RESOLUTION NO. 8314

A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember John Alcala in support of public policies to ensure a successful and sustainable downtown development.

WHEREAS, the Heartland Visioning Strategic Plan has placed a priority on historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, the public’s interest in historic preservation has increased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the historic architecture in downtown contributes to its unique character; and

WHEREAS, despite job losses nationwide, Kansas downtowns with active historic preservation programs realized a net job gain of 31% in the past two years; and

WHEREAS, developers who might invest in downtown projects often seek historic buildings so they may qualify for preservation-related funding; and

WHEREAS, the majority of projects in downtown Topeka require review by the Topeka Landmarks Commission and Kansas State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with state, federal and local preservation laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Topeka that the City of Topeka supports the following public policies necessary to ensure successful and sustainable downtown development projects:
• Develop a system to survey all historic buildings in the downtown and have a list of buildings that qualify for preservation-related funding.

• Update the Landmarks Ordinance to include design-review guidelines to help improve property values and improve commercial viability.

• Prepare and adopt a preservation plan to identify and pursue historic preservation priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall supersede any resolutions or rules, or portions thereof, which are in conflict with the provisions of this resolution.

Should any section, clause or phrase of this resolution be declared to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this resolution as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council March 8, 2011.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk