

## CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the University of Memphis is a vital and unique economic driver for the City of Memphis and a research university such as this is critical to the economic health of cities and regions in today's information age; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Memphis is designated as one of only three research universities in the state of Tennessee (Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville are the other two) and is the research university for the Memphis region; and

**WHEREAS**, the more than \$225 million earned by its 2,600 full time and 2,500 part time employees and its \$370 million annual budget are major contributors to the economic strength of Memphis-area businesses; the annual impact of the University of Memphis is over \$2.5 billion in economic activity—directly or indirectly—in the Memphis area; and

**WHEREAS**, sustaining and growing the University's role as an important industry requires the right environment; nationally, universities in urban settings that meet Memphis and Shelby County aims of walkable, diverse, accessible, sustainable and physically attractive neighborhoods have flourished while those located in areas without these conditions due to sprawl and blight have stagnated or declined; and

**WHEREAS**, the neighborhood and commercial district in the direct vicinity of the University of Memphis (known as the "University District") is challenged by signs of decline, further complicated by inappropriate zoning and inadequate land-use controls; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad and representative group of University District stakeholders including business owners, residents, University of Memphis representatives, the University Neighborhoods Development Corporation, the University District Incorporated, the University District Business Alliance, the Highland Area Renewal Corporation, the University Council of Congregations and others have participated in the development of a Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the community in the Fall of 2008 which recommends the adoption of an Overlay District in the University District; and

**WHEREAS**, the University Neighborhoods Development Corporation, pursuant to its Master Plan for the University District completed in 2006 and the University District Comprehensive Plan completed in 2008, has retained Looney Ricks Kiss Architects to assist in the development and adoption of the University Overlay District and has dedicated staff to work with City and County staff to draft and review all necessary documents and maps.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** the Memphis City Council directs the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Planning and Development to assist the University Neighborhoods Development Corporation in the development of an Overlay Zoning District in the University District.