The District • Downtown Community Improvement District
11 S. Tenth Street • Columbia, Missouri 65201 • (573) 442-6816
discoverthedistrict.com

July 5, 2022

City of Columbia
701 East Broadway
P.O. Box 6015
Columbia, Mo 65205

Dear Mayor Buffaloe, City Manager Seewood, and City Council Members:

On behalf of The District Downtown CID Board and many concerned business owners, employees, property owners, and residents, I am writing to you to ask for your help in what has become a hostile environment for our businesses, their customers, and our residents. The Wabash Bus Station is unsuitable for our unsheltered friends and is not an acceptable place for long-term camping and sheltering. We ask that the City please revoke the action that allowed for this during the winter months and has continued to remain in effect.

The District has met with the Opportunity Campus Planning Committee members, City staff, City Council Members, CoMo Mobile Aid Collective, VAC, CPD, copious District businesses, and property owners. We will happily continue to meet with any party with thoughtful and progressive ideas to help our unsheltered friends while keeping small businesses in mind.

While the Opportunity Campus will be amazing for those it will help, it is still many years away and will most likely not help those with the lowest barrier needs, specifically those who primarily reside in our downtown area.

We ask for these things

- End Wabash Bus Station camping, 24-hour access, and for it to revert to what it was before it was a warming center.
- Provide a stronger police presence in the Downtown area and quicker response times when 311 is called.
- For the CPD to work with 311 and The District to create a monthly Safety Report for the downtown area to help inform businesses and the public of crime statistics.
- For the City to extend resources and strong financial backing to local entities already successfully providing aid to those in need. Specifically funding for mental health response aids.
- For the City to work with The District and other interested parties to find a suitable location outside of The District with low to no barrier requirements and the proper resources to be allocated to help those in need as soon as possible.

We acknowledge the work the City is already doing on this topic, that this is a sensitive and challenging issue, and that it will most likely not be remedied in our lifetimes - but we do need to do what we can now. By finding a better-suited location with actual governmental aid that works with the public in an open dialog, we can build a community to surround those in need and lift them to their full potential as citizens of Columbia. Please reach out with any questions or thoughts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Many thanks,

Nickie Davis
Executive Director
Downtown Community Improvement District

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