



June 2, 2020

Dear Mayor Weldon and CBJ Assembly, and Economic Stabilization Task Force:

I am writing regarding the increase in vagrancy and concerning activities happening in the downtown area. Many of our members, as well as the public, have contacted DBA board members to voice their fears related to working, living, and visiting downtown.

As you know, the lack of a steady influx of visitors means a lack of energy and vitality that is typical for a Juneau summer. In addition to the lack of visitors, the mandates and safety measures related to COVID-19 have caused retailers, bars, and restaurants to change operations that include delivery services, curbside pick-up, and in some cases closing until mandates are lifted and it is deemed safe.

This lack of energy has allowed the homeless situation to increase and is causing a negative element along Franklin St. and Front Street. The reports we are receiving are beyond concerning. There are people yelling at one another in the streets, sleeping on the sidewalks, fighting one another, and in once instance a man walking aimlessly with a long chain. I have attached photos for your reference.

I have also been informed that as of last week the ability to use Zach Gordon Youth Center to serve homeless meals is no longer an option. It is my understanding that several alternatives were suggested, but none were approved. This will force The Glory Hall to serve meals from the window at the shelter, which will mean more people loitering downtown, increased litter (and garbage bear problems), and public nuisance behavior.

To help alleviate some of this activity, we are requesting an increase in police presence during the day. As businesses are starting to open, and we are developing programs to encourage residents to enjoy downtown, it is essential that we all feel safe.

We also encourage supporting and funding the new Glory Hall. This facility will address the issues with social distancing in the current facility and allow their constituents to receive much needed care and assistance.

DBA wishes to be a part of the solution and to help in any way we can. Recently, we donated funds to the tent project for the new campground. We are currently researching programs and ideas of how we can continue to move forward in reviving downtown. We welcome any opportunity to collaborate with CBJ and the Economic Stabilization Task Force.

We are in a new world and everyone is trying to navigate what that means and what it looks like. For downtown, our biggest concern if we do not act soon to abate the

negative impact, it will become more difficult once we are able to resume “normal” activities when visitors are able to return. In the meantime, it is imperative we ensure our families, friends, and neighbors feel safe and welcomed to eat, shop, and walk downtown.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know how we may work together for a safe and vibrant capital city.

Sincerely,

Midgi Moore, CCTP

DBA President