

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Lease and Service Agreement with Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. for placement of a Newborn Safety Device (“Baby Box”) at Little Rock Fire Department Fire Station No. 9.</p> <p>Submitted By: Little Rock Fire Department</p>	<p>Ordinance √ Resolution</p>	<p>Delphone Hubbard, City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Lease and Service Agreement with Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc., an Indiana nonprofit organization, for the placement and installation of a designated newborn safety device (“baby box”) at Little Rock Fire Department Fire Station No. 9.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>None. Funding for the initial fee of \$16,000.00 has already been factored into the construction cost by the general contractor, Wagner General Contractors, in its bid for the project. Any additional costs will be subject to the terms of the agreement and normal budgetary review.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Adopt the Resolution.</p>	
BACKGROUND	<p>The City of Little Rock is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of newborn children and their parents. On February 7, 2023, the Board of Directors adopted Little Rock Ordinance No. 22,220, permitting the placement of authorized newborn safety receptacles at City-owned fire stations pursuant to the Arkansas Safe Haven Act.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

The Arkansas Safe Haven Act, codified at Arkansas Code Annotated § 9-34-201 et seq., allows a parent to anonymously relinquish custody of a baby thirty (30) days old or younger at designated locations to ensure the child's immediate safety and care. Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. provides designated newborn safety devices designed to comply with applicable state law and to alert first responders immediately upon surrender.

Placement of a baby box at Little Rock Fire Department Fire Station No. 9 will expand access to a lawful and secure surrender option and ensure that surrendered newborns receive prompt attention from trained personnel. The proposed Lease and Service Agreement establishes a five (5) year term with options for renewal, subject to mutual agreement, and is attached to the resolution as Exhibit A.

The Board of Directors has determined that entering into this agreement serves a valid public purpose and is in the best interest of the City and its residents.