

RESOLUTION 2019-16

Resolution in support of application for designation as a Downtown Development District

WHEREAS, under the Downtown Development Districts Act of 2014, 22 Del. C. §1901 et. seq. (“the Act”), the State may designate districts within Delaware’s cities, towns and unincorporated areas that will qualify for significant development incentives and other State benefits; and

WHEREAS, these districts are to be known as Downtown Development Districts (“Districts”); and

WHEREAS, the State is accepting applications for the designation of the third round of Districts, with such applications being due on May 15, 2019; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, each applicant must submit a plan that includes the boundaries of, and a detailed planning and development strategy for, the proposed District (the “District Plan”); and

WHEREAS, under the Act, each applicant must also propose incentives and address local economic and community conditions that will help achieve the purposes set forth in the Act (“the Local Incentives”); and

WHEREAS, if an application is successful and the City of New Castle receives District designation, the Local Incentives proposed by an applicant shall be binding upon the applicant; and

WHEREAS, the incentives associated with designation as a Downtown Development District would greatly benefit current and future residents, businesses, non-profit organizations and others within the City of New Castle; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of New Castle strongly believes that it is in the best interest of the City of New Castle to reapply for the District designation; and

WHEREAS, to demonstrate its commitment to the downtown improvements, the City Council recently committed over \$1M in capital investments to rehabilitate Delaware Street to provide safe travel by automobiles, buses, pedestrians, and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, to demonstrate its commitment to outreach and marketing, the New Castle Community Partnership commissioned the branding guide in 2018 with public forums which guides the New Castle brand; and

WHEREAS, to demonstrate its commitment to economic development, the City commissioned the Economic Development and Tourism Plan, dated May, 2018, which provides an action plan for leveraging the City’s assets and initiates the framework for economic development governance to grow New Castle’s economy and historic legacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of New Castle that:

1. The City Council supports the application for Designation as a Downtown Development District prepared by its City Planning Consultant AECOM dated _____, 2019 based on the plan approved unanimously by City Council in Resolution 2018-26 on October 9, 2018.
2. The City of New Castle appoints the City Administrator to serve as “District Administrator” (the “Administrator”) to file the application working with AECOM on behalf of the City, and to provide such other documents and information as may be necessary or desirable in connection with the Application.
3. If the Application is successful and the City of New Castle receive notice that it has been selected for designation as a District:
 - a. The City shall adhere to the District Plan and the Local Incentives contained in the Application for the Duration of the District designation; and
 - b. The City Administrator is authorized to execute such documents and enter in such agreements as may be necessary or desirable in connection with the Downtown Development Districts program and the rights and obligations of the City of New Castle thereunder; and
 - c. The City Administrator, or his designee(s) serving as Administrator, is authorized to carry out all District administrative and reporting requirements on behalf of the City of New Castle for the duration of the District.

PASSED this 2nd day of May, 2019.

Linda Ratchford, City Council President

Valarie W. Leary, Councilperson

Michael M. Platt, Councilperson

Russell P. Smith, Councilperson

Suzanne M. Souder, Councilperson

Attest:

Brian Whitaker, City Clerk