

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** February 14, 2022

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

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**From:** Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager

**Council Action Requested:**

A. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with a Non-Profit to Disburse the Funding Approved for Residents within the One-Mile Radius Who Were Impacted by the Winston Weaver Fertilizer Plant Fire and Approving the Disbursement Policy

B. Annual Appropriation and Tax Levy Ordinance for the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina For The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 - Weaver Fire Relief Fund

**Strategic Focus Area:** Safe and Secure Community  
**Strategic Objective:** Ensure Service Delivery Efficiency and Effectiveness  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**

At the request of Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, \$1 million is requested to assist residents within the one-mile radius of the Winston Weaver Company fire which is in the North Ward.

The City will contract with a non-profit (with City Council approval) ideally within the target area to distribute funding to residents based on need (i.e., hotel reimbursement or lost wages).

The amendment appropriates \$1,000,000 in general fund balance with the expenditure to be administered via a contract with a community agency. Undistributed funding will be transferred back to the General Fund.

**Committee Action:**

Committee	Finance 2/14/22	Action	Approval
<b>For</b>	MPT Adams, Council Member MacIntosh, & Council Member Taylor	<b>Against</b>	None; Abstaining: Council Member Clark

**Remarks:**

A qualified non-profit will be selected to disburse the proposed relief funding of up to \$1 million to assist low- to moderate-income residents who were strongly encouraged to evacuate their homes due to the Winston Weaver Fertilizer Plant fire on January 31, 2022.

**Recommended Agency:**

ESR (Experiment in Self-Reliance)

- ESR has served the low to moderate income population of Winston-Salem for over 55 years.
- ESR is in the North Ward and in close proximity to the target area.
- ESR assists clients with COVID relief funding, so eligible applicants for the City's Fire Relief Funds could also qualify for additional resources (i.e., rent/utility bill assistance, etc.).
- ESR requires an 18% administrative fee (standard % for grant funding) to manage the disbursement of funds.

**Eligibility criteria for City's Weaver Fire Relief Fund:**

The applicant for assistance on a reimbursement bases must be a city resident who is low to moderate income and must live within the evacuation area (one-mile radius of the Weaver Fertilizer Company) or work for a business located within the evacuated area that closed as a result of the voluntary evacuation request.

**Type of Assistance:**

- Reimbursement for hotels expenses (maximum of 3 days). Hotel receipt is required.
- Lost wages (for low to moderate income/hourly wages only). Must work within the one-mile radius of the Weaver fire and be a resident of Winston-Salem)
- Other verifiable expenses directly related to the evacuation of this fire event.

**Reimbursement Amount:**

Reimbursement of expenses shall not exceed more than \$1,000 per household.

The amendment appropriates \$1,000,000 in general fund balance. Undistributed funding will be transferred back to the General Fund. Staff will seek reimbursement of funds from Weaver Company.