

**RESOLUTION HONORING WINSTON-SALEM NATIVE
MS. NIA IMANI FRANKLIN
MISS AMERICA 2019 AND MISS NEW YORK 2018**

WHEREAS, Ms. Nia Imani Franklin was born to Mr. James and Kristy Franklin in Winston-Salem, NC and attended Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools; and

WHEREAS, as a student at North Davidson High school, Nia excelled in academics and as an athlete in track and cross country. After earning a position with the prestigious North Carolina Honors Chorus, she formed a band and composed her class' theme song entitled "*Peace*". While attending East Carolina University (ECU), she was a member of the ECU Excels programs and earned a Bachelor's degree in music composition. In 2013 while at ECU, Nia was crowned Ms. Black and Gold, a scholastic pageant sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha fraternity; and

WHEREAS, she continued her studies at the University of North Carolina School for the Arts (UNCSA) graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Master's degree in music composition where she also earned the Campus Arts Scholarship and was awarded the Beth Stovall (former Miss North Carolina) Music Scholarship. At UNCSA, Nia participated in ArtistCorps which is an artist-driven AmeriCorps service program placing artists in schools and community-based institutions working with high-needs students; and

WHEREAS, Nia has worked as a UNCSA teaching assistant, Salvation Army Summer Music Conservatory instructor; volunteer vocal instructor; Kenan Fellowship Blog publicist; UNCSA New Student Ambassador; President of Signature Sounds Acapella Group; Founder of Success Academy Music Club; Sing for Hope Cultural Partner; 2018 Host of City Girl Beauty Project Fundraiser and was the Keynote speaker of the 2018 Women's Empowerment Summit; and

WHEREAS, she is a baptized member of Mount Zion Baptist Church where she has served as Assistant Director of the Children's Choir and President of the Youth Ensemble. Nia spearheaded the "Gifted:" program showcasing youth talent throughout the city of Winston Salem and was a Kenan Fellow at Lincoln Center Education; and

WHEREAS, Nia has a passion for impacting children's lives encouraging them to aspire to be productive and creative citizens who strive for excellence. She helped raise more than \$40,000 for the Ronald McDonald House of New York and also organized a benefit concert for cancer research; and

WHEREAS, Nia was crowned Miss New York in June, 2018. On September 9, 2018, touting a platform of Advocating for the Arts, Nia became Miss America, 2019. During this time she tirelessly performed in support of the Children's Miracle Hospitals which advocates donating stem cells to patients, such as her father James, helping to save lives from those afflicted with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem, do hereby proclaim Monday, September 17, 2018 as Winston-Salem Native Ms. Nia Imani Franklin Day and recognize her gifts, talents, and dedication to serving. We hereby honor and congratulate her on becoming Miss America 2019, as well as having attained Ms. New York 2018, and are proud of her accomplishments.