Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation

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* DCI Board Member

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation Members:

I ask your support for reauthorizing the Downtown Cleveland Improvement District for another term. The District's governing body, Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation (DCIC), serves as a steward of Downtown Cleveland's public realm and provides services rooted in best practices utilized across the county. Through our dedicated staff, DCIC has achieved some extraordinary results in the most challenging of times.

The urban cores of cities throughout the United States are under distinct stress and strain. This is the result of a confluence of many factors, including:

- The pandemic and resulting impact of reduced work patterns on downtown office buildings, and the overall reduction of pedestrian activity in urban areas.
- The dramatic increase in online shopping and resulting reduction of brick-and-mortar retail.
- The increasing challenges on local police departments to hire and retain qualified police officers.
- The increase in the unhoused population, encampments, and proliferation of drug use.
- A general disrespect of civil norms, and the increase in emboldened criminal activity, including incidents of gun violence and automobile break-ins.

Many U.S. cities have been torn by these national trends. While the City of Cleveland has not been spared, by many accounts our city has suffered much less than others. DCIC has played an important role in this battle by providing a visible presence and boots on the ground, serving as the eyes and ears for enforcement authorities.

There are over 1,000 special improvement districts (referred to as SIDs or BIDs) throughout the United States. In the City of Cleveland alone, there are seven such districts, and our district is one of them. Everywhere, property owners have made the decision to create and sustain SIDs to protect their investments and enhance and foster law and order, cleanliness, and civility. No SID can eliminate the many challenges facing our cities, but they can and do provide an incremental measure of order for our fellow citizens and also promote a favorable investment environment - one block at a time, one day at a time. And that is what DCIC is doing, as reflected in the attached summary of key performance indicators and related data. Please take a moment to review and absorb the magnitude of the information presented.

(continued on back)

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Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation

To be sure, there is a lot more work to be done to address immediate *safety* concerns. DCIC ambassadors are not armed and do not provide police enforcement; that is the domain of the Cleveland Police Department and other government enforcement agencies. But our experience proves that we're most successful in improving public safety when we have strong collaboration between the city police, private security enforcement, local support organizations, *and* DCIC. No single organization or action will create the solution to the many challenges we all face.

DCIC is the property owner engagement arm of the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. family of organizations. Downtown Cleveland, Inc. brings together property owners, businesses, residents, and civic partners to nurture and champion our downtown. **Please know that Downtown Cleveland raises 95 cents for every dollar property owners contribute through DCIC**. These resources fund most downtown economic development, advocacy, and placemaking initiatives essential to building a clean, safe, and investment-ready core.

With this packet and the attached petition, we seek your formal support to keep DCIC in effect for the renewal period. Please take a moment to review the materials, and we encourage you to get in touch and become engaged in this ongoing effort to protect and nurture our beloved city.

We will be scheduling informational sessions over the next couple of months to outline our work and our goals, and to discuss new technologies and strategies. We welcome your input in this process. Details of these sessions will follow.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Coyne, Chair, Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation

