



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** September 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Discuss the proposed Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) Program for Davis Boulevard and Boulevard 26.

PRESENTER: Paulette Hartman, Deputy City Manager

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

At the May 2022 City Council Goals Work Session, a need was identified to address the aging corridor conditions of Davis Boulevard and Boulevard 26 north of Interstate Loop 820 and south of Mid-Cities Boulevard and Harwood Road. After a staff presentation and discussion on the subject at the February 2023 City Council Goals Work Session, City Council directed work to begin on a revitalization program that would encourage and simplify redevelopment, revitalization, and reinvestment in the Davis Boulevard and Boulevard 26 corridors using multiple economic development tools.

At a subsequent work session on May 17, 2023, staff received input from City Council on the direction being taken to establish a Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) and a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ). Examples of growth figures and the city's participation in incentives were provided, and the City Council was supportive of establishing both an NEZ and a TIRZ.

At the September 25, 2023 City Council Work Session, staff will be presenting the draft Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Program Incentives Policy and some initial marketing materials. The draft Policy includes proposals that cover the following areas:

- Purpose and objectives of the program
- Project eligibility
- Description of possible incentives
- Design guidelines
- Procedural steps for application, project certification, and public hearings (as needed).

Staff will be seeking City Council's direction and input on the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone Program Incentives Policy, which is planned for formal action before the end of 2023.