

RESOLUTION NO. 100113

Expressing the Council's intent to continue the planning for a downtown convention center headquarters hotel; advocating that the State of Missouri maintain its existing economic development programs and that the State and its agencies provide financial assistance and economic incentives to support the development of a headquarters hotel; authorizing and directing the City's representatives to communicate the City's intent and anticipated needs to the Missouri Congressional delegation and other appropriate government officials and take actions to seek and obtain the funds needed to develop the headquarters hotel; and supporting the addition of seeking state financial assistance for the headquarters hotel to the common economic development agenda developed by the City and area civic groups.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 070467, as amended, passed on April 26, 2007, noted the findings of a study conducted by a consultant known as CSL as it related to the City's needs for additional hotel rooms of the type and location that would support the City's Convention Center and Facilities and encouraged the Mayor and Council to consider and plan for the expansion of the City's hotel stock in a manner that would support its downtown convention business, specifically the development of a downtown convention center headquarters hotel; and

WHEREAS, the City's Convention Center and Facilities offer those local and national businesses and organizations looking for high quality convention and meeting space 388,800 square feet of column-free exhibit space on a single floor with another 55,000 square feet of exhibit space on two other levels, 45 meeting rooms and a 46,000 square foot ballroom, all attached to a fine arts theater seating 2,400 and an arena seating 10,700; and

WHEREAS, the Sprint Center, the National Association of Basketball Coaches College Basketball Experience and the venues within the Kansas City Power and Light Entertainment District, along with the anticipated opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, will make the City's Downtown an even more attractive convention destination; and

WHEREAS, in selecting destinations for larger conventions and meetings, businesses and organizations, and their convention planners, look for cities that not only offer a sufficient number of quality hotel rooms among several hotels in or near their convention facilities, but also offer at least one hotel with a significantly larger number of quality hotel rooms adjacent to, or within close proximity to, their convention facilities; and

WHEREAS, in light of the preferences of convention planners and attendees, the Council adopted Committee Substitute for Resolution No. 080273 on April 3, 2008, directing the City Manager to retain a qualified consultant to conduct a financial/economic analysis, develop a funding plan for an approximately 1,000-room headquarters hotel and develop a process to select an appropriate site for a headquarters

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hotel and a development team to construct a headquarters hotel (the “Convention Hotel Project”); and

WHEREAS, the City Manager did engage such a consultant and provided the consultant’s initial report to the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council determined that it was appropriate to continue the planning process for a headquarters hotel and accordingly adopted Second Committee Substitute for Ordinance No. 090444 (“Ordinance No. 090444”) on June 18, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 090444 provided for the appropriation of \$500,000 for professional services relating to the Convention Hotel Project and established a Steering Committee to oversee, advise and report to the Mayor and City Council on the Convention Hotel Project; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee has pursued the course of action prescribed in Ordinance No. 090444 in a deliberate and reflective manner to assess the financial and development needs for and community response to the development of a headquarters hotel; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of a headquarters hotel will directly provide about 1,000 construction jobs during a 2-3 year period and an additional 1,000 permanent jobs to operate the hotel and related services; and

WHEREAS, because of the economic, job creation and strategic stimulus a headquarters hotel will provide the City, it is imperative that the City seek financial support and economic incentives for this project from the State of Missouri and the United States government and appropriate state and federal agencies; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Council expresses its intent to continue the planning for a headquarters hotel that will serve to stimulate the local economy by providing significant construction-related and full-time employment opportunities as well as enhancing the City’s streetscape, related infrastructure and transportation assets so as to facilitate and expand the City’s capacity to serve large conventions that will increase the tax base through additional retail sales and other services.

Section 2. That the Council anticipates that the construction of the headquarters hotel and necessary public infrastructure will require funds and economic incentives from the State of Missouri, the United States government and appropriate state and federal agencies.

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Section 3. That the City's representatives are authorized and directed to submit a funding request to the Missouri Congressional delegation to accomplish the goals set out in this resolution.

Section 4. That the Council advocates that the State of Missouri and its agencies maintain existing economic development programs and that the State and its agencies provide financial assistance and economic incentives to support the planning, development, construction and completion of the headquarters hotel, which will stimulate the City economy by creating about 1,000 construction jobs and an additional 1,000 permanent jobs after construction is completed.

Section 5. That the City's representatives are authorized and directed to communicate the City's intent and anticipated needs to the appropriate officials of the United States government and the State of Missouri and their respective agencies, and to provide such information, submit such requests and take any other necessary or appropriate action to seek and obtain the funds needed to plan, develop, construct and complete the headquarters hotel.

Section 6. That the Council hereby supports the addition of seeking state financial assistance for the headquarters hotel to the common economic development agenda developed by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Council, the Economic Development Corporation, and the City, as set forth in Resolution No. 100028, adopted on January 7, 2010.
