

City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JANUARY 22, 2019**

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **WARDS: 1 AND 2**
DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: INNOVATION DISTRICT UPDATE – BEST PRACTICES TOUR

ISSUE:

Receive and file this Innovation District update related to the recent Best Practices Tour held the week of October 15, 2018.

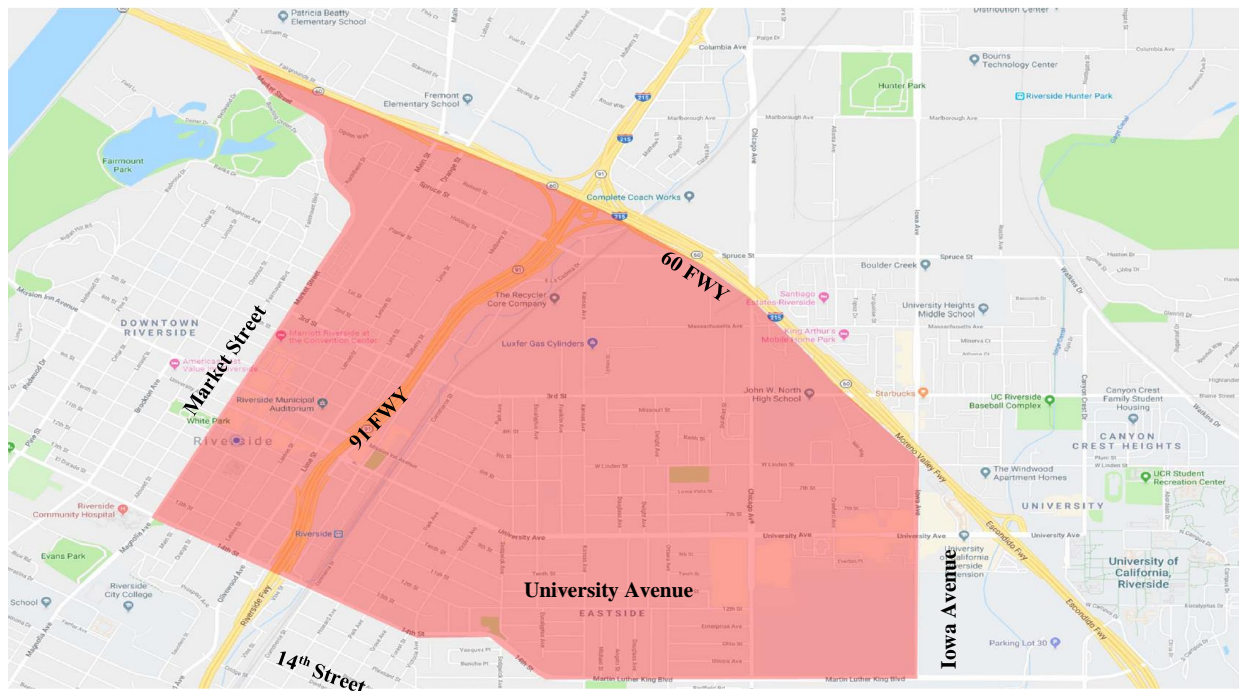
RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council receive and file this Innovation District update related to the recent Best Practices Tour held the week of October 15, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

As one of the most diverse and fastest growing cities in the state, Riverside is projected to have significant growth over the next few years, including the relocation of the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Southern California operations adjacent to the University of California-Riverside (UCR) campus, which will transform the economic complexion of the City, especially along University Avenue and the Eastside/Downtown areas. On December 19, 2017, the City Council designated this area – a highly disadvantaged district where congestion, air pollution, and underutilized space is abundant – as Riverside's first Innovation District to spark innovation, spur economic development, inspire investment, provide quality jobs, and enhance quality of life.

The Innovation District's boundaries encompass the space between downtown and UCR, including portions of the Eastside and University Avenue neighborhoods (see map below). This geographic area was selected due to its proximity to an expanding transit and alternative transportation network, research institutions associated with UCR, and the ever-expanding entertainment destinations in the downtown region. There are two Metrolink stations bordering two edges of the district. This area of the City is also currently home to several under-utilized former packing houses and industrial buildings which have the potential to serve as ideal co-working space for startup firms. Moreover, firms that focus on researching and bringing to market green transportation solutions could, given close proximity, find ideal partnerships with the nearby UCR Center for Environmental Research & Technology (CE-CERT) and the coming ARB campus.



On October 9, 2018, staff presented to City Council several initiatives and tasks necessary to move the Innovation District forward. One of these tasks included a “Best Practices Tour”, which was held the week of October 15th of 2018.

DISCUSSION:

As noted above, select staff from the Community & Economic Development Department, the Public Works Department and the Office of Communications, recently conducted a best practices tour by visiting and meeting with staff and stakeholders from the following cities that have successfully implemented innovation districts within their municipalities: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Detroit, Michigan; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina; and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Based on discussions and observations with the noted cities, staff recommends that the City Council receive this presentation highlighting the best practices of the above-mentioned cities that have successfully implemented Innovation Districts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal as a result of this Innovation District update.

Prepared by:	David Welch, Interim Community & Economic Development Deputy Director
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Attachment:	Presentation