

SOUTH END NRZ BY-LAWS

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Article I

Section I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the Bridgeport South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Planning Committee, hereinafter referred to as South End NRZ Planning Committee.

Section 2. Offices

The principal location of South End NRZ Planning Committee shall be in South End neighborhood of Bridgeport, Connecticut. All meetings of the South End NRZ Planning Implementation Committee shall take place within the South End of Bridgeport.

Article II

Section 1. Mission Statement

In accordance to Public ACT 94-240 of the Connecticut General Statutes, an Act to Establish the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, the South End NRZ Planning Implementation Committee shall be responsible for formulating an NRZ Strategic Plan. ~~The primary mission of the South End NRZ Planning Committee is to improve and preserve the South End through the collaborative efforts of the residents and other stakeholders, including but not limited to, representatives of businesses; non-profit organizations; health and other service providers; cultural and religious institutions; and organized community associations. The main goal is to improve the quality of life, and to protect and advance the well being of the community. The objectives are to increase the income levels of residents by advancing economic development and job creation; to improve educational achievements; to improve housing opportunities including increasing homeownership and providing decent and affordable housing; to address issues associated with blight and poorly maintained streetscapes and property, to facilitate investment and property improvements, to promote environmentally sensitive development, reuse and investment, preserve historical and architecturally significant houses and properties, promote compatible land use, and assist in the promotion and creation of services for the youth, the elderly, and other disadvantaged members of the community. This organization shall not be affiliated with any political party, organization or group. Furthermore, the South End NRZ Planning Committee shall not endorse candidates for political offices.~~

The primary mission of the South End NRZ is to advance the goals identified in the NRZ Plan and to transform the neighborhood into a choice community where people want to invest, work, live, and go to school. The committee will leverage its significant assets and take advantage of new opportunities to improve major corridors, housing inventory, and natural resources; while at the same time preserve and enhance the urban village quality of life enjoyed by present and future generations of South End residents. This mission will be met through the collaborative efforts of the residents, business partners, non-profits, higher education, cultural and religious institutions. This organization shall

not be affiliated with any political party, organization or group. Furthermore, the South End NRZ shall not endorse candidates for political offices.

Section 2. Boundaries

The boundary of the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ) shall be the existing Neighborhood boundary of the South End Neighborhood, as defined by the City of Bridgeport and amended by South End NRZ stakeholders. The South End NRZ Map is attached at the end as "Appendix A" and constitutes as part of these By-laws.

**Article III
Membership**

Section 1. Eligibility

Eligible members of the South End NRZ ~~Planning Committee~~ includes residents, owners of properties located in the neighborhood; individuals and representatives of businesses, cultural, educational, social service agencies, religious and citizen organizations located in the South End Neighborhood ~~or have a significant impact on the South End Neighborhood.~~

**Article IV
Meetings**

Section 1. Notice of Meetings

Written ~~or electronic~~ notice of the meetings shall be distributed and received by members at least five days prior to each meeting.

Section 2. Quorum

A majority of Implementation Committee Members must be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Regular Meetings.

The South End NRZ ~~Planning Committee~~ shall meet at least eight times per year at a location within the neighborhood boundaries and at a time and date agreed upon by the members.

Section 4. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the South End NRZ shall be held whenever called by the Chair of the South End NRZ, the Vice Chair, or by at least two (2) of the trustees then in office. Any such meeting shall be in accordance with Notice of Meetings and Quorum outlined in Article IV, Section 1 and Section 2.

Section 4. Voting

Decisions on any ~~motions-question~~ shall be made by a majority vote of those members constituting a quorum. There shall be no voting by proxy. Any member who has a personal, professional, business or other interest ~~that is subject to a vote that might be~~

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~~subject to the Strategic Plan~~ shall be required to disclose said interest and shall recuse himself or herself from any discussion and vote after having made themselves available to respond to any questions or concerns thereon. All votes shall be recorded by Secretary of the South End Implementation NRZ Planning Committee and together with minutes of meetings, shall be made available to the community-at-large. Endorsements or support letters will be handled in accordance with set policy at time of request.

Article V **The Implementation Planning Committee**

Section 1. Membership

The South End NRZ Planning Committee shall consist of nineteen-twenty one (2149) persons. At least fifty one percent (51%) of the Committee's members must be residents of the South End neighborhood. The composition of the South End NRZ Planning Committee shall be as follows:

- 110 residents (P.A. 95-340 requires that the majority of Committee members be residents) of which 1 is a Youth Resident Representative (16 – 25+ years old) – must be unrelated to any other resident
- 1 “Small Business” Representative
- 1 “Large Business” Representative
- 1 HigherUpper Education Representative
- 1 Real Estate Developer
- 2 Representatives of Churches or Other Religious Organizations
- 2 Representatives of Community Organizations and Other Non-Profits
- 2 Representatives from the Public Sector that includes a City's appointed representative and representative from Bridgeport Housing Authority.

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For the purpose of this section “small business” is defined as any business operating within the South End with 10 or fewer employees. “Large Business” is defined as any business operating or servicing within the South End with more than 10 employees. With regard to resident members, individuals will be required to provide proof of residency within the South End (e.g. Driver's License, State Identification Card, Utility Bills, etc.).

