

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN
THE CITY OF GREENSBORO AND SAY YES TO EDUCATION FOR GUILFORD COUNTY

WHEREAS, Say Yes was founded in 1987 by money manager George Weiss, who promised more than 100 sixth graders at a Philadelphia school that he would pay to send them to college if they graduated high school;

WHEREAS, since its inception Say Yes has evolved into a national nonprofit that organizes and galvanizes whole cities around the goals of every public school student graduating from high school to be able to attain, afford and complete a post-secondary education;

WHEREAS, Say Yes believes that regardless of economic circumstance or social standing, every child can achieve a post-secondary education and become an actively contributing member of their community when given the opportunities and support;

WHEREAS, the organization currently works with nearly 65,000 public school students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12;

WHEREAS, through fundraising, Say Yes and its local partners make it possible for a community's public high school graduates to receive full tuition scholarships to any in-state public college and university regardless of family income; said awards being granted after Pell grants and other financial aid have been taken into account;

WHEREAS, Say Yes communities achieve a positive economic impact – a more educated labor force, incentives for businesses to start or relocate into a community, a stronger tax base, increased property values and revitalizes communities while assisting students and families to achieve a post-secondary education;

WHEREAS, Guilford County is the leading candidate to become the next Say Yes to Education Community and will provide the opportunity to work together so that every graduate of Guilford County Schools will be eligible to receive a college education or post-secondary certificate;

WHEREAS, Say Yes has challenged the community to meet an initial \$28 million fundraising goal of forty percent (40%) of the overall \$70 million endowment goal for local scholarships which could be available to the graduating class of 2016 and at this time, the community has partnered with local donors for approximately \$15 million in pledges;

WHEREAS, upon the completion of six years collaboration with the national Say Yes organization each Say Yes city must take ownership of the effort and assume local responsibility for sustaining the scholarship endowment and for providing other support to students and their families;

WHEREAS, Say Yes brings stakeholders in the community, city and county government, the school district, parents, teachers, businesses, philanthropic and faith-based organizations, colleges and universities together and arms them with the tools needed to boost post-secondary participation and success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Greensboro and Say Yes to Education for Guilford County.