City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

**Requested Council Meeting Date: November 6, 2017**

**Item: COUNCIL BILL NO. 2017-278**
**Originating Department: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Attachments: 1) Copy of Council Bill 2017-278
2) Planning Report
3) Commission Minutes

Planning/Community Development Manager: Troy Bolander
Finance Director: Leslie Haase
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm
Board or Commission: Planning and Zoning Commission Date: 10/09/17

Recommended Action: Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval by a vote of "7 in Favor, 0 Nay."

SUMMARY/REQUEST:
Case 029-17: A parcel located approximately 85 feet north of E. 7th St. and 20 feet east of S. Minnesota Ave. – A request to apply District HP (Historic Overlay District) to the Lincoln School Site – Jill Sullivan and Glendola Flake.

STAFF SUMMARY:
The currently vacant parcel (which sits to the south of Unity Baptist) is the former site of Lincoln School. The lot currently contains a small memorial to Melissa Cuther, the founder of Carver Nursery School.

The site serves as the former home of Lincoln School, a Joplin R-8 Facility that predated desegregation. The school served as the only school for African American students in the Joplin area for 65 years. The school served as an anchor for African Americans in Joplin; both in its role as a school and as a community center.

Any structure, property, or area that meets one or more of the above criteria shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration. (Ord. No. 86-31, § 1, 3-17-86)

After review, staff believes the Lincoln School Site meets Criteria A and C:

Criteria A. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the community, county, state, or country;

Criteria C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or country;

The Historic Preservation Committee recommended approval of Case 029-17.

*Staff recommends approval of Case 029-17.*

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION TESTIMONY:
Ms. Jill Sullivan, 721 North Sergeant, Joplin, MO. She spoke in support of the nomination. She is also representing the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Sullivan gave details on the history about the school. It was in the R-8 School District and for Joplin's African American community and a Community Center. The school opened in1908. Then in 1926, 1930, and then in 1950 the building was updated. The school was used as a Special Education facility after desegregation. It closed in 1975 and changed hands over the years. Served as an anchor for Joplin's African American Community as well as surrounding communities brought their children to the school.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.