

DOWNTOWN SAFETY & SERVICES INITIATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Downtown Safety & Services Initiative is Formed
'Strategic Partnership for Safety and Prosperity in Downtown Frederick'

September 20, 2019, Frederick, MD—Community leaders, nonprofit organizations, human services providers, along with other stakeholders, are pleased to announce the formation of the Downtown Safety & Services Initiative with the goal of enhancing the continued safety and vibrancy of downtown Frederick.

In response to concerns expressed by community stakeholders regarding the safety and vibrancy of downtown Frederick, the Initiative was born. It was conceived as a community initiative facilitated by the Ausherman Family Foundation to address these issues. The Initiative has a strong commitment from the Mayor's office and will be co-led by Peter Couchman (Ausherman Family Foundation) and Gayon Sampson (Mayor's Office). The Initiative has significant support from the following:

- *Human service providers*
- *Nonprofit organizations*
- *Residents*
- *Businesses*
- *Faith community members*
- *The Frederick Police Department*
- *Frederick County State's Attorney's Office*
- *Government entities*

The Initiative's structured committees will focus on civic engagement in a unified effort, thereby creating a safer and more welcoming environment for the entire community, fostering a positive image for both residents and visitors, and ensuring that human services are provided to those in need.

"Our goal is to provide an environment of safety, vibrancy and respect for all in our community and the guests to our city," said Pete Couchman, Director of Community Benefit Projects for the Ausherman Family Foundation and co-leader of the Initiative.

"The Initiative will focus its efforts in the areas of safety, economic opportunity and beautification of Carroll Creek Linear Park, while making sure that the most vulnerable in our community have access to the support services they need."

"We are absolutely dedicated to facilitating these goals as a unified community," finished Couchman.

There are more than 72,000 residents in the city and as the population continues to grow, so does the civic responsibility to maintain a safe and thriving downtown.

"It is crucial for our success to engage stakeholders from all segments of our community," says Gayon Sampson, co-leader of the Initiative and executive assistant to the Mayor.

"This is a complex issue with many parts. Only by including these varied perspectives will we be able to find solutions and move the needle," finished Sampson.

Couchman and Sampson have met privately with community stakeholders to organize and establish basic operational guidelines and will soon hold several public meetings to elicit input from the community at large. The first public meeting will be held on October 1st at 7:00 p.m. at New Spire Stages 15 W. Patrick Street.

The Initiative recognizes that a widespread volunteer effort will be necessary for the

implementation of forward plans and concepts. As an initiative, the Downtown Safety & Services Initiative realizes that continuing to enhance Frederick’s existing vibrancy and sense of safety and security doesn’t just ‘happen,’ but rather requires a sustained, dedicated and integrated approach.

The Initiative is establishing the following committees, each dedicated to addressing the challenges identified during stakeholder conversations:

- Ambassador Programs
- Security & Enforcement
- Services & Coordination
- Environmental Design & Programming
- Public Messaging

“Anytime there is strong population growth and a greater influx of visitors, it creates the need for additional community amenities and services, so that everyone who visits downtown retail, restaurants, churches and parks can be supported, welcome, safe and a vital part of this community,” stated Sampson.

“Frederick is an extraordinarily philanthropic community that deserves every effort to make our city the best place to live, grow our many downtown businesses, raise our children and care for our neighbors,” added Couchman. “We are incredibly excited to see what solutions emerge from this important initiative.”

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ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN SAFETY & SERVICES INITIATIVE

The structure of the initiative includes five dedicated committees and one steering committee; each focused on making Frederick an even safer and more compassionate place to live, work and play. The goal of the Initiative is to provide an environment of safety, vibrancy and respect, so that Frederick continues to be a healthy and thriving city for all members of its population.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.frederickdssi.org