

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: MARCH 28, 2016 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH AND THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Recommend Approval

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See attached

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: J. Dudley Watts, Jr. / cdb DATE: March 23, 2016  
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING  
PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH AND  
THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Public Health was organized 100 years ago in the City of Winston-Salem; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1916, the Department of Public Health has provided vital public health services to a rapidly growing and changing population; and

**WHEREAS**, communicable diseases such as Smallpox, Influenza, Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Typhoid Fever and Measles were the leading causes of death one century ago; and

**WHEREAS**, ordinances and regulations contributed to improvements in food handling, clean water and sanitation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1918, one in five babies died before their first birthday and in 2014 Forsyth County celebrated the lowest infant mortality rate in history with 6.4 deaths per 1,000 live births; and

**WHEREAS**, the dramatic increase in life expectancy is widely credited to public health achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, current public health practice has expanded from a focus on sanitation and controlling the spread of infectious diseases and now includes preventing the onset of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, a dedicated public health workforce has served the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County with care, compassion and dedication for the past 100 years;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes April 2016 as Public Health Month and April 6, 2016 as the 100-year anniversary of the Forsyth County Department of Public Health.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners encourages all residents to take time this month to honor the contributions of the Forsyth County Department of Public Health and its employees in maintaining and improving the health and well-being of the residents of our community.

Adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.