

Information Item

Date: January 16, 2018

To: The City Manager

From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager

Subject:

Consideration of Amendments to the FY 2017-18 Budget Ordinances for the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina (Information Item).

Strategic Focus Area: Economic Vitality and Diversity

Strategic Objective: Promote Downtown Revitalization

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



At Monday's Finance Committee meeting, Council Members requested information about the diversity and selection of the musical acts planned for the 2018 Downtown Music Series—Downtown Jazz on Friday nights and Summer on Liberty on Saturday nights.

According to Jason Thiel, President of the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership (DWSP), they strive to provide an inclusive and diverse musical line-up for the Summer Music Series. For 2017, the DWSP held 12 Downtown Jazz concerts with ten African-American led groups and two white led groups. For the Summer on Liberty concerts, the DWSP held 12 performances led by four African-American groups, two female groups, one Hispanic group, and five white groups. Attachment A provides the list of performers for each music series.

The DWSP schedules performers using a promoter and booking agent. Downtown Jazz is a collaboration with Post Entertainment, which is owned by Carl Dennerson, an African-American music promoter (<http://www.postjazz.com/>). Summer on Liberty is booked by a female booking agent, Jill Martin-Byers. The DWSP encourages performers to send their promotional information as part of the selection process. The DWSP currently does not maintain a waiting list of performers.

The Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership will begin the process of booking acts in the early spring and will finalize the schedule by early May. The DWSP seeks to consider all musicians, including local talent, and welcomes recommendations for future musical acts.

ATTACHMENT A

2017 Downtown Music Series Performers

Downtown Jazz (Friday Nights)

- June 9 – [Kim Waters](#), opening act – [John Dillard Trio](#)
June 23 – [Joe Robinson](#), opening act – Titus Grant
July 7 – [Jeanette Harris](#), opening act – [Saundra Crenshaw](#)
July 21 – [Oli Silk](#), featuring [JJ Sansaverino](#)
August 11 – [Vincent Crenshaw](#), opening act – Groove Food
August 25 – [Eric Darius](#), opening act – DJ Reggie Reg

Summer on Liberty (Saturday Nights)

- June 10 – [TONY DOVE AND THE HEADLYNERZ \(SOUL\)](#)
June 17 – [THE GET RIGHT BAND](#) (FUNK/REGGAE)
June 24 – [WEST END MAMBO](#) (LATIN DANCE)
July 1 – [THE LUXURIANT SEDANS](#) (BLUES ROCK)
July 8 – [JILL GOODSON BAND](#) (ROCK N ROLL)
July 15 – [THE MAGGIE VALLEY BAND](#) (BLUEGRASS)
July 22 – [VAGABOND SAINTS' SOCIETY](#) (CLASSIC ROCK)
Perform 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love songs from '67
July 29 – [PHASE BAND](#) (VARIETY PARTY)
August 5 – [CINNAMON REGGAE](#) (REGGAE)
August 12 – [ENVISION](#) (R&B FUNK)
August 19 – [THE TILLS](#) (INDIE ROCK)
August 26 – [MIKE BENNETT & THE B STRING ALLSTARS](#) (BLUES ROCK)
Season Finale with Special Guests