

**CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT  
RESOLUTION POSTHUMOUSLY RECOGNIZING  
SIDNEY L. KELLY AND BEA ACKENBOM-KELLY**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sidney L. Kelly and Mrs. Bea Ackenbom-Kelly were longtime residents of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and were married for over 30 years after meeting as professors at Salem College. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly dedicated their lives to improving the lives of others; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kellys were instrumental in founding ‘Crossing 52’ in the early 1990s; a Dinner Club-type organization that focused on eliminating racial borders and encouraging open dialogue between white and black citizens from different neighborhoods throughout Winston-Salem. As members of St. Anne’s Episcopal Church, Crossing 52 was named for U.S. 52, a highway whose construction split much of the black and white citizenship of Winston-Salem; and

**WHEREAS**, Crossing 52 became IPAR, the Interfaith Partnership for Advocacy and Reconciliation, in order to expand and encompass a greater mission and reach a broader number of those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, IPAR sponsored a Winston-Salem/Forsyth County-wide initiative to investigate, record and report issues within the city limits and school system. These audits covered a range of neighborhoods and their corresponding schools to make sure any discrepancies due to the socioeconomic condition of the residents and students were solved by the appropriate organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kellys played a crucial role in transitioning IPAR to CHANGE, Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment, to further expand their work to positively impact those members of the community that most needed a voice; and

**WHEREAS**, as a lawyer, Mrs. Ackenbom-Kelly would frequently take cases for clients who were unable to afford legal services and was a past president of the Winston-Salem chapter of NOW, the National Organization of Women; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Kelly received the 1998 Winston-Salem State University Charles C. Ross Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, as well as the 2004 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dare to Make a Difference Award for ‘Unwavering Dedication in the Struggle for Human and Civil Rights’; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kellys’ lifelong mission to improve the racial and human condition of their fellow man impacted many within our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Winston-Salem, its Mayor, and its Council posthumously recognize Mr. Sidney L. Kelly and Mrs. Bea Ackenbom-Kelly for their tireless commitment to equality for all.