

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF BASTROP RELEASES DRAFT LAND-USE REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Public Review Process for Bastrop Building Block (B3) Code Open Through end of June

BASTROP, TEXAS – May 28, 2019 – The City of Bastrop today announced a <u>draft Bastrop</u> Building Block (B3) Code is now available for public review and comment. A joint City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29 at City Hall to discuss the draft land-use regulations and officially kick off the public review process.

The strategic and holistic reform of Bastrop's land-use regulations was initiated by City Council in August 2018 with the goal of addressing critical infrastructure issues in the community, streamlining the development process and promoting new development that is fiscally sustainable, geographically sensitive and authentic to Bastrop. In the past nine months, the City has worked diligently toward that goal, with the draft B3 Code as the key deliverable of the Building Bastrop initiative.

To guide its work on the development codes, City staff and its consultant team completed an in-depth analysis of Downtown Bastrop's DNA – extracting the numerical data of the most successful developments to create models that can be replicated moving forward. The team also conducted an extensive evaluation of Bastrop's existing land-use regulations and a fiscal impact analysis based on those codes.

"We studied Bastrop's built and natural environment to ensure the new land-use regulations would capture the authenticity of Bastrop as the City moves away a 'one-size-fits-all' model found in the development codes of communities throughout Texas," said Matt Lewis, president of Simplecity Design. "The new B3 Code is holistic, incorporating character districts, place types and street types that match the character of Bastrop. It is a streamlined, user-friendly document that will provide clarity, predictability and flexibility for future development."

The City prioritized transparency throughout the process of drafting its new land-use regulations. In addition to providing regular updates at City Council meetings, the City offered multiple community engagement opportunities to answer questions and collect feedback from residents, business owners and employees and other key stakeholders. The draft B3 Code reflects the community input and priorities gathered at four rodeos, two open houses, two community tours and multiple one-on-one meetings with developers and residents.

"From day one, we have strived to honor what the community knows and loves about Bastrop, while creating policy that will ensure our city is fiscally sustainable moving forward," said Bastrop Mayor Connie Schroeder. "We challenged City staff and the consultant team to capture what authentic Bastrop means in the framework of future development, and we look forward to the community's feedback on this draft as we move toward adopting new regulations in the fall."

As part of the public review process, the City will host two events in June to provide additional opportunities for every resident to share feedback. A Pop-Up Street Project will be held on Saturday, June 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., bringing the draft code to life along Main Street. The event will highlight what future development could look like based on the new land-use regulations, while providing a preview for the new streetscape to come as part of the Main Street rehabilitation project.

A Community Open House has also been scheduled for Wednesday, June 26 at the Bastrop Opera House. Developers are invited to stop by from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and the general public is encouraged to come from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to share questions and speak directly with City staff about the draft code prior to the public review process closing on Thursday, June 27.

For the most up-to-date information on Building Bastrop, visit www.CityofBastrop.org/BuildingBastrop.

About the City of Bastrop:

The Mission of the City of Bastrop is to continuously strive to provide efficient and proactive services that enhance our quality of life and achieve our vision.

For more information on the City of Bastrop, visit www.cityofbastrop.org and follow us on social media via Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Residents can also tune in to BTXN TV via Time Warner Channel 10 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99, or watch online at www.btxn.tv.

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