Legal Aid of North Carolina, Winston-Salem Office; and

WHEREAS, the program provides the City with a pathway by which to provide low-to-moderate income tenants with the administration of its Alternative Residential Mediation (ARM) landlord-tenant mediation program by enhancing direct assistance that includes no-cost legal assistance to those who qualify; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2021, the City Council approved a one-year contract between the City and the Legal Aid of North Carolina, Winston-Salem Office, to administer the new Eviction Diversion Right-to-Counsel Program; and

WHEREAS, the contract between the City and the Legal Aid of North Carolina, Winston-Salem Office requires the annual renewal of the contractual agreement; and

WHEREAS, the funding enables the Human Relations/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department and Legal Aid to continue administering and providing direct legal assistance to low-income tenants facing eviction with a goal of mitigating the number of low-to-moderate-income tenants who would be, otherwise, unable to afford legal representation when facing pending eviction actions in court; and

WHEREAS, the budget amendment proposes to change the Annual Appropriation and Tax Levy Ordinance of Winston-Salem, adopted on June 20, 2023, and amended on August 21, 2023, to appropriate an additional \$100,000, for the Eviction Diversion Right-to-Counsel Program, which designates the Human Relations/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department to continue administration of quarterly funding disbursements, to the Legal Aid, Winston-Salem Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of Winston-Salem authorize that the Appropriation and Tax Levy Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 be amended to appropriate \$100,000 of the general fund balance for the Eviction Diversion Right-to-Counsel Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to amend the original aforementioned contractual agreement with the Legal Aid of North Carolina, Winston-Salem Office for the execution of the Eviction Diversion Right-to-Counsel program, on behalf of the City of Winston-Salem.