

# DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

January 23, 2024

Dear DASID Member:

Downtown—the epicenter of our city’s cultural vibrancy, economic vitality, and community cohesion—faces transformative times. As the world grapples with the aftermath of momentous events, investing in downtown is a powerful catalyst for local resurgence, and standing together in championing downtown ensures we remain a resilient hub that inspires, connects, and drives the heartbeat of our shared identity.

The changes that have occurred since the beginning of the Downtown Akron Special Improvement District (DASID) nearly 25 years ago are incredible. Through the best and worst of times, the shared investment in a proactive and focused entity to drive positive change downtown has proven its value time and time again. The efforts of the DASID, with DAP as our contractor, have improved cleanliness, hospitality, and safety; helped house the homeless; implemented beautification programs; attracted, retained, and supported businesses; drawn thousands of visitors through events and programs; promoted the district through communications, advertising, and events; and planned for our future through neighborhood planning. The DASID continues to have meaningful impacts on revitalizing the downtown core as a vibrant and valuable place to live, work, engage, and invest. Every five years, we request your support to renew the district. That time is now.

This fifth renewal of the DASID is underway. For the first time since our inception, we will expand our boundaries to include additional properties to the east, north, and south. The assessment will support the continuance of valuable services the district depends upon daily. The Services Plan and assessment formula are outlined fully in the enclosed document. Although final assessment numbers will not be determined until September 2024, we have enclosed an estimated annual assessment for your review. As a reminder, the renewal assessment will be applied to tax year 2024, which is collected in calendar year 2025, and runs through tax year 2028, collected in 2029.

Your petition to Akron City Council is enclosed in this package. Your support is critical to the success of downtown. Please sign to indicate your support and either return it to our office in the enclosed envelope or contact us to arrange pickup before February 23, 2024.

Additionally, to expand our district, the current members of the DASID will hold a Special Meeting of the DASID on February 22, at 8:30 am at Greystone Hall, 103 S. High Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Akron, OH 44308. Parking is available in the CitiCentre Parking Deck. A vote by the majority of property ownership is necessary to amend our Articles of Incorporation to include the new boundary. A draft of the revised Articles is enclosed. If you are unsure of your ability to attend, please complete a proxy vote and submit it along with your petition.

Thank you for your continued investment to promote and build our vibrant and valuable downtown.

Sincerely,



Lee Walko  
Chairman  
Downtown Akron Special Improvement District, Inc.



Suzie Graham  
President  
Downtown Akron Partnership