

# THE TIME IS NOW for a greater downtown!

June 19, 2020

Dear Property Owner,

If you live, work, or own a business or property downtown, does any of this sound familiar to you?

- ***Trash on the streets and sidewalks.***
- ***Your property is worth less than what you paid for it.***
- ***Late night cruising, noise, and violence.***
- ***Routine violation of traffic laws.***
- ***Poor condition of streets and sidewalks.***
- ***Family members or employees afraid to walk to their cars after dark.***
- ***Absence of a passionate and effective advocate for downtown.***

The value of your property and your experience downtown is diminished by all of these things. [\*\*\*We are writing you about an opportunity to do something about it.\*\*\*](#)

You are part of the Downtown Community Improvement District, an organization created by property owners who authorized assessments on their properties as an investment in collective action to better the community.

***The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District (the “existing CID”) was first put in place in 1999, and its current 10-year term expires on December 31, 2021.*** The existing CID has been managed by Downtown STL, Inc., a private not-for-profit.

As property owners, we must authorize a new assessment if there is to be a CID in place starting in 2022 and beyond. In the near future you may be approached by representatives of the current CID to “renew” the current CID until 2041. As an organization of concerned residential and commercial property owners we believe that Downtown needs an effective, representative, accountable and well-managed CID that recognizes and addresses problems and will be a passionate advocate for Downtown. [\*\*\*We oppose the effort to renew the existing CID as proposed by the current CID because we do not believe it will bring about the meaningful changes that are necessary to reinvigorate and sustain a healthy and growing downtown St. Louis.\*\*\*](#)

The issues and challenges that we face Downtown are different than those of nearly ten years ago, when the existing CID was last authorized. This is a pivotal moment for our downtown. We face growing deterioration of infrastructure, threats to public safety and other conditions that threaten the health and long-term future downtown St. Louis.

Citizens for a Greater Downtown St. Louis is a group of residential and commercial property owners that are working together to consider the challenges ahead for Downtown and to better understand how a re-imagined CID might better confront those challenges. Put simply, we believe that a CID that is more effective and that truly engages property owners to meet their needs and enhance property value will be critical to secure the future of downtown St. Louis. [\*\*\*We are recommending that you not sign the petition\*\*\*](#) to extend the CID until you are satisfied that its proponents have an effective strategy to address the serious issues that downtown is facing right now. We do not believe that they have met that test.



# JUST A FEW THINGS that will make a difference to build a greater downtown.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY:

A renewed and assertive focus on safety and security by targeting persistent problems that contribute to criminal activity and gun violence:

- Cruising
- Illegal drug sales
- Problem liquor licensees
- Nuisance properties
- Homelessness (+ assisting in solutions)

Strategies that address the root causes of persistent crime should be implemented in partnership with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) – and these must go far beyond deploying more manpower on the streets. Substantial resources are available to address these problems and the CID should play a pivotal role in facilitating the deployment of resources to maximum effect. These strategies must be evaluated on a continuous basis to assure effectiveness and be communicated regularly to property owners.

## PUBLIC SPACE MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

Focus on improving the operational and physical aspects of Downtown's public spaces, including streets, sidewalks and parks, knitting together Downtown's private properties in a way that allows them to prosper.

### ***Physical improvements:***

New sidewalks | Street trees | Lighting | Medians | Two-way streets | Bike infrastructure | Park improvements  
Traffic calming devices | Repaved streets.

### ***Operational improvements:***

Traffic light synchronization | Extensive landscaping | Wayfinding signage | Removal of sidewalk obstructions  
Reorganization of the Clean Team | More effective metered parking system

*Thank you for considering our request.*

*Please go to our website [www.citizensforagreaterdowntown.org](http://www.citizensforagreaterdowntown.org) to learn more about our proposals to reimagine the CID so that together we can build a Greater Downtown.*



**CITIZENS FOR A GREATER  
DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS**