



**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE FOUNDING OF THE TOWN OF SALEM**

**WHEREAS**, Moravians settled in Bethabara in 1753, using it as a base from which to search for the perfect location for their visionary settlement; and

**WHEREAS**, the result of their hard work was a carefully chosen site near Salem Creek, Brushy Fork Creek and Peters Creek, which was one of the earliest planned communities in the nation—planning that still impacts our lives today; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 1766, 250 years ago, the Moravians founded the town of Salem, which merged with the Town of Winston in 1913, creating Winston-Salem; and

**WHEREAS**, the downtown streets of Winston-Salem today owe their orientation, placement, and grid pattern to the visionary urban planning of the early Moravian settlers; and

**WHEREAS**, Salem had one of the first public waterworks in the nation with running water in a building as early as 1778; and

**WHEREAS**, Salem was known across the Colonial South as a place of commerce and trades, renowned for its pottery, furniture, silver, and other artistic trades; and

**WHEREAS**, through the years, Salem had several firsts; it held the first official July 4th celebration in 1783; it had one of the first distillers and breweries in North Carolina; and the fire department was one of the first organized in America; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, St. Philips Moravian Church, constructed in 1861, is the oldest standing African American church in North Carolina; the Vogler Gunsmith Shop is the oldest operating gunsmith shop in the country; and Salem Academy and College, founded in 1772, is one of the oldest women's schools in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, this community has planned a year-long celebration to recognize Salem's past as well as how it informs our present and shapes our future;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Town of Salem and encourages the community to celebrate this monumental anniversary by participating in activities and programming throughout 2016.

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.