Section 2. Elections and Eligibility

~~Resident Property Owners and~~ Resident members ~~Tenants~~ must reside within the South End. All other members of the South End Planning Implementation Committee may reside outside of the South End, as long as they represent higher education, real estate developer, a business, church or other religious organization, community organization or other non-profit, or public sector entity that is located within the South End or substantially impacts the South End community as determined by a majority vote of the South End NRZ.

Section 3. Election and Representation

Election of representatives to the South End NRZ Planning Committee shall take place once per year. A Member Nominating Committee shall be formed to coordinate the

selection process consistent with Article V, Section 1. – Each constituent group shall determine the method of election for their representative, setting forth its procedure in writing and providing a copy of same to the South End NRZ Planning Committee. Elections of members shall take place within One Hundred Twenty (120 days) of the approval by the City of Bridgeport of a resolution designating the South End community as an NRZ pursuant to state statute.

Section 4. Term of Office

Members of the South End NRZ shall serve for a period of 3 years. Each member shall hold office until his or her successor has been duly elected and qualified. However if earlier, a member’s term shall end upon his or her death, resignation, or removal as provided in these By-laws. An individual member shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. After serving two (2) consecutive terms, a person cannot reapply to be a Trustee until after the expiration of one (1) year after the termination of his/her second consecutive term.

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Below is a composition of the South End NRZ and term expiration for each class. Members of the Planning Committee shall serve

<u>Class</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
<u>1 – 4 Residents</u>	<u>May 4, 2014</u>
<u>5 – 8 Residents</u>	<u>May 4, 2012</u>
<u>9 – 11 Residents</u>	<u>May 4, 2013</u>
<u>1 “Small Business” Representative</u>	<u>May 4, 2013</u>
<u>1 “Large Business” Representative</u>	<u>May 4, 2013</u>
<u>1 Higher Education Representative</u>	<u>May 4, 2012</u>
<u>1 Real Estate Developer</u>	<u>May 4, 2014</u>
<u>1 Representatives of Churches or Other Religious Organizations</u>	<u>May 4, 2012</u>
<u>1 Representatives of Churches or Other Religious Organizations</u>	<u>May 4, 2013</u>
<u>1 Representatives of Community Organizations and Other Non-Profits</u>	<u>May 4, 2014</u>
<u>1 Representatives of Community Organizations and Other Non-Profits</u>	<u>May 4, 2013</u>
<u>1 Representatives from the Public Sector that includes a City’s appointed representative and representative from Bridgeport Housing Authority.</u>	<u>May 4, 2012</u>
<u>1 Representatives from the Public Sector that includes a City’s appointed representative and representative from Bridgeport Housing Authority.</u>	<u>May 4, 2014</u>

Comment [e1]: I don’t know if this table is helpful or not?

A member cannot reapply to serve on the Implementation Committee until after the expiration of one year after termination of his or her second consecutive term. – for a period of one (1) year, or until such time as an NRZ Strategic Plan has been approved by the City and passed on to an NRZ Implementation Committee, at which time the Planning Committee shall be dissolved, whichever is shorter.

Article VI

Section 1. Motions and Proposals

Proposals may be introduced to the committee by any member ~~or representative of~~ Implementation Planning Committee. ~~If more than one group has such an interest, any and/or all of them may introduce a measure.~~ A proposition which is reintroduced after being tabled at a previous meeting may be tabled again if six committee members vote to table it again.

Section ~~32~~. Amendments

Amendments to the By-laws may be proposed in writing to the Planning Implementation Committee if at least three ~~mbmers~~members of the Planning Implementation Committee request amendment to the By-laws. ~~Any~~ amendment shall require a super majority 3/4 ~~vote~~ of all Committee members to take effect.

**Article VII
Officers and Committees**

Section 1. Name and Number

~~Since the purpose of the NRZ Planning Committee is to formulate a Strategic Plan for the South End T,~~ the only officers shall be a Chair~~ma,n~~, whose responsibility shall be to preside over meetings of the Committee, a Vice-Chair, who shall act in the Chair~~man~~'s place in his or her absence, and a Secretary, who shall be repsonisble for maintaining the records of the plaining Committee, recording minutes and votes, and providing notice of meetings to the PlanningImplementation Committee and notice of public hearings or forums to the community at large. The offices of Chair~~man~~, Vice-Chair, and Secretary shall be elected for one-year terms by a majority vote of the members of the Planning Implementation Committee at the next regularly accheduled meeting following the annual election.

Comment [e2]: Should there be term limit?

Section 2. Subcommittees

The South End NRZ PlanningImplementation Committee shall consist of a least the following Subcommittees, each of which will be assigned tasks and meet according to a schedule determined by the whole: (1) Business and Economic Development; (2) Education; (3) Open Space, Parks & Recreation; (4) Healthy, Safety & Family; (5) Housing, Blight and Historic Preservation; (6) Infrastructure; (7) Land Use and (8) Outreach and Communications.

**Article VIII
Presentation of Plan**

In no case shall the NRZ PlanningImplementation Committee present a plan to the City of Bridgeport without first holding at least one public hearing on same, open to all residents and stakeholders within the South End community. Notice of said meeting shall be made in writing, and provided not less than two weeks prior.

Upon approval of the NRZ Strategic Plan by the City of Bridgeport, and presentation of same to the State of Connecticut, the NRZ PlanningImplementation Committee will dissolve. Any assets of the NRZ PlanningImplementation Committee, including all work product, will be transferred to the NRZ Implementation Committee, a separate 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, whose mission will be to carry out the particulars of the Strategic Plan.

Article VII