



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/28/2023

REQUESTER: Larry Heikkila, Mayor

PRESENTER: Larry Heikkila, Mayor

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2223-104: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPOINTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES TO THE STRONG TOWN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SERVE AS PART OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR THE COMMUNITY ACTION LAB AND SETTING FORTH GROUND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION.

BACKGROUND:

Strong Towns is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit media advocacy organization that seeks to provide services to communities to create a post-war pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient. Strong Towns coordinates with local governments through media, education, resources, events, neighborhood groups, and a “Community Action Lab”.

Strong Town’s priority campaigns are transparent local accounting, ending highway expansion, creating safe and productive streets, supporting incremental housing, and ending parking mandates and subsidies.

Strong Towns selected the City of Norman to participate in its next Community Action Lab. The City entered into a contract with Strong Towns for this effort in November 2022. The Community Action Lab is an extended engagement for multi-pronged approaches to mobilizing specific communities for change and coaching key local leaders through critical action steps meant to help a community realize a financially strong and resilient position. The Lab would last approximately two years and consists of five phases: Preparation (+/-1 month), Kickoff (1 month), Capacity Building (2-6 months), Action (7-11 Months), and Ongoing Support (12 months beyond completion of other phases).

DISCUSSION:

As part of the Community Action Lab effort, the City has been asked to appoint the Strong Towns Ad Hoc Committee, made up of community members, to serve as part of the Leadership Team, which will also include City Council and Planning Commission members, as well as members of the City's Management Team. Resolution R-2223-104 appoints the ad hoc committee members, as well as alternates, and sets forth the ground rules for committee operations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of R-2223-104.