1	ORDINANCE NO.		
2			
3	AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THREE (3)		
4	MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM DESIGNATED		
5	DISTRICTS, TO BE REFERRED TO AS REGIONAL DISTRICTS, THAT		
6	OVERLAP WARD BOUNDARIES AS A MEANS OF REPURPOSING THE		
7	THREE (3) CURRENT AT-LARGE POSITIONS; TO CALL AN		
8	ELECTION DURING THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION ON THE ISSUE		
9	OF WHETHER TO UTILIZE REGIONAL DISTRICTS AS A MEANS OF		
10	<b>REPURPOSING THE CURRENT THREE (3) AT-LARGE DISTRICTS; TO</b>		
11	DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
12			
13	WHEREAS, as a result of the Future-LITTLE ROCK process, it was decided to expand the		
14	membership of the Little Rock Board of Directors ("the Board of Directors") from seven (7) members		
15	elected At-Large, to eleven (11) members with a directly-elected Mayor, three (3) members elected At-		
16	Large, and seven (7) members elected from Wards; and,		
17	WHEREAS, in 2019, ARK. ACT 978 the Arkansas General Assembly granted municipalities the au-		
18	thority to modify this procedure so that instead of Directors elected At-Large, a municipality may identify		
19	a larger Designated District, referred to here as a Regional Position, which can overlap the boundaries of		
20	various Wards; and,		
21	WHEREAS, the Governance Structure Study Group created pursuant to Little Rock, Ark., Resolution		
22	14,902 (December 3, 2018) has recommended the creation of three (3) Regional Positions as a means of		
23	repurposing the current three (3) At-Large Positions; and,		
24	WHEREAS, it is believed that this type of election would be beneficial to the City of Little Rock,		
25	Arkansas ("the City"), and would make election to the Board of Directors more readily available to a greater		
26	number of people.		
27	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY		
28	OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:		
29	Section 1. The provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to approval by a majority of the electors		
30	voting on the issue during the General Election to be held on November 3, 2020.		
31	Section 2. The effective date for candidates who have been elected to fill a Regional Position shall be		
32	January 1, 2024; however, successful candidates for a Regional Position shall first take office on January		
33	1, 2025.		

Section 3. The purpose of this ordinance is to implement certain recommendations on the structure of
 Municipal Government recommended by the Governance Structure Study Group created pursuant to Little

3 Rock, Ark., Resolution No. 14,902 (December 3, 2018), and submitted on October 23, 2019.

Section 4. *Definitions*. For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following
 meanings:

*At-Large Position* refers to a position on the Little Rock Board of Directors for which the candidate is
 an elector and resides within the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, and every elector is eligible to vote on a
 candidate who seeks such a position.

9 *Regional District* refers to the geographic boundaries of a Regional Position which may include 10 portions of the geographic boundaries of one (1) or more Wards;

*Regional Position* refers to a position on the Little Rock Board of Directors elected from a Regional District; to be eligible to seek election an elector resides within the boundaries of such a District, and only those electors who reside within the geographic boundaries of a Regional District are eligible to vote for a candidate.

Section 5. *Repurposing of Current At-Large Positions*. Effective January 1, 2025, At-Large Position 8, At-Large Position 9, and At-Large Position 10, shall be repurposed when members of the Board of Directors elected from Regional Position 8, Regional Position 9 and Regional Position 10 take their seats. Regional Position 8, Regional Position 9 and Regional Position 10 of the Board of Directors, as At-Large Districts, shall be repurposed as Regional Positions.

Section 6. *Creation of Regional Positions*. Effective January 1, 2025, there shall be three (3)
 Regional Positions on the Board of Directors to be enumerated as Regional Position 8, Regional Position
 9, and Regional Position 10; the Elector serving in such a position:

(a) Shall have been elected in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance at the 2024
General Election;

25

(b) Shall be subject to all laws that impact service in any Board of Directors position.

26 Section 7. *Election of Regional Positions*.

(a) The geographic boundaries of a Regional District shall be established in the same manner
as a Ward Position on the Board of Directors as determined by Arkansas State Law, and as impacted
by the most recent Federal Decennial Census.

- 30 (b) To be eligible to hold a Regional Position, a candidate must reside within the geographical
  31 boundaries of the Regional District at the time of filing to be a candidate for such a position.
- 32 (c) To be elected to hold a Regional Position, a candidate must receive more votes than any
   33 other candidate for the position.

1 Section 8. The following question shall be referred to the electors of the City during the General 2 Election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020: 3 FOR the election of three (3) separate members of the Board of Directors 4 from a distinct Regional District as a means of repurposing the current At-5 Large Positions..... 6 AGAINST the election of three (3) separate members of the Board of 7 Directors from a distinct Regional District as a means of repurposing the 8 current At-Large Positions...... 9 DESCRIPTION 10 A Regional Position refers to a position on the Little Rock Board of Directors which represents a Regional District comprised of boundaries that overlap the boundaries of other 11 12 Districts. To be eligible to seek election to a Regional Position, a candidate shall reside within 13 the boundaries of such a Regional District at the time the person files to be a candidate. 14 Section 9. As set forth more fully in the ballot title and government description contained in Section 15 8 of this ordinance, the Board of Directors, pursuant to authority granted in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-61-107 16 hereby refers to the electorate the question of repurposing the At-Large Positions on the Board of Directors 17 as Regional Positions with candidates elected from a Regional District who will first take office on January 18 1, 2025. Also, the creation of three (3) Designated Positions on the Board of Directors to first be elected at 19 the General Election of 2024, and to take office on January 1, 2025. In addition, to be a successful candidate 20 for a Regional Position, a person must reside within the boundaries of the Regional District on the date the 21 candidate files for the office. Only electors who reside within the boundaries of a Regional District are 22 eligible to vote for a candidate for that Regional Position. 23 Section 10. The Mayor and City Clerk are directed to complete any and all proclamations required by 24 law to be filed for the November 3, 2020, General Election, and to prepare and publish any notices or 25 advertisements required, and further to perform all necessary acts to have the Pulaski County Election 26 Commission and other officers assure that this matter is placed upon a ballot for the November 3, 2020, 27 General Election. 28 Section 11. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or 29 word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudi-30 cation shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as

32 Section 13. *Repealer*. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with 33 the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency including, but not

if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the ordinance.

31

1	limited to, Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 16,435 (June 1, 1993) and Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No.		
2	19,761 (June 12, 2007).		
3	Section 14. Emergency Clause. In light of changes in Arkansas State Law, and the recommendations		
4	of the Governance Structure Study Group, it is deemed important that the structure of the Little Rock Board		
5	of Directors consist of a directly elected Mayor, three (3) members elected from Regional Districts which		
6	shall overlap various Ward boundaries, and seven (7) members elected by Ward; further, the ability to		
7	implement a government structure permitted by State Statute is essential to the public health, safety, and		
8	welfare; an emergency is, therefore, declared to exist, and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect,		
9	as set forth above, from and after the date of its passage although the election called for in this ordinance		
10	will not take place until November 3, 2020.		
11	PASSED: February 18, 2020		
12	ATTEST:	APPROVED:	
13			
14			
15	Susan Langley, City Clerk	Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor	
16	APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:		
17			
18 19	Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney		
20	//		
21	// //		
22	// //		
23	 //		
24	//		
25	//		
26	//		
27	//		
28	//		
29	//		
30	//		
31	//		
32	//		
33	//		
34	//		
35	//		