



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECONSOLIDATION OF GREENSBORO, WINSTON-SALEM, AND BURLINGTON METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS INTO A SINGLE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

WHEREAS the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is preparing to undertake the next census; and,

WHEREAS the OMB is accepting comments on recommended changes to the 2000 Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas with the deadline for submitting comments being April 13, 2009; and,

WHEREAS prior to the 2000 standards, there was a single MSA (titled Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point) that also included Alamance County and after the 2000 standards, the single large MSA was sub-divided into 5 smaller areas (3 Metropolitan SAs and 2 Micropolitan SAs) and Alamance County was made a standalone Metropolitan Statistical Area (titled Burlington); and,

WHEREAS prior to the 2000 standards, the single MSA enjoyed a 'Top 50' status in the national rankings of MSAs and after the 2000 standards, the three, sub-divided Metropolitan SAs all dropped significantly (the Burlington MSA is ranked 262 out of 370), resulting in the area being at a competitive disadvantage for potential economic development activities; and,

WHEREAS the local hospital serving Alamance County, Alamance Regional Medical Center (ARMC), would have also been severely negatively impacted by being sub-divided out of the former, larger MSA into the much smaller stand-alone Burlington MSA but for a technical provision allowing reimbursement levels to be considered on the basis of a Combined Statistical Area; and,

WHEREAS the long term economic development interests of Alamance County and the

region would be better and more equitably served (with respect other MSAs in the nation) through a reconsolidation of the three MSAs of Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Burlington; and,

WHEREAS the long term interests of ARMC would, similarly, be better served being imbedded in a single MSA that includes larger neighboring cities in the adjoining MSAs rather than depending on technical provisions that may or may not continue or be subject to change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce supports the reconsolidation of the three MSAs noted above back into a single MSA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the Chamber submits for consideration the comment of titling the reconsolidated MSA *Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Burlington* , the names of the largest cities in the MSAs being consolidated, versus *Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point* , the names of the three largest population cities in the reconsolidated, single MSA, our support for the reconsolidation is not contingent on that aspect.

READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce April 9, 2009.