Here to Stay Public Comment Report

October 2021

Executive Summary

To satisfy the requirements of the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant, which funded research to identify implementable anti-displacement policies, Thrivance Group was tasked with identifying three policies the City of Fresno would pursue to meet the specific objectives of the City’s displacement avoidance plan. The findings from this process also satisfy requirements and policies outlined in the Downtown Neighborhoods Community Plan, the Southwest Fresno Specific Plan, and Housing Element Program 12A. To arrive at the policy recommendations, Thrivance Group conducted a series of community engagement activities that resulted in 46 anti-displacement preliminary policy recommendations.

The 46 preliminary recommendations were shared widely for public comments and feedback to determine a consensus-based prioritization and ranking of the 46 proposed policies. The Thrivance Group produced the Here to Stay report to ensure Fresno residents had a transparent overview of the details of each policy recommendation as well as how the recommendations came about. The Here to Stay report was a package of policy recommendations intended to provide a plan of action to continue moving the City of Fresno and its elected officials toward citymaking with the goal of making Fresno more healthy, more economically stable and more equitable. While the report was the result of a year-long research and community engagement effort, paid for by the City of Fresno, the policies recommended throughout were crafted in the spirit of community-based policy development and with the long-term sustainability of both former and current residents at the core of the effort’s intentions and motivations.

The Here to Stay Public Comment Report provides an overview of 1) how public comment outreach was structured, 2) the quantitative analysis of public comments and surveys, 3) the qualitative analysis of submitted letters and existing socio-economic conditions, 4) a final prioritization of the 46 Here to Stay policies informed by public feedback, and 5) Thrivance Group’s final recommendations for near-term implementation of the priority policies.

***Summary of Final Recommendations***

The ranked list of recommended policies being submitted by Thrivance Group to the city of Fresno are: 1) Fair Chance Housing, 2) Eviction Right-to-Counsel, 3) Rent Stabilization, 4) Increase Local Hire and Living Wage Minimum on Local Contracts, 5) City of Fresno “Here to Stay” Community Land Trust, 6) “Here to Stay” Homeowner and Renter Assistance Programs, 7) “Here to Stay” Deposit Program, 8) Moratorium on Encampment Sweeps, 9) Public Health Impact Reports, 10) Environmental Justice and Climate Resiliency Planning , 11) Fresno-Specific Universal Design Standards, 12) Department of Anti-Displacement and Homelessness Intervention, 13) Here to Stay Affordability Index, 14) Right To Return Home, and 15) Dignified Tiny House Villages and Scattered Site Housing.