

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF COMMON PURPOSE TO RENEW AND EXPAND THE EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY SHARED SERVICE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP.

WHEREAS, communities today face increasing pressures to deliver quality services that meet and exceed citizen expectations with limited, finite resources; and,

WHEREAS, communities place high importance on the public they serve and the staff they depend upon, striving to support both the public and their teams using "best in class" technology, principles and practices; and,

WHEREAS, today's challenges often transcend municipal boundaries and include common pain points, including an increasing decline in the funding sources that have traditionally supported strong municipal services delivery; and,

WHEREAS, collaborative initiatives in the greater metropolitan region, such as the Regional 911 System, have historically resulted in optimal solutions that have enhanced service delivery through innovation and technology and have provided cost efficiencies through shared resources; and,

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2018, the Independence City Council approved Resolution No. 6376 to adopt a Statement of Common Purpose among the cities of Independence, Blue Springs and Lee's Summit, Missouri, emphasizing government innovation and collaborative problem solving for the purpose of exploring various cooperative initiatives among the cities with support by the Mid-America Regional Council; and,

WHEREAS, the partners have completed successful collaborative programs including supervisory training, employee exit interviews, fraud reporting hotline, and a federal grant for police mental health co-responders; and,

WHEREAS, the partners continue to meet regularly and continue to work on collaborative strategies to enhance municipal services delivery; and,

WHEREAS, the initial partnership established in 2018 envisioned that other local jurisdictions may be interested in participating in the exploration and implementation of various collaborative solutions, which would broaden the positive impact of these programs and further promote strategic government innovation in the region; and,

WHEREAS, the cities of Grandview and Raytown, Missouri, have begun to engage in the work and desire to formally join the collaborative partnership.

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

SECTION 1. That the City Council does hereby resolve to adopt the revised Statement of Common Purpose, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, emphasizing government innovation and collaborative problem solving for the purpose of exploring various cooperative initiatives among the cities of Blue Springs, Grandview, Independence, Lee's Summit, and Raytown, Missouri with support by the Mid-America Regional Council, and does commit to supporting staff in these activities.

SECTION 2. That the City Council hereby directs the City Manager to assign the necessary staff resources to collaborate with the administrative staff in the other partner cities to further develop shared services models for the mutual benefit of the cities involved and the region.

PASSED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2021, 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

Statement of Purpose Revised February 2021

The cities of Blue Springs, Grandview, Independence, Lee's Summit and Raytown, Missouri, are working with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to explore and advance collaborative strategies aimed to benefit all five communities and the region by expanding local government innovation that enhances public service, benefits employees, and optimizes customer service.

Background

Today, cities face increasing pressures to deliver quality services that meet growing citizen expectations with limited, finite resources. They value the public they serve and place great importance upon their staff, striving to support the public and their teams using “best in class” technology and principles. Funding mechanisms that have traditionally supported municipal services delivery continue to decline, yet cities’ challenges often transcend municipal boundaries. Common pain points include workforce and recruitment issues, public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and modernization of legacy systems and policies. Now more than ever, city leaders are focused upon good government. Out of necessity, they must look to ingenuity for imaginative, yet feasible solutions and must pursue strategic partnerships to fulfill fundamental needs and deliver best practices that drive innovation, employee excellence, and fiscal sustainability.

By sharing ideas and common systems, collaborative initiatives in the region have historically resulted in efficient solutions with positive impacts. Examples include the Regional 911 System, which has harnessed innovation and technology to benefit local communities and public safety.

In 2018, the cities of Blue Springs, Independence and Lee’s Summit (all located in eastern Jackson County, Missouri, sharing common borders) established a shared services collaborative partnership for Eastern Jackson County to explore strategies and solutions aimed to improve excellence and innovation, for the benefit of employees, residents and visitors. The cities requested assistance from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to facilitate discussion of potential initiatives and advancement steps. In the first two years, the partnership successfully completed several projects. The cities of Grandview and Raytown, Missouri, were invited to expand the partnership in late 2020.

Proposed Next Steps

With assistance from MARC, the five jurisdictions seek to continue to explore mutually beneficial shared services solutions, including but not limited to the following:

- Organize a second networking event to match employees with similar duties in peer organizations for a half-day to full-day job shadowing experience.
- Evaluate opportunities for joint purchasing or shared equipment for maintenance of city facilities and assets.
- Continue to work with the MARC Government Training Institute (GTI) to deliver joint supervisory trainings, and expand the program to include other common training needs such as governance trainings for volunteer boards and commissions.
- Provide leadership to advance the regional cybersecurity strategic framework, including completing the annual National Cyber Security Review self-assessment and exploring joint solutions to address deficiencies.
- Advance solutions, including cooperative agreements and shared services, that streamline business functions and help deliver robust, high-quality citizen services.

The governing bodies of the five cities will be briefed on this initiative at least annually and asked to offer their insights on opportunities for joint exploration.

Shared Services Success (2018 – 2020):

- Supervisory Training
- Employee exit interviews (Blue Springs and Independence)
- Staff job shadowing and networking
- Cooperative purchase of an ethics, safety & fraud hotline for employees
- Sharing best practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Secured \$748,000 federal grant for police mental health co-responders