

APPENDIX F

Utica Common Council – Legislation for Adoption of the
City of Utica Sustainable Neighborhood-Based Master Plan

U & E DEV
LAW

City of Utica
Department of Legislation

In Common Council

Utica, N. Y., OCTOBER 5th, 2011

DRAFT SUSTAINABLE, NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, a draft sustainable, neighborhood-based master plan has been completed for the City, the City's first citywide comprehensive planning document in the last fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Utica Sustainable Neighborhood-Based Master Plan establishes a vision statement for the City along with guiding principles by which the Plan will be advanced. The Plan also divided the City into five basic building blocks (Housing & Neighborhood Development; Downtown Development; Parks, Recreation, Arts & Culture and Historic Preservation; Business & Technology Development; and Infrastructure & Waterfront Development) with goals and recommendations for each building block. Finally, the Plan also included an implementation strategy and recommendations on methods by which the Plan could transcend changes in the City's administration over the life of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was developed based on considerable public input throughout the process, including the establishment of a steering committee of over fifty community stakeholders representing diverse backgrounds and interest, an open house unveiling elements of the draft plan at the Utica Public Library, a public website from which the Plan could be reviewed generating dozens of comments, extensive coverage on the City Limits television program, presentation by City staff to various community groups including the Utica Rotary and the Genesis Group and the development of a brochure circulated throughout the City which allowed for public comment; and

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WHEREAS, adoption of a comprehensive and current master plan has numerous benefits for the City of Utica including: establishment of a framework by which future investment and funding decisions such as the City's Capital Plan can be progressed; identify funding priorities for our State and Federal representatives; and provide evidence of commitment to planning and development of community for residents, businesses and other stakeholders considering private investment in the community.

WHEREAS, the draft Plan was reviewed by the Oneida County Department of Planning pursuant to Section 239m of General Municipal Law. As a result of its review, the Oneida County Department of Planning recommended approval of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the draft Plan was reviewed by the City of Utica Planning Board which unanimously recommended approval of the Plan and issued a letter to the Common Council indicating such support.

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) regulations (6NYCRR Part 617), the draft Plan was reviewed by various regional and State agencies including: Mohawk Valley EDGE, Oneida County Department of Planning, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York State Department of Transportation, the New York State Environmental Conservation and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. To date, the only agency to respond is the State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) who expressed appreciation for the City's achievement in developing a sustainable municipal master plan. The NYS DOT also stated that the draft Plan is consistent with NYS DOT's mission to support multimodal systems and 'smart-growth' strategies.

Certified to:

RES: 112

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED THAT, the City of Utica Common Council has reviewed the draft Plan, the Environmental Assessment Form long form and the comments from the New York State Department of Transportation. Based on the review, the City of Utica Common Council acknowledges that adverse impacts to the environment anticipated to result from the adoption of the Plan are negligible and that, ultimately, more benefits to the environment are expected to accrue as opposed to adverse impacts, such as improved land use control through an updated zoning ordinance which is anticipated to follow the adoption of the Plan. As such, the City of Utica Common Council hereby concludes that the natural resources of the City and/or the health, safety and welfare of the public will not be adversely affected and is consistent with social and economic considerations. In reaching this decision, the City of Utica carefully considered all the Criteria for Determination of Significance listed in the SEQR regulations (6 NYCRR 617.7) and issues a Negative Declaration of Adverse Environmental Impact to the adoption of the Plan, pursuant to New York State Environmental Quality Review Act regulations; and

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BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT, the City of Utica Common Council has reviewed the draft Plan, the public comments submitted regarding the Plan and the various input into the Plan by outside agencies. The Council hereby acknowledges the value in long-range planning for the City and is desirous of establishing a framework by which future investment decisions, both public and private, will be considered. The Council recognizes the efforts of this Plan, to examine the state of the City as a whole currently and look forward in the shaping of a positive future. On that basis, the City of Utica Common Council hereby adopts the City of Utica Sustainable Neighborhood-Based Master Plan.

Yeas: Councilmembers, Zecca, Vescera, Scalise, McKinsey, Lawler, Kraus, Bucciero-7
Nays: Councilmember Arcuri-1
Adopted.

STATE OF NEW YORK, CITY OF UTICA

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

} ss.

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of an ordinance of the Common Council with the record of proceedings of the Common Council of said City of Utica, duly made and on file in this office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said ordinance.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed the Corporate Seal of said City, and subscribed my name, this.....7th..... day of.....OCTOBER.....2011.....

Joanna Brennan
City Clerk.