



Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge

222 St. Louis Street
Post Office Box 1471
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

225/389-3100
Fax 225/389-5203

MELVIN L. "KIP" HOLDEN
Mayor-President

April 20, 2016

Mr. Casey Cashio
Council Administrator
222 St. Louis Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Mr. Cashio:

I respectfully submit this veto to Ordinance 16215, approved by the Council at its April 13, 2016, meeting. A copy of this veto message has this date been provided to all Metropolitan Councilmembers.

As I reviewed this legislation and received input, it became clear that while this legislation may have been well intended, it lacked a cohesive approach to make it work. This legislation calls for this government to provide tax breaks without a real plan. It lacks a comprehensive strategy and fails to look at the root causes of decline within the boundary lines identified in Councilman Delgado's legislation.

Under this legislation, developers within the district may apply to the Metro Council for exemption from paying taxes on business improvements for five years, with a five year extension. As I related to others, the Legislature made numerous cuts in the recent Special Session, and our Finance Department is still trying to determine the impacts those cuts will have on our City and Parish. We are facing the prospect of additional cuts as a result of this Session. We will have to evaluate the impact on various services we render all of our citizens. In the absence of knowing those factors, we will continue to follow our past budgetary practices.

The fiscal ramifications of Councilman Delgado's legislation are unknown. While cities in America are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, our economy continues to remain strong. That is evidenced by our just released sales tax receipts report for February of this year.

We will not open our government to speculative spending at the taxpayers' expense. Our financial success in this parish is not based on gimmicks but on hard work with all segments of our community pulling together.

Don't gamble away the future of our great city and parish. Our citizens deserve better.

To all Metropolitan Councilmembers, our doors are open to find fiscal solutions to concerns we jointly share and we are willing to work with all of you to find an incentive plan with specific criteria that makes financial sense and benefits all of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin L. 'Kip' Holden".

Melvin L. "Kip" Holden
Mayor-President

ONE BATON ROUGE IS BETTER

APR 13 2016

Casey Cash

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR TREASURER

By Loupe
Introduced 12-9-15
P.H. 1-13-16
2-10-16
4-13-16

017

ORDINANCE 16215

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE NORTH BATON ROUGE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ZONE, AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY OF BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA; DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES THEREOF, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 27 OF TITLE 33 OF THE LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES OF 1950, AS AMENDED; DESIGNATING THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge have experienced tremendous economic growth in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the City-Parish is poised to continue economic growth; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City-Parish to ensure that the economic growth extends to all areas of the Parish; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended ("**Act**") allows local governmental subdivisions to create economic development districts for the development of economic development projects (as defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, this Council proposes to create an Economic Development District within the City with the geographical boundaries described herein to be known as the "North Baton Rouge Opportunity Zone" ("**District**");

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Act, prior to the adoption of this Ordinance, a notice describing the boundaries of the North Baton Rouge Opportunity Zone has been published two (2) times in The Advocate, the official journal of the City/Parish ("**Official Journal**");

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, the City desires to designate the Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge ("**Council**") as the governing authority of the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Metropolitan Council of the City of Baton Rouge that:

SECTION 1. The development of the District to stimulate the continuing effort to develop the City and to provide much needed foundation for business to flourish and to provide opportunities to unemployed and low-income residents of the City, is declared to be an economic development project as set forth in the Act.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to the Act, this Council does hereby

create an economic development district within the City, to be named the "North Baton Rouge Opportunity Zone", having the following geographical boundaries: the city limits of the City of Baton Rouge to the north and east, the Mississippi River to the west, and Florida Boulevard to the south, with the exclusion of the entirety of the Downtown Development District and the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District.

SECTION 3. The Council is hereby designated, pursuant to the Act, as the governing authority of the North Baton Rouge Opportunity Zone.

SECTION 4. The Council Administrator shall compile an annual report and deliver the same to the Metropolitan Council no later than December 31, 2016 and every year thereafter. The report shall include a list of all project applicants in that year, the projects approved by the Metro Council, and the amount of property taxes abated for each project.

SECTION 5. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, there has been published two (2) times in The Baton Rouge Plainsman, the official journal of the City, a notice describing the boundaries of the District, as well as a notice of introduction of this Ordinance. The publication of said notice and boundaries is hereby ratified and approved.

SECTION 6. The Mayor and his staff are hereby authorized to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall be effective for a period of five (5) years from the date of passage of this ordinance. On or before the conclusion of the five year period, the Metropolitan Council shall evaluate the merits of the District. At that time, the Metropolitan Council may elect to extend the effective date of this ordinance to continue the existence of the District.

In accordance with Section 2.15 of Chapter 2 of the Plan Of Government, I certify this to be the original ordinance adopted by the metro Council at a Regular meeting on April 13th 2016
Council Administrator.

APPROVED:

DISAPPROVED:

Melvin J. Kip Holder

Mayor - President

Mayor - President

Received from the Mayor - President on the _____
day of _____

Council Administrator