ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 36 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO ALLOW FOR THE ALTERATION OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXISTING BILLBOARDS CURRENTLY LOCATED ON SCENIC CORRIDORS, THE REMOVAL OF EXISTING BILLBOARDS CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THE CITY AND THE CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN THE EXISTING CAP RATIO OF ALLOWABLE BILLBOARD SITES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, a scenic corridor is defined by Chapter 36, Section 36-530 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas as “a public right-of-way which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, exhibits special aesthetic and visual characteristics worthy of protection through enhanced billboard regulation”; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 430, Interstate 630, Interstate 440, Highway 10, Rebsamen Park Road, Chenal Parkway – Financial Center Parkway from Shackleford Road to State Highway 300, Kanis Road from West 12th Street to the western boundary of the planning boundary, Stagecoach Road and Colonel Glenn Road from Stagecoach Road to the western boundary of the planning boundary are designated as scenic corridors; and

WHEREAS, no alteration of existing billboards is permitted on scenic corridors; and

WHEREAS, the maximum number of billboard sites permitted in the City is 198; and

WHEREAS, a proposal has been submitted whereby one existing billboard on Kanis Road and three existing billboards located on Interstate 630 could be altered in exchange for the removal of several billboards located in the City and a corresponding reduction in the current cap of 198 allowable billboard sites; and

WHEREAS, at its March 10, 2016, meeting. The Little Rock Planning Commission voted to approve the proposed ordinance amendment by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

SECTION 1. That Chapter 36, Section 36-556.(b) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas be amended to provide for the addition of new Subsections 6 and 7 to read as follows:

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Along Interstate 630 beginning 1,000 feet east of Rice Street to 1,000 feet west of University Avenue. Existing Billboards in this area may be modified and/or altered in their current location or on the same parcels on which they are currently located including conversion to digital format as long as the modifications or alterations do not increase the size of the then-existing faces and as long as the modified or altered billboards and locations meet the then-existing requirements of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department including any spacing or distance requirements. No more than a total of four (4) faces across three (3) structures (i.e., a maximum of one (1) structure with two (2) digital faces and two (2) structures with one (1) digital face each) in this area may be converted to digital format, and the conversion of a billboard structure in this area to digital format shall be allowed only if the owner of the billboard to be converted removes another billboard within the City located on Highway 10. Upon such removal, the number of billboard sites allowed to be permitted in areas annexed into the City referenced in Subsection (d) shall be reduced by one (1) for each such removal and the current cap ratio stated in Subsection (d) for billboard sites shall be adjusted accordingly. Such removal of another billboard shall be required only if the billboard is actually converted to digital format by the owner of the billboard. The removal of the other billboard shall be accomplished no later than the 30th day following the first day of operation of the converted digital billboard.

Along Kanis Road extending 500 feet west of the Shackleford Road and Kanis Road intersection. The number of billboards permitted in this area shall not exceed one (1). The billboard in this area may be modified and/or altered in its current location including conversion to digital format as long as the modifications or alterations do not increase the size of the then-existing faces and as long as the modified or altered billboards and locations meet the then-existing requirements of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department including any spacing or distance requirements. However, the conversion of the billboard in this area to digital format shall be allowed only if the owner of the billboard to be converted removes any ten (10) other currently permitted billboards within the City. Upon such removal, the number of billboard sites allowed to be permitted in areas annexed into the City referenced in Subsection (d) shall be reduced by one (1) for each such removal and the current cap ratio stated in Subsection (d) for billboard sites shall be adjusted accordingly. Such removal of the ten other billboards shall be required only if the billboard located within this area is actually converted to digital format by the owner of the billboard. The removal of the other billboards shall be accomplished no later than the 30th day following the first day of operation of the converted digital billboard.
SECTION 2. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the ordinance.

SECTION 3. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

PASSED: April 5, 2016

ATTEST: ________________________________ APPROVED: ________________________________

Susan Langley, City Clerk Mark Stodola, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney