

Program to help former offenders to receive \$50,000 in 2016-17 budget

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

With murder and other violent crimes on the rise in Winston-Salem, last month City Council members voted to set aside \$50,000 in the 2016-17 budget for the Successful Outcomes After Release (SOAR), a program designed to help ex-offenders find gainful employment through training.

The increase in funds follows a roundtable discussion held by City Council Member James Taylor to discuss the city's recent increase in homicides. Seven months into the year, 14 homicides have been committed in Winston-Salem. According to representatives with the police department, if the trend continues, the number of homicides will double the amount reported the last two years.

Taylor, who spearheaded SOAR in 2014, said in order to put an end to senseless violence, all community stakeholders have to come together. He also announced the formation of a committee of leaders who would create an action plan to help put an end to senseless violence.

"We have to build a plan to decrease violence in our community," said Taylor. "Together we will decide how to

move forward and make this city a safer place."

He also noted the need for more opportunities for ex-offenders, which is where SOAR comes in.

SOAR program participants are initially assigned temporary positions in a number of various city departments for six months. While learning specialized skills and training, participants are also provided with additional life skills training via lectures, group discussions, and other activities. At the end of the initial six-month period, based on their performance, participants are recommended for an additional six months where they will receive additional training.

With the help of the committee, Taylor also called for more youth programs and summer job opportunities.

Two weeks after the roundtable discussion held at City Hall where dozens of community members presented different ways to stop the violence, Taylor announced via social media post that additional funds had been added to the proposed city's budget to combat the concerns of the residents.

"It's only been two weeks since our town hall meeting, but we already have an additional \$100,000 added to the proposed city budget," he said. "We will continue to work together to decrease violence and promote progress in our

community."

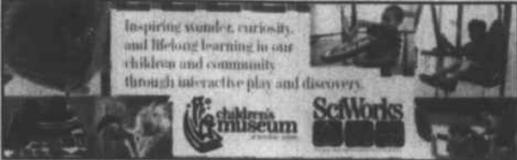
Assistant City Manager Ben Rowe, who is responsible for budget evaluation, noted in an email that in addition to the \$50,000 being added for SOAR, another \$50,000 in contingency funds would be added for future grants for youth and summer programs.

Mayor Allen Joines said the increase in funding for SOAR is just the first of many steps by city officials to help stop the violence and reassure the people that everyone has the opportunity to succeed. He also mentioned other agencies that provide similar services will be reviewed in coming months and may also receive funding.

"There has already been some action taken already," said Joines. "There will be other specific recommendations that we have not dealt with, but we look forward to supporting other programs as we look towards the future."

"A number of people in the community expressed the need for additional dollars, so we decided to set aside funds to help those who want to address these issues."

For more information on SOAR process and/or policies, visit the city of Winston-Salem official website, www.cityofws.org.



Children's Museum of W-S and SciWorks announce official merger

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem and SciWorks are pleased to announce that the two organizations are officially merged as of July 1, 2016. Effective immediately, memberships and benefits are reciprocal at both locations.

"The support and dedication of our members are important to our success today and into the future," says Elizabeth Dampier, Executive Director - Museum. "We are excited that members of both museums will immediately see more benefits for their membership. For example, a family holding a Children's Museum membership will also have free admission to SciWorks and be able to receive discounts on birthday parties, camps etc., at that location — and vice versa!"

The new membership structure is:

*Adult + Child Membership: \$75. Add one additional child for \$20.

*Grandparent Membership: \$95. Includes both grandparents and all grandchildren.

*Family Membership: \$135. Includes up to four adults and all children, as well as reciprocal benefits with museums affiliated with ASTC (Association of Science - Technology Centers) and ACM (Association of Children's Museums).

"Purchasing a Family Membership gives a family the most benefits, including free or discounted access to science centers and children's museums worldwide," says Paul Kortenaar, Ph.D, Executive Director - Community. "However, we know that many families may not require that level of access, thus we have memberships at lower price points. Also, current members of either museum can renew their Family Memberships at a discounted price of \$125."

There are exciting challenges ahead for the merged museum. "As we determine the best direction forward, we know there are many unanswered questions," Kortenaar says. "The two museums will remain in their current locations as we work toward combining operations into a single building in downtown Winston-Salem that will transform the visitor experience. In all decisions, we are trying to provide the best educational opportunities for the children in our community and beyond."

The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem was founded by the Junior League of Winston-Salem and opened its doors as a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit on November 20, 2004. SciWorks was founded by the Junior League of Winston-Salem and opened its doors as the Nature Science Center in 1964. The two museums began talks of a possible collaboration in early 2015, with a new mission of "Inspiring wonder, curiosity, and lifelong learning in our children and community through interactive play and discovery." The merged entity will combine the best features of both museums, fusing arts, literacy, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) orientations into an integrated approach to learning. For more information, visit childrensmuseumofws.org and sciworks.org.

Construction is affecting activities at Salem Lake

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The bait shop, fishing pier and boat launch ramp at Salem Lake is currently closed to allow for construction of a new marina center and related improvements. The Salem Lake Trail will remain open.

While the fishing pier is closed, the city will allow fishing from the lake bank in a designated area near the Salem Lake Trail parking area off Salem Lake Road. The city will also designate a temporary location for launching canoes, kayaks and paddleboards from the bank.

When this work is completed, officials expect to

reopen the boat ramp during designated times as construction activities allow.

During construction, the paved parking lot for the bait shop and fishing pier will be closed and used as a construction staging area. While the bait shop is closed, the city will not be able to issue fishing licenses or boat registrations at Salem Lake.

Recreation officials estimate that construction of the marina center and a new marina parking area could take a year.

A map has been posted on WePlay.ws showing what portions of Salem Lake Park are closed.

FOOD LION

July 6 - July 12, 2016

SUMMER SAVINGS SUMMER FUN

HOW REFRESHING

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<p>Hot SALE 149¢ LB MVP</p> <p>Yellow or White Nectarines Without MVP Card \$1.99 LB</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$4 MVP</p> <p>Pint Blueberries Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$4 MVP</p> <p>5 Lb. Bag Food Lion White Potatoes Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA</p>		
<p>Hot SALE 169¢ EA MVP</p> <p>22-28 Oz. - Select Varieties Bush's Best Baked or Grillin' Beans Without MVP Card \$2.19 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$5 MVP</p> <p>48 Oz. - Select Varieties Wesson Oil Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p>	<p>Hot SALE 5 FOR \$5 MVP</p> <p>9.8-10.9 Oz. - Select Varieties Totino's Party Pizza Without MVP Card \$1.59 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$5 MVP</p> <p>10-16 Ct. - Select Varieties Food Lion Ice Cream Sandwiches Without MVP Card \$3.29 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE 692¢ EA MVP</p> <p>6 Big Rolls - Select Varieties Bounty Paper Towels 6 Mega or 12 Double Rolls Charmin Bath Tissue Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p>
<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$6 MVP</p> <p>16-59 Oz. - Select Varieties Tropicana Farmstand or Premium Orange Juice Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p>	<p>Hot SALE BUY 1 GET 1 FREE MVP</p> <p>4-16.5 Oz. - Select Varieties TastyKake Snack Cakes Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$6 MVP</p> <p>30 Oz. - Select Varieties Kraft Mayonnaise Without MVP Card \$3.79 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE BUY 1 GET 1 FREE MVP</p> <p>9-14 Oz. - Select Varieties Tostitos Tortilla Chips Without MVP Card \$4.29 EA Limit 2 Free</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$4 MVP</p> <p>5.25-12.87 Oz. - Select Varieties Lean Cuisine or Stouffer's Dinners or Sides Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p>
<h1>3 DAY SALE</h1> <p>FRI, SAT & SUN SALE STARTS FRI @ 8AM</p>		<p>Hot SALE 88¢ EA MVP</p> <p>4.7-12.2 Oz. - Select Varieties Hamburger or Chicken Helper Without MVP Card 2/54</p> <p>Rest of Week: 5/55</p>	<p>Hot SALE 2 FOR \$4 MVP</p> <p>48 Oz. - Select Varieties Friendly's Ice Cream Without MVP Card \$3.29 EA</p> <p>Rest of Week: 2/55</p>	<p>Hot SALE BUY 1 GET 1 FREE MVP</p> <p>12-15 Oz. - Select Varieties Kellogg's Frosted Flakes Cereal Without MVP Card \$3.39 EA</p> <p>Rest of Week: 2/55</p>
<p>Hot SALE BUY 1 GET 1 FREE MVP</p> <p>6.6-15 Oz. - Select Varieties Kebler Fudge Shoppe Cookies Without MVP Card \$3.39 EA Limit 2 Free</p> <p>Rest of Week: \$1.99 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE BUY 1 GET 1 FREE MVP</p> <p>11-13.2 Oz. - Select Varieties Hershey's Assorted Miniatures or Kisses Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p> <p>Rest of Week: \$2.99 EA</p>	<p>Hot SALE 7.99 EA MVP</p> <p>23-31 Ct. - Pods or 69-75 Oz. Tide Liquid Tide Laundry Detergent 100 Oz. Gain Liquid Gain Laundry Detergent Without MVP Card Regular Retail</p> <p>Rest of Week: \$8.99 EA</p>		