



## **Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.**

### **November 2023 – MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** November 14, 2023 @ 6:00pm

**Place:** First Financial Innovation Room, 4<sup>th</sup> and Vine

**New members:** David Zimmerman, Michelle Whitlock family, Andrea Spohn, Rasheed Elsaleh, Sarah Cannon, Richard Cook - Posh Events, Patrice and Mark Allen, Mary Del Vecchio - Rookwood Properties, Don Johnson - Crane Factory Flats.

President **Jackie Bryson** called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and welcomed our new members.

#### **Monthly reports:**

Officer **Chris Loreaux** - Cincinnati Police Department, provided an update on the Carew Tower incident where bricks fell from the structure to the street. There were no injuries to report, however sidewalk and road closures are in effect. Protective barriers are being erected on the sidewalks around the Carew Tower. Currently, there isn't a timeline for reopening the sidewalks or streets.

Officer Loreaux reviewed the crime statistics noting shootings have increased in the Downtown area. He reported an increase in car break-ins and gun thefts where juveniles are breaking into cars looking for guns. Garages are increasing security by installing cameras as a method to prevent break-ins.

Officer Loreaux addressed several questions from members regarding guns, car break-ins and the redistricting of the Mt. Adams police station.

**Alex Martin** of 3CDC gave an overview of the holiday events occurring in the city through New Year, including Santa Con, Holiday Markets, Art on Vine, ice skating on the Square, Downtown Dazzle, return of the Shillito's elves and many more.

Alex addressed a few questions from members about keeping sidewalks clean.

#### **DRC Reports**

##### **Treasurer's Report-**

**Tricia Lynn** - Starting DRC balance 10/1/2023: \$12,831.79 with a closing bank balance of \$14,608.89 less outstanding checks leaves a DRC balance of \$13,029.95.

##### **Social Committee-**

**Mary Heimert** reminded members about the annual Holiday party on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Prime Cincinnati. A giving tree will once again be available to select an ornament to donate a gift to Ronald McDonald house.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Approval of October Meeting Minutes:**

**Rick Dieringer** motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Sue Byrom** seconded, and all voted in favor.

##### **Review new elements of Downtown Residents Council Constitution:**

**Kurt Grossman** reported the amended constitution is ready for member review. You can find the amended copy on the DRC website, [livedowntown.com](http://livedowntown.com), on the Home page. Members will vote on the amendments in the January 2024 meeting.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Speakers:**

**Seth Harmon** introduced speaker **Doug Moormann** from Development Strategies Group. Mr. Moormann provided an overview about improvements occurring at the Atrium 1 building on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Occupancy has been impacted by Covid currently making the Atrium half empty. There are plans to convert 200,000 square feet of space into 205 workforce affordable apartments. The renovation is expected to take 18-24 months and cost around \$47M. Mr. Moormann addressed several questions from members regarding retail options and the influx of residential space in the city.

**Seth Harmon** introduced speaker **Tom Demeropolis**, Editor-in-Chief, Cincinnati Business Courier. Mr. Demeropolis spoke about his career as a journalist with the Business Courier. He witnessed the transformation from print to digital communication at the Courier where twice daily electronic communications are now sent to subscribers. The print version is published each Friday.

##### **Announcements**

**Sharon Chittock** from the Cincinnati Public Library gave an update on construction and re-opening of sections at the downtown Cincinnati Library.

**Rick Dieringer** gave an update on major building upgrades around Piatt Park over the next 18-24 months. Garfield Suites is being converted to apartments and should be ready by the middle of next year. A sale is pending on the Doctors' building located on Garfield Place which is expected to be converted as well.

In closing, Jackie Bryson wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. (First Financial Innovation Center)