

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** November 7, 2022

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

**From:** Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager

**Council Action Requested:**

Resolution Authorizing a 18-Month Extension for the Driver Restoration Initiative and Vocational Expansion (DRIVE) Program in Forsyth County, North Carolina

**Strategic Focus Area:** Economic Vitality and Diversity

**Strategic Objective:** No

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**

In February 2020, the Mayor and City Council allocated \$275,000 in funding to support the expansion of the Forsyth County Driver Restoration Initiative and Vocational Expansion (DRIVE) program for 18 months. The program is a restorative justice program that assists with driver's license restoration for financially challenged citizens. In addition, restoring driver's licenses can create more employment opportunities, which positively impacts the community's economic vitality. The funding for the program covered the cost of an Assistant District Attorney, Clerk, and Legal Assistant, along with other operating expenses associated with the program.

After the initial 18 months of the contract period for the DRIVE program, the Mayor and Council approved an additional 10-month extension that began on February 1, 2022, and ends on November 30, 2022. At the time of the current extension, the DRIVE program fund had \$154,025.78 remaining of the initial \$275,000 due to difficulties in hiring and keeping the Assistant District Attorney position occupied.

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	Finance 11/7/2022	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

The District Attorney's Office is requesting an additional contract term extension of 18 months to fund three positions, DRIVE Director, Clerk, and Legal Assistant, and cover operating expenses. In addition, changing the Assistant District Attorney position to a DRIVE Director will increase the possibility of hiring and retaining a crucial leadership position within the program.

While there have been challenges due to the inability to remain fully staffed, the program staff is currently responding to 205 emails per month and receiving an average of 230 phone calls monthly. The DRIVE program has successfully addressed 868 cases, with 469 dismissed cases. In addition, over \$99,427 in fines were waived while providing relief to 203 residents.

The DRIVE program fund will exhaust the last allocation of \$154,025.78 by the City of Winston-Salem on November 30, 2022. Therefore, the staff is seeking approval from the Mayor and City Council to authorize an additional 18-month contract period in an amount up to \$300,000. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be the funding source for the 18-month contract period.

### **DRIVE Project Expenses**

<b>1-Yr. Fully Funded Staff and Operating Expenses</b>	<b>Total Invoices Paid to Date (FY 20-22)</b>	<b>Cost of 18-Month Extension</b>
\$187,262.67	\$212,639.65	\$300,000.00