

**Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting of
The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District
January 16, 2024
Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference**

The Board of Directors of The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District (CID) convened via Zoom Video Conference at noon on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. A quorum of the board was present on the call and an attendance record is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Radcliff called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and welcomed the directors and thanked them for their time. Ms. Cheli noted that no public comment submissions were received. Ms. Radcliff brought the board's attention to the consent agenda which included the minutes of the November 14, 2023 CID board meeting, the CID Financial Statements for October 31, 2023 and November 30, 2023. There were no requests to remove any items from the consent agenda for further consideration, and Mr. Gilbert made a first motion to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Devereaux and unanimously approved by the board.

Ms. Radcliff shared an update about the upcoming formation of the CID Nominating Committee. She noted that the Nominating Committee automatically consists of the Chair and Chair-Elect of the board and President of the organization; two additional board members are needed on the committee. She invited directors to reach out if they are interested in serving on the committee. Ms. Radcliff also encouraged directors to consider nominees to the board, as she, Mr. Bergmann, and Mr. Biales will all be terming off the board on June 30, 2024. She also noted that officer positions will need to be elected and asked the directors to consider filling those roles (Chair, Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary).

Ms. McCrary shared an update on the Security Operations Center (SOC). The CID has partnered with Greater St. Louis, Inc. (GSL) to obtain funding for the establishment of a Downtown Security Operations Center. GSL has contracted Mission Critical Partners, a public safety consulting firm, to assist with this endeavor. A team from Mission Critical Partners came to St. Louis in December to conduct information gathering interviews and assess possible locations for the SOC. The CID is currently awaiting the results of the visit and field study.

Ms. McCrary shared that the CID would initiate more frequent communications to provide information for a greater understanding of the daily work of the CID and metrics for that work. As related to safety, our partners with The City's Finest (TCF) perform regular business checks of both commercial and residential properties, and surface parking lots and garages. They offer citizen assistance, perform foot beats, vehicle patrols, traffic control measures and address quality of life and trespassing issues as well throughout the entire CID.

Ms. McCrary welcomed Major Pierre Benoist to share a safety update. The Major shared that crime numbers are moving in the right direction with the exception of car clouting which is a City wide problem, not just a concern for Downtown and Downtown West. The Major stressed the importance of not confronting these criminals, as most are heavily armed. Additionally, they continue to address concerns related to the encampments Downtown. There was a spike in robberies, but detectives have an idea of the suspect and they are working to apprehend the individual.

The Major also shared that the department is preparing for the Mardi Gras celebration. They have also brought the mounted patrol unit to Downtown to increase police presence during conventions. In closing, the Major shared that he is hopeful a Captain will be appointed to the Fourth District in the coming weeks.

Ms. McCrary shared with the board that time had been set aside on the agenda for board visioning as an opportunity to share thoughts for the future of the CID. Ms. Radcliff noted that she appreciated the role that

the CID staff has played as facilitators with regards to safety, particularly pedestrian safety during conventions. Ms. Radcliff sees opportunities to grow that facilitator role in the area of security communications for Downtown. Ms. McCrary noted that the weekly security meetings could certainly be expanded upon to include security focused 'lunch and learn' meetings and security training sessions. Ms. Elsner noted the need to make the entry points to Downtown as clean and welcoming as possible, as these entry points can make a negative first impression if they are littered with trash and graffiti. She also spoke to the importance of being united in the positive messaging about Downtown and the need to stem the skepticism held by many regarding the reduction of crime. Mr. Biales shared similar concerns about the highway entry points. Ms. McCrary noted that the highway cleaning efforts from our partners with SFP Landscaping would continue. Mr. Gilbert recommended looking at some long-term visioning and planning in regard to proactive improvements. In closing, it was noted that the CID Safety Tip Hotline should be better marketed for greater awareness.

Ms. Radcliff noted that this concluded the regular business of the meeting and that there was no need for an executive session during today's meeting. Mr. Gilbert made a first motion for the board to end the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Elsner and the board unanimously agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Cheli

The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District Board of Directors
January 16, 2024 Record of Meeting Attendance:

Present

1. Major Pierre Benoist
2. Dave Biales
3. Chris Collins
4. Jessica Courtway (left call at 12:56 p.m.)
5. Mike Deveraux
6. Alicia Elsner
7. Eric Gilbert
8. Al Moore (joined call from 12:22 p.m. – 12:37 p.m.)
9. Eddie Pohrer
10. Laura Radcliff
11. Kitty Ratcliffe (left call at 12:34 p.m.)
12. Kurt Weigle (left call at 1:06 p.m.)

Not Present

1. Rasheen Aldridge
2. Tom Bergmann
3. Nicholas Garzia
4. Amrit Gill
5. James Page
6. Cara Spencer
7. Betherny Williams

Members of the Public and Guests

Scott Hoffmann (Anders CPAs + Advisors)

Lisa Stump (Lashly & Baer)

The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District, Inc. Administrative Staff

Michelle Cheli

Gabby Cherre

Kelli McCrary

Tim McDonough