

## **WINSTON-SALEM IS A WELCOMING CITY**

Whereas, the City of Winston-Salem is a diverse community which draws strength from that diversity; and

Whereas, the City of Winston-Salem is a welcoming community which takes pride in serving and protecting all our citizens, other residents, guests, and visitors, regardless of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

Whereas, the City of Winston-Salem has a proud tradition which continues today of welcoming refugees from war and hardship to a new home of safety and community in our city; and

Whereas, the City of Winston-Salem opposes any measures which target populations within our diverse community for legal scrutiny or other challenges based on race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

Whereas, the City of Winston-Salem recognizes that our whole community is safer when victims and witnesses of domestic violence or criminal activity feel safe in contacting our police for assistance without fear, regardless of their immigration status; and

Whereas, the current national environment of excessive fear and suspicion directed by some toward immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers calls for cities like Winston-Salem to reaffirm our commitment to providing a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM:**

The City Council of the City of Winston-Salem reaffirms that ours is a welcoming city for newcomers, immigrants, and refugees who come to our nation and our city for a peaceful new beginning, including those escaping war, disaster, or persecution abroad; and

The Department of Human Relations and the Human Relations Commission, in consultation with the Police Department and City Attorney, are directed to study and provide to the City Council recommendations regarding additional appropriate and lawful steps which the city may take to reinforce our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers to our community, and thereby to enhance the health and safety of our entire community.