

CITY of REPUBLIC

Established 1871

Exhibit M

AGENDA ITEM STAFF ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: Discussion and Possible Vote to Recommend the Approval to proceed with the formation of an Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) for the City of Republic

Submitted By: Scott Christensen, Senior Planner

Date: July 10, 2006

Issue Statement

An Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) is an Economic Development tool established by the Missouri State Legislature for local governments use to provide a means of tax credits to new or expanding businesses. The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has very strict guidelines for the formation of the EEZ and a detail analysis of physical, social, and economic characteristics of census tracts of property is required.

Discussion and/or Analysis

At the end of 2005, under the leadership of Mr. Dean Thompson, the city of Republic Planning staff working with the guidance of the DED analyzed the 2000 census tract information for the Republic and Brookline areas. After several months of analysis and multiple computer runs of data an area was defined that meets the criteria of the EEZ definitions (see attached map). The final area includes portions of the City of Republic, the majority of the former Village of Brookline, portions of Greene County, and a section of Christian County. With the establishment of an EEZ it makes our community more attractive for business expansion and development because of the benefit of tax credits and local tax abatement. Many communities throughout the State of Missouri have already established EEZ's including Springfield.

Staff Recommendation

In order for Republic to compete in the very competitive world of business expansion and attraction we need to have the benefits that an EEZ offers to companies looking to expand or relocate. Based upon the need to develop and expand employment opportunities on the properties in Republic the staff recommends approval of the Board of Alderman to proceed in our efforts to establish an EEZ for our community.