City of **JOPLIN** City Council Agenda Item

Requested Council Meeting Date: December 7, 2015

Item: CDBG-DR Sub-Recipient Agreement with Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Originating Department: Planning & Community Development

Attachments: 1) Council Bill No. 2015-408
2) CDBG-DR Sub-Recipient Agreement

Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services Director: Troy Bolander
Finance Department: Leslie Haase
City Attorney: Peter Edwards
City Manager: Samuel Anselm

Recommended Action: Approval of Council Bill No. 2015-408

INTRODUCTION:

The following Council Bill is for an agreement between the City of Joplin and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation (Advanced Training & Technology Center Phase I) to develop an existing facility into a technical training, innovation and economic development support center. The primary focus of the Center will be to provide training for the City's workforce and Low to Moderate Income residents. City Council previously approved this activity in the Round II Community Development Block Grant Program – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Amendment 7 to the Initial Action Plan (Partial Action Plan 3) on July 20, 2015.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed Advanced Training and Technology Center will help fill gaps in the area's workforce, provide better-skilled workers to existing and new companies, and enable local residents, particularly those with low/moderate incomes (LMI) to advance their skills and, consequently, their standard of living. The Advanced Training & Technology Center aims to enhance the skills of nearly 2,000 LMI residents over the next 5 years with the intent of providing local businesses with better skilled employees. Within walking distance of three homeless shelters, the center could encourage some of Joplin's most at risk residents to pursue training and employment.

The agreement provides for reimbursement of costs in an amount not to exceed $3,900,000.00 that will be incurred in the purchase of the building, design, and renovations related to the Advanced Training & Technology Center.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends the approval of Council Bill 2015-408 on an emergency basis, meaning of Section 2.12(1) and 2.12(6) of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, in that said ordinance deals with the improvement and preservation of a public facility, so the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation may complete the purchase and renovation of an existing facility into a technical training, innovation and economic development support center. These renovations will help preserve the building so it does not fall in disrepair as well as creating job opportunities for unemployed citizens with urgent needs.