



February 19, 2007

The City has announced today that Darryl Hunt has settled all of his claims against the City of Winston-Salem, its officers, and employees. This follows a somewhat similar settlement by Mr. Hunt of all his claims against the State of North Carolina, its officers, and employees in 2004. This settlement comes almost two decades after the incarceration of Mr. Hunt after his conviction at trial for the murder of Deborah Sykes. It also comes after the 2004 vacating of Mr. Hunt's sentence, dismissal of the case against Mr. Hunt with prejudice, and the subsequent pardon of Mr. Hunt by Governor Easley. Further, it comes after 18 months of careful investigation of the matter by the Council Member Vivian H. Burke suggested and City Council appointed Sykes Administrative Review Committee and the completion of its Sykes Report. The Sykes Report, in its more than 100 pages and 9,000-page appendix, carefully and comprehensively reports all that we have been able to learn of the truth of the matter and includes the City Manager's findings and recommendations based thereupon.

The Sykes Report reveals actions of City officers and employees, and of others, which fall far short of the standards this city holds and espouses. For such actions by City officers and employees documented in the Manager's Sykes Report findings, the City expresses its sincere regret, extending its profound and sincere apology to Darryl Hunt for all that he has endured and suffered in this matter. The City further expresses its determination to do all in its power to ensure that such a tragic series of events may never happen again.

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Allen Joines, Mayor

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Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore  
Council Member, Northeast Ward

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Molly Leight  
Council Member, South Ward

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Dan Besse  
Council Member, Southwest Ward

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Nelson L. Malloy  
Council Member, North Ward

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Robert C. Clark  
Council Member, West Ward

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Wanda Merschel  
Council Member, Northwest Ward

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Joycelyn V. Johnson  
Council Member, East Ward

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Evelyn A. Terry  
Council Member, Southeast Ward