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Filed: 04-13-21

Sponsored by: Council

COUNCIL BILL 2021-090 RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION

1 RECOGNIZING the retirement of Director of Planning and Development, Mary Lilly
2 Smith.
3 _____
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5 WHEREAS, Mary Lilly Smith began her career with the City as a Planner where
6 she established the City's initial Neighborhood Conservation Office; and
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8 WHEREAS, she was Lead Planner on the Walnut Street Urban Conservation
9 District Plan and ordinance, where she developed unique approaches to preserving the
10 remaining historic fabric of the Walnut street area during development of University
11 Plaza; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Mary developed the process for the City's first Capital Improvement
14 Program; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Mary Lilly Smith is known widely for her 17 years as Economic
17 Development Director, where she developed the comprehensive *Economic*
18 *Development Incentives Policy Manual* that guides the City's use of development
19 incentives; and
20

21 WHEREAS, she pioneered the use of local and state economic development
22 incentives in Springfield such as tax increment financing ("TIF"), Chapter 100 bond
23 financing, community improvement and transportation development districts,
24 accelerated use of the enhanced enterprise zone program and real property tax
25 abatement through Chapters 99 and 353, the downtown revitalization preservation
26 program and Missouri Development Finance Board tax credits; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Mary assisted in the development of dozens of structures in center
29 city; and may be best known for her relentless pursuit of redeveloping the vacant Heer's
30 building on Park Central Square, which paid off in 2015, when Heer's Luxury Living
31 became a reality; and
32

33 WHEREAS, she has led staff on coordinating requests and interactions with the
34 delegation on Congressionally directed appropriations; and has testified before the U.S.

35 House of Representatives *Saving America's Cities Working Group*, regarding economic
36 development issues facing Springfield and other mid-sized communities; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Mary Lilly Smith's name is synonymous with that of growth and
39 progress, and she has had a hand in nearly 100 key economic development projects
40 and business attraction, retention, and expansion initiatives, and two long-range
41 comprehensive planning efforts; and
42

43 WHEREAS, most recently, she championed the concept of placemaking through
44 the hiring of staff focused on reimagining and reinventing public spaces and community
45 development, with the ultimate goal of enhancing pride of place.
46

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
48 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:
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50 Section 1 – City Council hereby recognizes Mary Lilly Smith's many
51 achievements and gives thanks for the contributions she made to this community on the
52 occasion of her retirement.
53

54 Section 2 – This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.
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56 Passed at meeting: _____
57

58
59 _____
60 Mayor
61

62 Attest: _____, City Clerk
63

64 Filed as Resolution _____
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66 Approved as to form: Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney
67

68 Approved for Council action: Jason A. Hage, City Manager
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EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL: 2021-090

FILED: 04-13-21

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk's Office

PURPOSE: Recognizing Mary Lilly Smith for 38 years of public service with the City of Springfield.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Mary Lilly Smith started her career with the City as a Planner where she established the City's initial Neighborhood Conservation Office. She was Lead Planner on the Walnut Street Urban Conservation District Plan and ordinance, where she developed unique approaches to preserving the remaining historic fabric of the Walnut street area during development of University Plaza. Additionally, she developed the process for the City's first Capital Improvement Program.

Mary is known widely for her 17 years as Economic Development Director, where she developed the comprehensive *Economic Development Incentives Policy Manual* that guides the City's use of development incentives. The manual has been used as a template for policies in multiple communities across the state. She pioneered the use of local and state economic development incentives in Springfield such as tax increment financing ("TIF"), Chapter 100 bond financing, community improvement and transportation development districts, accelerated use of the enhanced enterprise zone program and real property tax abatement through Chapters 99 and 353, the downtown revitalization preservation program and Missouri Development Finance Board tax credits. The use of these incentives helped pave the way for the feasibility of projects such as Jordan Valley Park, the Expo Center, downtown parking, and manufacturing equipment for Kraft and 3M.

Smith assisted in the development of dozens of structures in center city. She may be best known for her relentless pursuit of redeveloping the vacant Heer's building on Park Central Square, which paid off in 2015, when Heer's Luxury Living became a reality.

She has led staff on coordinating requests and interactions with the delegation on Congressionally-directed appropriations – over \$81 million spanning a nine-year period. These efforts resulted in funding for multiple major street improvements, including the Highway 65/60 and I-44/Highway 65 interchanges, wastewater plant improvements; police equipment, and funding for Jordan Valley Park. Mary has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives *Saving America's Cities Working Group* regarding economic development issues facing Springfield and other mid-sized communities.

Mary Lilly Smith's name is synonymous with that of growth and progress, having a hand in nearly 100 key economic development projects and business attraction, retention, and expansion initiatives, and two long-range comprehensive planning efforts: Vision 2020 and Forward SGF. Most recently, she championed the concept of placemaking

through the hiring of staff focused on reimagining and reinventing public spaces and community development, with the ultimate goal of enhancing pride of place.

Mary Lilly Smith was recognized by *Springfield Business Journal* as one of Springfield's 20 Most Influential Women in 2006 and as Business Advocate of the Year in 2014.

Recommended by:

Approved by:



Anita Cotter, City Clerk



Jason Gage, City Manager