

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** May 9, 2022

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

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**From:** Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager  
Jennifer Chrysson, Operations Coordinator

**Council Action Requested:**  
Resolution Authorizing the Implementation of the Positive Path Program and the use of Existing Funding to Assist with Youth Development

**Strategic Focus Area:** Safe and Secure Community  
**Strategic Objective:** No  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**

In 2012, the City of Winston-Salem received a three-year YouthBuild Grant through the Department of Labor. YouthBuild Winston-Salem was a six-month program that empowered high school dropouts to reclaim their lives and rebuild their communities through education, job training, and leadership development. Although the grant ended in December 2015, City Council continues to allocate funding.

Operations staff refined the Positive Path Program after input from the February Public Safety Committee. The program’s mission is to re-shape lives through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) exposure, pathfinders, hands-on training, and life skills to enrich the future of our at-risk population aged 16 to 24. The proposed five-month program will utilize a strategic curriculum to provide real-life examples of pro-social behavior. Participants are referred to as apprentices and paid the City’s minimum wage, with the opportunity to obtain their GED and receive a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certificate.

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	Finance 5/9/22	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

In addition to (STEAM) exposure, strategic components include one-on-one mentoring, hands-on training, engaging on-site visits, and personal and professional development. In addition, apprentices receive an additional six months of staff support, services, and incentives that may include transportation services, uniforms, and supplementary training courses.

The program marketing strategy includes targeted social media, radio, community calendars, and promotion through news outlets. Fliers and other tangible materials will circulate to our community partners, the WSPD/Sherriff's Office, the Department of Social Services, local libraries, the school system, and recreation centers in response to the digital divide.

Measurable data collected through the program include retention rates, GED/NCCER achievement, weekly participant surveys, pre-and post-testing, attendance, and recidivism rates. Data collection ensures robust future programming and accountability to City Council, City Leadership, future apprentices, and constituents.

Funding for Positive Path includes the apprentices' salaries, supportive services, program staff salaries, supplies, and follow-up services. The total first-year cost for both classes totals \$209,000 and breaks down to \$11,610 per apprentice.

The curriculum for the program is included as Exhibit A.