

# City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department

## Celebrates Women's History Month

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- **Salem College** of Winston-Salem, NC, founded in 1772, is the first Women's College in the country.
- In 1972, the Winston-Salem hired **Sandra Waldon** as a public safety officer and she became the first paid firefighter in Winston-Salem.
- **Vivian Burke** is the longest serving woman on the Winston-Salem City Council. Councilwoman Burke has served since 1977.
- **Susan Ivey** was the first female President and CEO of RJ Reynolds Tobacco in 2004.
- Born in Winston-Salem, **Lestine Earlene Mackie** was one of the first female business owners of Winston-Salem when she opened a downtown jewelry store in 1951.
- **Linda Davis** became the first female Police Chief of Winston-Salem and served from 1999-2004.
- **Patricia D. Norris** was the second woman to serve as Chief of Police for the Winston-Salem Police Department and she served from 2004-2008.
- **Joan Cardwell** was the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Elections.
- **Mayor Martha Woods** served as the first female Mayor of Winston-Salem from 1989-1997.
- Poet, Scholar, and local resident, **Dr. Maya Angelou**, served on two presidential committees, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000, the Lincoln Medal in 2008, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011, and received 3 Grammy Awards .
- **Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin** became the first African-American woman to serve as Library Director of the Forsyth County Public Library System.
- **Denise Franklin** became the first African-American woman to anchor for WXII news.



*"Diverse Views, Common Cause, People Matter"*