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Downtown Cleveland

Impact Report

$1.6 Billion
of Investment Completed or Underway in Current Term

Our Impact

Downtown Cleveland is a National Leader in Recovery

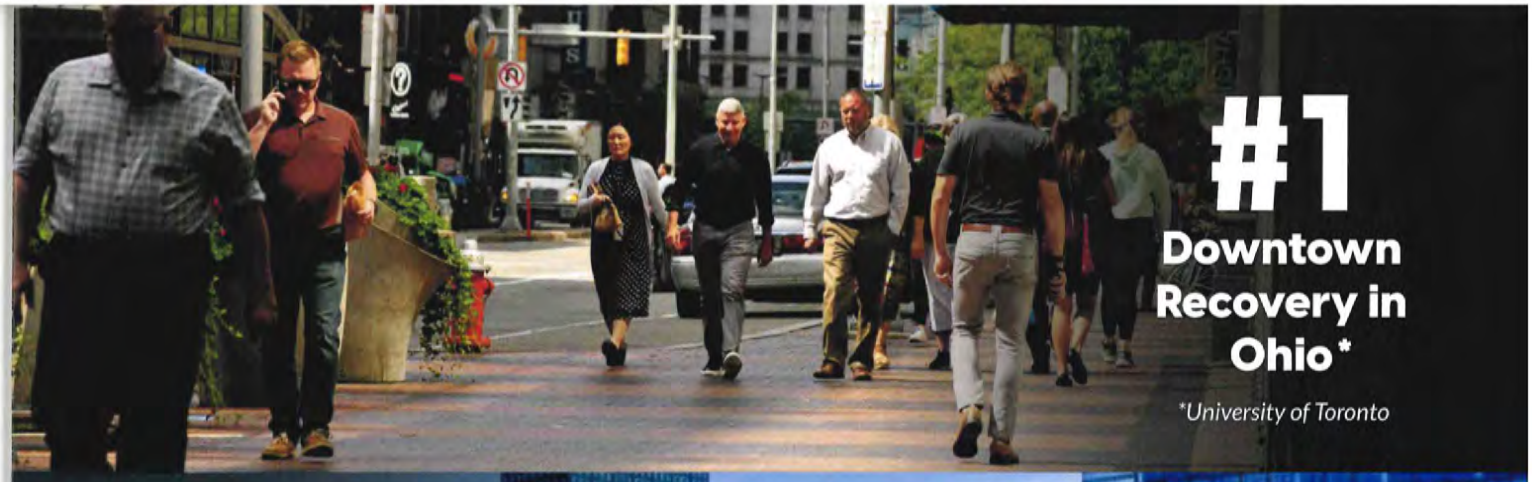
Downtown Cleveland faces the same challenges as all city centers in the United States but is emerging from the pandemic more strongly and better positioned than most.

Recovery Metrics

**YTD 2024 compared to 2019*

Positioning the Core for Future Success

Downtown Cleveland's strength emerging from the pandemic is a direct result of our programs, services, and advocacy. The investments of property owners, corporations, foundations, residents, and public officials make this work possible.



#1
Downtown Recovery in Ohio*
**University of Toronto*

#1
in Office Conversions to New Uses**
***CBRE*

#2
Downtown Recovery in Great Lakes Region†
†University of Toronto

Downtown Cleveland, Inc. is a leader in property tax reform.

Downtown Cleveland, Inc. President & CEO, Michael Deemer, and Board Chair, Karen Fanger, led a successful initiative to limit third party contests of property tax valuations. Through this advocacy, Ohio Sub. House Bill 126 was passed to relieve property owners of spending money on long, cyclical litigation brought by third parties and end a broken system of repeated complaints, counterclaims, and appeals based on property owner feedback.

Programs + Services

Clean + Safe

The Clean & Safe Program is funded 100 percent by property owners. Over 75 percent of Downtown Cleveland Improvement District assessments go to clean and safe services.

Court Watch

Our staff tracks court proceedings of repeat offenders and attends key hearings to advocate on behalf of the downtown community and emphasize the impact chronic criminal behavior has on the neighborhood and local businesses. Court Watch also allows our team to advocate for individuals who should be on the mental health docket and directed to the services and support they need.

Unhoused Outreach and Advocacy

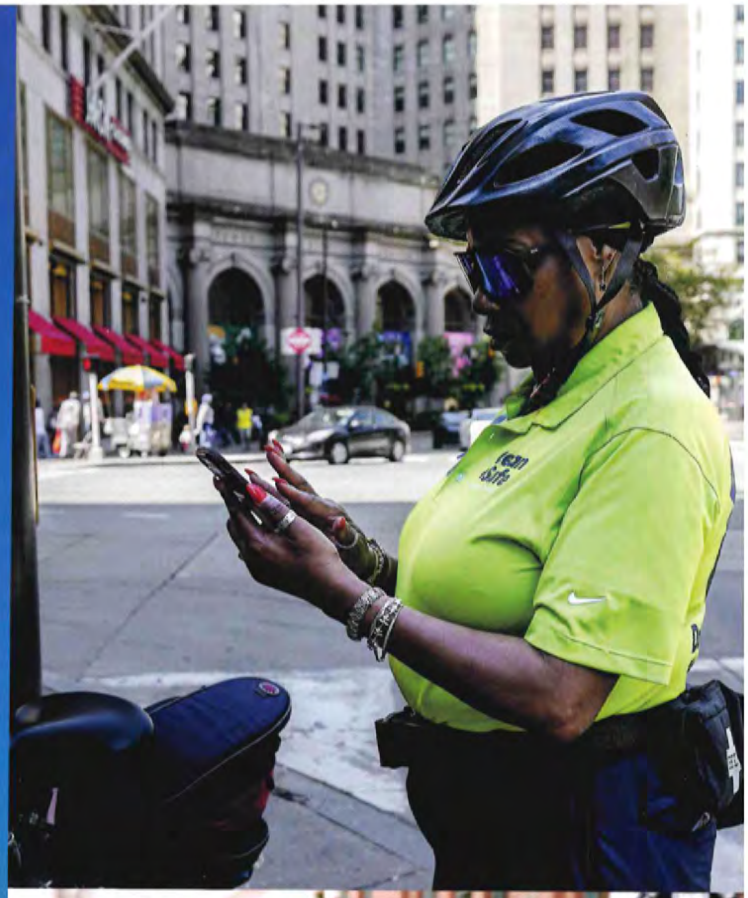
Our Ambassador team includes a full-time outreach specialist who builds relationships with unsheltered individuals, conducts routine wellness checks, and connects them with social services, housing, medical care, and mental health treatment.

Our Advocacy Committee champions improved shelter conditions and enforceable policies to address issues impacting the neighborhood, such as Mayor Bibb's A Home for Every Neighbor program. Through this program, Downtown Cleveland serves as a fiscal agent for a $2.7 million grant to connect unsheltered individuals with supportive housing.

Measures of Success*

- 1,854 Graffiti Tags Removed
- 3,484 Biohazard Waste Removals
- 560K+ Pounds of Trash Collected
- 583 Hours Power Washed
- 5,463 Security Checks
- 85 Court Watch Individuals Tracked
- 328 Safety Escorts
- 43K+ Gallons of Water Used for Flowers
- 251 Planters Maintained
- Four Seasons of Planting
- 621 Outreach Contacts Made
- 100% of Safe Ambassadors Trained in Narcan Administration

*2024 Year to Date



Economic Development

DCIC contributes 8 percent of improvement district assessments to economic development initiatives. The majority of this work is funded through contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals.

Downtown Cleveland, Inc. creates the conditions for economic growth in the urban core. Our Economic Development work drives business attraction, real estate development, and investment to the core. Our marketing amplifies downtown Cleveland's story as a world-class urban neighborhood, destination, and business hub. Our goal is to compel businesses, investors, and residents to choose downtown Cleveland.

- **Market Research**
- **Policy Advocacy**
- **Technical Assistance for Businesses**
- **Retail Corridor Development**
- **Capital Improvement Planning + Implementation**

130 **Storefront Business Openings** Post-Covid (2019-2024)

Programming + Activation

Downtown Cleveland, Inc. raises all revenue for and produces programming that keeps downtown's streets and public spaces active through all four seasons. Our goal is to create unique, memorable experiences that showcase our character and encourage people to visit and linger in Downtown Cleveland. We have increased the amount and quality of regular programming in the core.

Weekly Summer Food Truck Events

Frequent Live Music Programming

Major Holiday Celebrations

Recreational Programming and Leagues

Public Art

181K
WinterLand 2023 Visitors

229.8K
Juneteenth 2023 Visitors

152
Food Truck/Live Music Events 2024