



October 3, 2023

Mayor Bronson & Anchorage Assembly:

The Anchorage Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit organization that manages Anchorage's Downtown Improvement District. We were founded in 1996 for the purpose of improving the cleanliness, marketability, attractiveness, and safety of downtown Anchorage. We represent 670 separate business and property owners within the Downtown Improvement District, which stretches 122 city blocks, from 1st to 9th, and from L St. to Gambell. Within the Downtown Improvement District, we provide supplemental clean and safe services, and host many of downtown's signature events. We are writing today to ask for a renewed commitment to public services and new public investment in downtown.

Firstly, we are asking for real movement towards solving homelessness in Anchorage. We are far from the first to voice this need; as the July letter from the Midtown Community Council shows, businesses across Anchorage are facing increased impacts. Many groups, including the 3rd Ave Radicals, the Roadmap to a Vital and Safe Anchorage, and District 1's Community Councils, have voiced concerns about increasing homelessness in our community and asked for action to be taken. Many of our members have provided meals, services, and shelter, and we ask for action to be taken, so that no one in our community has to find shelter in a downtown doorway for lack of a safe, warm, and long-term home.

Secondly, we are asking for a renewed commitment to public safety in downtown. This summer has undoubtedly been different from previous years. Our staff was assaulted while on the job, by people who came up behind them without warning. We responded to more requests for Narcan, removed more hazardous waste, and have responded to twice as many requests for graffiti cleanups as last year. Our member businesses have experienced assaults, break-ins, thefts, and expensive cleanups and repairs. As APD's Chief Kerle himself identified at a meeting with downtown business owners, APD presence is the only real deterrent to negative behavior. Round-the-clock and year-round foot patrol and other additions to downtown's public safety are essential to creating a downtown where everyone feels safe.

Lastly, we are asking for major new public investments in downtown. From public facilities like City Hall and the Performing Arts Center, to our downtown parks and right-of-ways, the Municipality owns more of downtown than any other property owner. 2023 has seen the most new private investment in downtown in 20 years, with new residential and commercial construction and major renovations. We ask the Municipality to match the investments that private businesses and property owners have made because they believe in the future of our downtown. A renewal of our public infrastructure downtown, to last for the next 30 years, is needed now.

Our organization has been dedicated to improving downtown for the last 27 years, and we hope to continue to steward and serve downtown for many years to come. ADP is committed to being a partner in these efforts. We look forward to working closely with the Municipality to increase public investment and improve services in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

The Anchorage Downtown Partnership Board of Directors



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