



City Council
Annette Scippio
East Ward Council Member

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Allen Joines, Mayor Pro Tempore Burke, and Members of City Council
FROM: Annette Scippio
DATE: February 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Resolution to Establish African-American Heritage Action Initiative
CC: Lee Garrity, City Manager

The submission of this item to is to start a discussion regarding establishing the African American Heritage Action Initiative, in an endeavor to convey that while African Americans have performed a significant role in the development of Salem and Winston, their legacy has continued to remain unrecognized. Though fragmented, contributions have been documented but not disclosed nor celebrated with the broader community. With the integration of African Americans in workplaces including education and government, the historic character, qualities and contributions of African Americans have begun to rapidly decline. Without landmarks like quality institutions and neighborhoods, it is feasible that the historical contributions of African Americans in this community will ultimately diminish.

It is the intention of this initiative to begin healing within the African American community from years of rejection, exclusion, and disrespect. The purpose of this initiative is to mobilize all sectors of the African American community to participate in uncensored sharing of life as an African American during segregation and the efforts of desegregation.

This initiative has two primary goals. First, it is to connect all sectors of the African American community and relies on the support of established African American organizations to collect oral histories, photographs, relics, and memorabilia. Secondly, the initiative is to create a vision for incorporating African-American contributions into the ongoing history of the city.

The Historic Resources and Human Relations portions of the City of Winston-Salem would serve as leaders in this effort. Further information on the concept, duties, and responsibilities of this proposal can be provided upon request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Annette Scippio'.

Annette Scippio
Council Member, East Ward