

A Resolution

NO. _____

Approving Policy Guidelines and Procedures for the Creation and Operation of Innovation Districts

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2017, City Council accepted the Fort Worth Economic Development Strategic Plan (“Plan”) (M&C G-19192) which was subsequently revised and accepted on February 22, 2022 (M&C 22-0113);

WHEREAS, the Plan includes multiple references to innovation districts, recommended the establishment of a Medical Innovation District, and called for the implementation of national best practices in the use of innovation districts to support economic development;

WHEREAS, additional policy measures, including the Chapter 380 Economic Development Program Policy, as amended on June 16, 2020 (Resolution No. 5241-06-2020) and again on January 26, 2021 (Resolution No. 5338-01-2021) refer to innovation districts to provide enhanced benefit to investment and business activity located in a formally recognized innovation district.

WHEREAS, a variety of activities by staff, area stakeholders, and private investors have sought to evaluate, promote, and develop innovation districts in Fort Worth;

WHEREAS, there currently is no City policy defining Innovation Districts, describing their purpose and basic characteristics, nor any policy that guides the process for the formal establishment and recognition of innovation districts and their boundaries in the City of Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to formally establish an Innovation Districts Policy (“Policy”) intended to accomplish the following:

- Define Innovation Districts and their purpose;
- Guide the process for the establishment of Innovation Districts in Fort Worth, including application process and eligibility;
- Describe the role of public, private, and institutional partners in support of Innovation Districts;
- Refer to Chapter 380 Economic Development Program Policy for any use of specific economic Development incentives;
- Provide for the eligibility and formal recognition of specific Nodes of Innovation, with the understanding that certain institutions and other private or civic assets might not be contiguous with an associated innovation district but nevertheless important to the support of innovation in Fort Worth; and
- Allow for the establishment of formal districts with clear boundaries while identifying, linking to, and benefiting key nodes of innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS, THAT:

The Policy Guidelines and Procedures for the Creation and Operation of Innovation Districts attached hereto is hereby approved.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2023.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary