

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield hosted a series of nine Community Listen events in May of 2015 to hear directly from the citizens of Zone 1 what they would most like to see changed within their communities; and

WHEREAS, the City elected officials and staff, along with a variety of community partners, immediately set off on a path to analyze what they had heard and develop an 18-month plan to address as many of these issues as possible; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is known as the Zone Blitz, and more than 60 individual projects have been identified for inclusion in the 18-month Zone Blitz Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City simultaneously reached out to the community and solicited partners to assist with these Zone Blitz projects, and received an overwhelming response from our community; and

WHEREAS, these partners include individuals, neighborhoods, businesses, faith-based organizations, non-profits, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, and many others; and

WHEREAS, today marks the start of the 18-month Zone Blitz, and marks a significant milestone in our community's civic engagement by the strong showing of neighbor helping neighbor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield departments and partner organizations have already invested enormous heart, passion and creativity into this initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield City Council and City staff would like to officially recognize and thank the many partner individuals and organizations that have committed to assisting with this first-of-its-kind project.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert L. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Springfield, Missouri, do hereby proclaim July 11, 2016 to be

ZONE BLITZ KICK-OFF DAY

and thank all partner organizations who are lending a hand to make a difference in their community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the official seal of the City of Springfield, Missouri, to be affixed this eleventh day of July, in the year of our Lord, two thousand sixteen.