

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-2010**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, ORDAINING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT, CHAPTER 2303, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE (ACT), PROVIDING TAX INCENTIVES, DESIGNATING A LIAISON FOR COMMUNICATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES, AND NOMINATING THE HEALTH CARE SERVICE CORPORATION, A MUTUAL LEGAL RESERVE COMPANY (BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD) TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM (EDT) THROUGH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (BANK) AS AN ENTERPRISE PROJECT (PROJECT).**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas (City) desires to create the proper economic and social environment to induce the investment of private resources in productive business enterprises located in severely distressed areas of the city and to provide employment to residents of such area; and

**WHEREAS**, the project or activity is not located in an area designated as an enterprise zone; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 2303, Subchapter F of the Act, Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company has applied to the City for designation as an enterprise project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City finds that Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company meets the criteria for tax relief and other incentives adopted by the City on the grounds that it will be located at the qualified business site, will create economic activity and stability; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:**

Section 1: The City nominates Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company for enterprise project status.

Section 2: The following local incentives, at the election of the governing body, are or will be made available to the nominated project or activity of the qualified business and future projects:

- a) The City may abate taxes up to five (5) years, on a case-by-case basis.

- b) The City may establish a Tax Increment Financing District to fund public improvements to serve a project.
- c) The City may adopt the Freeport Tax Exemption.
- d) The City may offer assistance through its 4A Development Corporation of Abilene, Inc.
- e) The City may provide regulatory relief to businesses, including:
  - 1) zoning changes or variances; or
  - 2) streamlined permitting.
- f) The City may provide enhanced municipal services to businesses, including:
  - 1) institution of community crime prevention programs; or
  - 2) special public transportation routes or reduced fares.
- d) The City may provide improvements in community facilities, including:
  - 1) capital improvements in water and sewer facilities;
  - 2) road repair; or
  - 3) creation or improvement of parks.
- e) The City may provide improvements to housing, including:
  - 1) low-interest loans for housing rehabilitation, improvement, or new construction; or
  - 2) transfer of abandoned housing to individuals or community groups.
- f) The City may provide business and industrial development services, including:
  - 1) low-interest loans for business;
  - 2) provision of publicly-owned land for development purposes, including residential, commercial, or industrial development; or
  - 3) creation of special one-stop permitting and problem resolution centers or ombudsmen.
- g) The City may provide job training and employment services to businesses, including:
  - 1) retraining programs;
  - 2) literacy and employment skills programs;
  - 3) vocational education;
  - 4) customized job training; or
  - 5) job training programs.

Section 3: The City of Abilene City Council directs and designates its Mayor, or his designee, as the City's liaison to communicate and negotiate with the EDT

through the Bank and enterprise project(s) and to oversee zone activities and communications with qualified businesses and other entities in an enterprise zone or affected by an enterprise project.

Section 4: The City finds that Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company meets the criteria for designation as an enterprise project under Chapter 2303, Subchapter F of the Act on the following grounds:

- (a.) Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company is a “qualified business” under Section 2303.402 of the Act since it will be engaged in the active conduct of a trade or business at a qualified business site not located in an enterprise zone in the governing body’s jurisdiction and at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the business’ new employees will be residents of an Enterprise Zone or economically disadvantaged individuals; and
- (a.) There has been and will continue to be a high level of cooperation between public, private, and neighborhood entities in the area; and
- (b.) The designation of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company as an enterprise project will contribute significantly to the achievement of the plans of the City for development and revitalization of the area.

Section 5: The enterprise project shall take effect on the date of designation of the enterprise project by EDT and terminate five (5) years after the date of designation.

**PASSED ON FIRST READING this 26th day of August, 2010.**

A notice of the time and place, where and when said ordinance would be given a public hearing and considered for final passage was published in the Abilene Reporter-News, a daily newspaper of general circulation in the City of Abilene, said publication being on 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010, the same being 7 calendar days prior to a public hearing being held in the Council Chamber of City Hall in Abilene, Texas, at 8:30 a.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2010, to permit the public to be heard. Said Ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage.

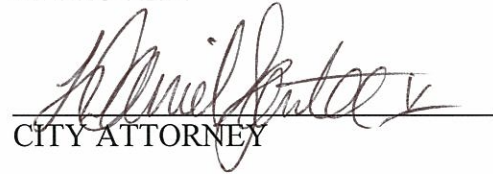
**PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this 30th day of August, 2010.**

ATTEST:

  
CITY SECRETARY

  
MAYOR

APPROVED:

  
CITY ATTORNEY

