

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPPORT OF THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Participatory Budgeting is a democratic and transparent process which involves community members in deciding how a designated portion of a public budget is spent;

WHEREAS, Participatory Budgeting involves three steps: first, residents come up with ideas for public projects they would like to have in their community; second, individuals volunteer to develop a proposal for their project with city staff to establish a budget for the project; third, residents are invited to a public meeting to vote on all projects;

WHEREAS, Participatory Budgeting will be launched with professional assistance, the New York-based Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) is prepared to work with City Council, staff and residents to set up and manage Greensboro's Participatory Budget process. Its director, Josh Lerner, who met with members of City Council on two occasions, has previously provided consulting services and administered this process. PBP's work administering this process in Greensboro will reduce demands on city staff time;

WHEREAS, PBP will require \$200,000 for the launch of this process, it will have three full time employees. Funding for this service will be split evenly between city and local foundations, with \$100,000 in matching funds from the City in fiscal year 2015-16;

WHEREAS, five City Council districts will take part in the Participatory Budget process, each district will be allocated \$100,000 in fiscal year 2016-17, and its residents will develop their own district projects and vote on them;

WHEREAS, the total cost to the City of Greensboro for this Participatory Budget process in fiscal year 2015-2016 is \$100,000 which will be the reallocation of the current Neighborhood Small Projects funding. An additional \$100,000 will be raised from community foundations. All funding is contingent on future City Council actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

The Greensboro City Council endorses this concept and will consider future expenditures as part of the normal budget process as this project develops.