

29TH BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
RANDALL M. SKIGEN

Clerk of the Board
ANNIE M. SUMMERVILLE

Majority Leader
ELAINE MITCHELL

Minority Leader
MARY L. FEDELI

RESOLUTION NO. 3833 SUPPORTING THE STAMFORD INNOVATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford has supported the development of the area adjacent to the Stamford Transportation Center Train Station and has been guided by the City for redevelopment as a job-intensive innovation district focusing on tech, finance and related industries, capitalizing on its close proximity to the University of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, this area also stands to benefit from CTNEXT Innovation Places, an initiative to strengthen Connecticut's discovery, research, and innovation economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Representatives adopted the Master Plan of Conservation and Development Plan in 2014, supporting the redevelopment of the immediate Transportation Center area with high density mixed use, and the adjacent area with office and residential mixed use development; and

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut has a strategic vision to work with the City of Stamford to leverage its capacity as a major university to spur innovative projects and build stronger, safer and more vibrant communities around its edges with the addition of student dorms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford is working in partnership with the Stamford Partnership in this area to address shared innovation and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a number of community partners have formed the Stamford Innovation District Task Force, which is working together to support innovation activities in the context of a sustainable and innovative district; and

WHEREAS, the Stamford Partnership has identified that designating an innovation district would assist in establishing an identity and standards for the development of the area, and City of Stamford Economic Development staff have agreed with this recommendation as a means to forwarding City goals for economic development.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED BY THE 29TH BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD THAT:

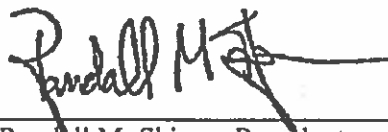
1. The area defined by the attached map be designated as the Stamford Innovation District.
2. An innovation district is an economic development tool that utilizes partnerships with higher education institutions, businesses, and government to fuel job growth and redevelopment in targeted locations, based on the premise that collaboration and productivity result from proximity, and therefore job creation and innovation can be fostered through the intentional clustering of businesses, institutions, ideas and people. This designation can be used for the purposes of planning, fundraising, and marketing – and potentially for innovative pilot projects and district systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Representatives supports the creation of the Stamford Innovation District area as a priority for the City of Stamford, by directing staff and resources to:

1. Direct Stamford Economic Development staff to continue to participate in the planning, organizing, strategizing for, and implementing the area's redevelopment.
2. Consider investments at city standard level in basic infrastructure through the capital improvement plan, with the understanding that this may leverage other sources of funding for more innovative elements of public realm and district systems.
3. Consider requests from the Stamford Partnership for technical analysis, to review or explore issues in-depth, on a case by case basis in relation to staff workloads and financial commitments. Any staff resources or financial commitments that are more than incidental shall be brought to the Board of Representatives for consideration.
4. Consider funding for redevelopment opportunities including housing, business development, infrastructure, and greenspace, particularly those that provide or support affordable housing and/or job creation.
5. Communicate about the opportunities in this area to a broader audience, to attract input, support, and potentially investment.
6. Consider changes to city policies and practices to allow for experimentation and innovation consistent with City goals and the expressed priorities of the district. Any specific regulatory or policy changes shall be brought to the City Council for consideration.
7. Work with the State of Connecticut on shared issues including, but not limited to, infrastructure connectivity, formation of a cohesive district identity and brand, and alignment of investments in economic development.

This resolution was approved on the Consent Agenda at the Regular Meeting of the 29th Board of Representatives held on Monday, April 3, 2017.



Randall M. Skigen, President
29th Board of Representatives



Annie M. Summerville, Clerk
29th Board of Representatives

cc: Mayor David Martin
Michael Handler, Director of Administration
Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations
Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development
Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety
Kathryn Emmett, Esq., Director of Legal Affairs
Donna Loglisci, Town and City Clerk
Jay Fountain, Director of OPM