



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

---

**MEETING DATE:** 12/12/2023

**REQUESTER:** Larry Heikkila, Mayor

**PRESENTER:** Larry Heikkila, Mayor

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO RESOLUTION R-2223-104: AN AMENDMENT TO 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 STRONG TOWNS COMMUNITY ACTION LAB, ADDING AND REMOVING CERTAIN COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SETTING FORTH GROUND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION, AND IDENTIFYING A TERMINATION DATE FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

---

### **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 was originally 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 was passed by this City Council on February 28, 2023 and appointed the ad hoc committee members, as well as alternates, and set forth the ground rules for committee operations.

The first year of the Strong Towns Community Action Lab (involving Preparation, Kickoff Capacity Building and Action) has concluded. The final year of the Community Action Lab is limited to "ongoing support" from Strong Towns. While Strong Towns may not convene the full Leadership Team any further, the Ad Hoc Committee that was established as a part of that Leadership Team by this resolution wishes to continue meetings in order to discuss subjects relating to the Community Action Lab during this final year of ongoing support.

Additionally, some committee members have opted to conclude participation in the committee while others have asked to join. To ensure a quorum of appointed members is available for future meetings, this resolution is necessary to appoint and remove the members identified therein.

Finally, the resolution now identifies the final conclusion date for the Ad Hoc Committee as November 21, 2024. This date also signifies the end of the Strong Towns Community Action Lab pursuant to the controlling contract, K-2223-53.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends adoption of Amendment No. 1 to R-2223-104.