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GLENDALE SELECTED TO JOIN NATIONAL “WHAT WORKS CITIES” INITIATIVE AIMED AT USING DATA AND EVIDENCE TO IMPROVE PEOPLE’S LIVES

GLENDALE, Ariz. – The city of Glendale has been selected to participate in Bloomberg Philanthropies’ What Works Cities initiative – one of the largest-ever national philanthropic efforts to enhance the use of data and evidence in the public sector. This sets in motion the work that has been underway by the City Council and the executive team over the last eight months to establish a comprehensive, actionable strategic plan that is aligned with the city’s recently crafted mission statement: “We improve the lives of the people we serve every day.”

Glendale will be working with What Works Cities’ expert partners, which will provide free technical assistance in open data. The goal of the open-data project is to improve policies and procedures to make municipal data more accessible to residents and the community and to help engage residents around government priorities and services.

What Works Cities and Glendale are also exploring options for assistance in the area of results-driven contracting. The goal of that project would be to focus on initiatives related to managing contracts to deliver better results, bringing greater accountability to how public funds are spent. The project would require a “memorandum of understanding” and the scope is still under consideration.

“We’ve made some real progress in our strategic planning efforts and the ‘What Works Cities’ program is one tangible way to help Glendale reach our goals and focus on what matters most – serving our community,” said Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers. What Works Cities are identifying more effective ways to evaluate programs and improve performance, to best use resources to serve their communities and address a range of social challenges – from poverty and inequality to public safety. Another key benefit is joining What Works Cities’ growing national network of local leaders and global experts actively sharing best practices for outcomes-focused government.

“One of my priorities when I came to Glendale a little over twelve months ago was to focus on data-driven decisions and fostering a workforce culture of adaptability and strategic thinking,” said Glendale City Manager Kevin

Phelps. “The What Works Cities initiative is a great fit for our organization, and we are excited to kick off our work together.”

The engagement with What Works Cities provides Glendale with access to world-class experts and a network of cities from around the nation to learn from while building capacity, addressing local issues, and adopting leading practices. Jean Moreno, Executive Officer, Strategic Initiatives & Special Projects said, “It is an honor to be accepted into the program and to leverage the synergy between Bloomberg Philanthropies’ mission and our own. It is an exciting time in Glendale, and we are looking forward to using this as an opportunity to positively influence service delivery and community engagement.”

“City leaders around the nation are using data to make better decisions, engage their residents and hold themselves accountable,” said James Anderson, the head of Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Government Innovation program. “We have an outstanding and diverse group of cities participating in Bloomberg Philanthropies’ What Works Cities Initiative, and we look forward to welcoming more to the program in the year ahead.”

The consortium of leading organizations assembled by Bloomberg Philanthropies and delivering a program of support to cities includes the [Behavioral Insights Team](#), the [Center for Government Excellence](#) at Johns Hopkins University, the [Government Performance Lab](#) at the Harvard Kennedy School, [Results for America](#) and the [Sunlight Foundation](#).

With Glendale’s selection, the growing national initiative, launched in April 2015, is now partnering with 66 mid-sized U.S. cities. All together, these cities come from 35 states, represent more than 21 million residents and have annual budgets exceeding \$68 billion. The initiative will partner with 100 cities on a rolling basis through 2018. For a complete list of What Works Cities or to receive updates on the What Works Cities initiative, please visit www.whatworkscities.org.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies: Bloomberg Philanthropies works in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg’s charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. In 2016, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed over half a billion dollars. For more information, please visit www.bloomberg.org.

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