

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND INTENTION TO EXPLORE PROJECT INITIATIVES.

WHEREAS, in the 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey 93% of respondents to the 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey stated it is important to preserve the City's historic sites; and,

WHEREAS, in the 2016 Citizen Satisfaction Survey 89% of respondents stated it is important to maintain the character of the Independence Square, and it is important to preserve historic neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, the 2017 - 2021 Strategic Plan Independence for All aims to improve core neighborhoods in central and western Independence as indicated by objectives such as, but not limited to: stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods; reduce crime and disorder; improve visual appearance of major commercial corridors and historic sites; grow retail and commercial businesses; and reduce blight; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Independence Imagine Independence Comprehensive Plan 2040 documents a desire for a more "Connected" community where a complete trail system contributes to the overall health and well-being, limiting congestion, building community, shaping the overall impression of the City for visitors as well as making it easier for visitors to get around; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Independence Imagine Independence Comprehensive Plan 2040 documents a desire for a more "Welcoming" and "Distinctive" community with clean, attractive corridors as gateways to the community and capitalizes on the history destination attracting visitors from the region and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Independence has nearly \$1 billion in deferred maintenance, with much of that in the area of Heritage Independence; and,

WHEREAS, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has asked the City to implement streetscape improvements to the Independence Square, including potential improved multi-use trail connections to the Harry S Truman Presidential Library and nearby commercial nodes; and,

WHEREAS, in response to these and other citizen driven initiatives, the City Council of the City of Independence established the Downtown Redevelopment Coordinating Committee (DRCC), by Resolution 6251, for the purpose of advancing neighborhood stabilization and economic development in downtown Independence, which is bounded by Noland Road to the east, Lexington Avenue/Pacific Avenue to the south, Winner Road to the south and west; and US 24 Highway to the north, and adjacent properties, specifically including the neighborhood and business districts of Englewood, Fairmount, Maywood, and the Independence Square; and,

WHEREAS, The goals of the DRCC were to improve the quality of life for all of Independence, maximize the historical and cultural attractiveness of Independence, create attraction to "Heritage" Independence, promote economic development and job creation, spur private investment and work in collaboration with existing community efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the DRCC Report and Recommendations was designed to bring focus, prioritization and direction to the City from a citizen driven review; and,

WHEREAS, The DRCC evaluated 16 Master Plans with 87 project clusters and 400 conceptual ideas and narrowed those to nine target areas in Heritage Independence; and,

WHEREAS, The DRCC utilized a scoring matrix, qualitative analysis and an internal DRCC survey to narrow the list of projects to enable the City of Independence to focus their efforts on projects or clusters of projects that would have a real and measurable contribution to revitalizing the Heritage Areas of Independence; and,

WHEREAS, the DRCC recommendations generally focus on Independence Square Enhancement, Connectivity to Historic Sites, Complete Streets, Way-finding, Historic Site Enhancement, new Steamboat Arabia centered development, and a Multi-tenant Civic Center Concept; and,

WHEREAS, the DRCC also recommended that a robust housing initiative is integral to revitalization, but outside the scope of the DRCC recommendations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Independence does adopt the Downtown Redevelopment Coordinating Committee Report and Recommendations as a list of priority projects of relevance that need to be investigated further and implemented as plans of finance become realized.

SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Independence commends the Chair and the Committee for the many hours and hard work put into producing an exhaustive, substantial and helpful report that aids in prioritization and bringing focus to projects and initiatives in the Heritage Area of Independence and provides a road map for pursuit.

SECTION 3. The City Council commends the Downtown Redevelopment Coordinating Committee for amplifying the importance of citizen driven initiatives and support for neighborhood groups, business districts and civic organizations in pursuit of initiatives that advance projects contained in the Downtown Redevelopment Coordinating Committee Report and Recommendations and the importance of providing support where needed and leadership where needed and wanted in pursuit of implementation.

SECTION 4. The City Council commends the Downtown Redevelopment Coordinating Committee recommendation for utilizing City resources to leverage State and Federal grants, tax credits and incentive districts to a maximum degree and to establish the systems, protocols and mechanisms to be established by the City for their pursuit and execution.

SECTION 5. The City Council commends the Downtown Redevelopment Coordinating Committee for taking the initiative to make recommendations relative to an Implementation Plan containing systems protocols and mechanisms to be established by the City designed to advance exploration, prioritization, plan of finance development, pursuit and execution of initiatives that lead to project completion.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2018, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager