

Resolution #22-0542
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**RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 TO THE FILM
PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the Film Partnership of North Carolina (“Partnership”) is a 501(c)(3) economic development organization structured to grow the film, television, and digital streaming industry in North Carolina through collaboration and to create a pipeline for a diverse, well-trained, and inclusive workforce to support this industry; and

WHEREAS, according to Partnership staff, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the production industry in multiple ways. Streaming platforms, such as Netflix, have doubled their annual budgets for content development and are aggressively looking for space outside California to shoot; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2021, the Partnership announced a collaboration with the City of Wilmington and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts to launch a new film, television, and entertainment industry training program using a \$400,000 grant from the Wilmington City Council; and

WHEREAS, an emphasis of the program is to build the skill set of the local and regional workforce, in particular women and minorities who are largely underrepresented in the industry; and

WHEREAS, since March, the Partnership’s program has provided training for eight interns, four of which are from historically underserved communities. Most of this cohort have graduated and been placed in permanent positions on active productions in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership is requesting \$100,000 from the City of Winston-Salem to administer a new and specific training program with a focus on diversity and inclusion in the

production workforce in Winston-Salem and the region; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership anticipates they will spend the funds over the next three years, by the end of 2024. However, if production activity increases requiring an acceleration in the need for new training cohorts, the Partnership may spend the funds in a shorter time frame.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City Council hereby authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute an agreement with the Film Partnership of North Carolina to provide a contribution of \$100,000 for their workforce development initiative, consistent with the public purposes established in G.S. 160A-209 and the City Council's Tier 1 Strategic Priority to focus on job creation and workforce development including small businesses and invigorating the local travel and tourism industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agreement would include provisions to allow use of the funds over three years and to ensure proper use of the funds and reporting on outcomes, especially as they relate to providing opportunities for Winston-Salem residents.