

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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June 30, 2016

Honorable Members of the North Little Rock City Council
Community Leaders
Partners in the North Little Rock Business Community

Re: Presentation at Special Called City Council Meeting and Visitation of
Sundance Square in Fort Worth, Texas

I am asking for your help.

Long-awaited, single and multi-family development projects on our downtown "Mill property" are imminent and the population of the Argenta neighborhood is multiplying. This is in addition to the many years of sustained neighborhood revitalization, business development along Main Street, and continued hard work by our city council and the Argenta Downtown Council.

I believe it is time to start coordinating the ideas, thoughts, and plans our community has been discussing for the past few years regarding a central plaza or square on the corner of Main and 6th Street. I personally have visited four separate cities to tour and learn about different styles, configurations, and amenities they offer in their versions of downtown public spaces.

Although there are numerous examples around the nation and globe for us to consider, coordinated travel as a community to several of them would be logistically and financially impossible. As such, I am inviting you to join me in Fort Worth, TX for a tour of Sundance Square, which has several examples of water features, surrounding buildings, coverings, and various amenities in one place. The tour will take place on August 1, returning the next day. We are offering a full council presentation on the possible trip and a status update on the project at a special called City Council Meeting on **Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 5:00 PM.**

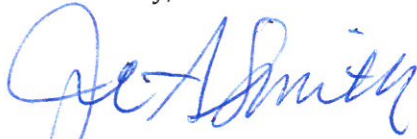
Hotel and travel costs **cannot** be covered by the city for anyone except our elected council members and a few city employees, but city staff will work to coordinate group hotel packages. The tours of Sundance Square with their President and CEO will be followed by a "working dinner" where ideas about our future plaza/square can be discussed.

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

We have one shot at a project that could define a major public gathering spot in our downtown for decades to come. A few years ago our city and business partners were considering a project to help foster an entrepreneurial experience for our downtown. A large group got together then to travel to Boston to learn about and explore their version of a technology maker space. The educational experience garnered from that trip was invaluable to our later, incredible success that is the Arkansas Innovation Hub. I am confident our expedition to Fort Worth will help lead to a similar accomplishment.

I hope you are available to join us. For purposes of coordinating logistics, please RSVP to my office by **Monday, July 11**. I look forward to our discussions and an amazing contribution to the quality of life of North Little Rock citizens, which will last for many generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe A. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being particularly prominent.

Joe A. Smith
Mayor

Enclosure



Sundance Square – Fort Worth, Texas