

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
AUGUST 7, 2018 AGENDA**

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| <p>Subject:</p> <p>Approval of Revisions to the River Market Design Overlay District.</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Planning & Development Department</p> | <p>Action Required:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">√ Ordinance Resolution</p> | <p>Approved By:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p> |
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| SYNOPSIS | To approve changes to the River Market Design Overlay District Sections 36-350 through 36-367. |
| FISCAL IMPACT | None. |
| RECOMMENDATION | Staff recommended approval. The Little Rock Planning Commission voted 8 for, 0 nays, and 3 absent to approve the changes. |
| BACKGROUND | <p>Staff initiated the process to revise the ordinance in 2016, and routinely keeps track of items that are possible ordinance amendments and the Design Review Committee added the following additional changes: 1) editing the word “prohibited”; 2) changes to internally lit signs; 3) projecting sign changes; 4) sandwich board sign changes; 5) backfill topsoil requirements; and 6) street tree species change.</p> <p>Changing the word prohibited to shall will enable some applicants to apply to the Board of Adjustment instead of the Planning Commission and the Board of Directors for a quicker approval. The internally lit prohibition was lifted to allow quality custom signs. The projecting sign section will allow signs to be mounted slightly higher on the buildings, allow a greater distance from the face of the building, allow for more signs but will require signs that share the same building entrance to share mounting apparatus.</p> |

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

The sandwich board sign section has been rewritten. The backfill topsoil requirements have been changed to help alleviate pavers from sinking and lifting up which creates tripping hazards. The street tree change was proposed by Parks & Recreation to alleviate structurally unsound issues and the general non-suitability of the Autumn Blaze Maple trees as street trees. Staff provided four (4) choices to the River Market Design Review Committee for their review along with pros and cons of each tree.

One citizen, Jo Melton, property owner, attended the Planning Commission and spoke on the issue.