

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
NOVEMBER 17, 2015 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>A resolution authorizing a sub-award for a grant project with Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind for equipment, training and the creation of new jobs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ordinance √ Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>Authorizes the City Manager to sub-award Arkansas Economic Development Commission Grant Funds to Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind to support the creation of forty-four (44) new jobs by providing funding for equipment and for the costs of instruction for training employees.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>The Arkansas Economic Development Commission has awarded the City of Little Rock an \$118,130 Economic Infrastructure Fund (EIF) Grant. The City will in-turn sub-award the funds to the non-profit the Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the resolution.</p>	
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	<p>N/A</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) has awarded the City of Little Rock a Governor’s Economic Infrastructure Fund Grant to facilitate Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind (ALB) new product line of inclement weather clothing and crewmen jerseys. These are an addition to its current apparel department which makes items for the United States Military.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

Founded in 1940, ALB is a non-profit agency that employs individuals who are blind or visually-impaired, along with sighted workers as needed, to manufacture products for the government and private industry. Based on the 2010 Census, Arkansas has the second largest population per capita of individuals who are blind or visually-impaired in the United States. Nationally seven (7) out of ten (10) individuals who are blind or visually-impaired in the United States are not employed.

The project will create a minimum of forty-four (44) net new full-time positions (at an average rate of \$9.48 an hour not including benefits), by December 31, 2016. If the jobs are not created by that time, ALB will pay AEDC \$2,685 for each position not funded. Semi-annual job creation reports are required until the job threshold has been met.

The funds will pay for equipment (approximately \$35,630) and for the costs of providing instruction to the employees (approximately \$82,500).