



DOWNTOWN DIRECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE PROVIDENCE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MAYOR CICILLINE ENDORSES HOSPITALITY RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP



On January 12th, Mayor David N. Cicilline officially announced the formation of the Hospitality Resource Partnership (HRP), a coalition organized to create a safer late night environment downtown. The HRP, described in the last DID newsletter, is a tool

developed by the Responsible Hospitality Institute, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization. "We will not succeed in achieving a vibrant, responsible, dynamic night life experience in our downtown neighborhood without a broad commitment to working together on this issue," said the Mayor. "The creation of the Hospitality Resource Partnership is a critically important step in that process."

Following an initial community orientation last summer and roundtable discussions in September, the HRP task forces officially organized last November to establish action plans. According to the final report, the task forces will oversee plan implementation and consensus building, and will continue to address the following topics:

- Policing Strategies
- Business Inventory/Expanding Entertainment Markets
- Substance Abuse Enforcement
- Safe Crowd and Traffic Control
(Improving Communication and Education)
- Documenting Standards and Community Expectations

The Downtown Improvement District is proud to have started this initiative over a year ago, now blossoming into a strong alliance between the City and many downtown constituencies.

For more information about the HRP, visit:

<http://www.rhiweb.org/providence/>

DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE IN BLOOM

The DID recently hired a professional landscape architecture firm, Gates, Leighton & Associates, Inc., to design a seasonal planting program and assess the feasibility of planning a more comprehensive district-wide program in the future. Randy Collins, Gates, Leighton Executive Vice President, explains that "this project is interesting for a number of reasons. First, discussing design concepts given a relatively blank slate is very challenging. Often this means developing design ideas for review and discussion as an effort to figure out what direction we should be moving in. In this case, the group was able to quickly hone in on a potential solution. Second, providing enhancements to downtown Providence, given the numerous constraints is shaping up to be a very rewarding professionally. And third, given the amount of time I spend downtown I look forward to the successful completion of the project." Call the DID office at (401) 421-4450 with suggestions about how to enhance the landscaping throughout the district.

NEW STORES COMING SOON!

Elsa Arms (women's clothing boutique) 231 Westminster

Eno (wine & spirits) 227 Westminster

HOMESTYLE (gallery and a modern home design store)
229 Westminster

Local 121 (restaurant in AS220 @ the Dreyfus Building)
121 Washington

Sorbus (outdoor clothing) 220 Westminster

View the full downtown business directory online:
www.providencedowntown.com.

DOWNTOWN SECURITY NETWORK

MEETING MONTHLY

The Downtown Improvement District continues to work closely with the police on an important initiative: the formation of the Downtown Security Network. Lieutenant Figueiredo and Frank LaTorre, DID Director of Public Space, are co-chairing the meetings which bring people together to share information about 'quality of life' issues. During meetings, Lt. Figueiredo listens carefully to the community's concerns and describes recent activities in specific areas. To show patterns and trends, he compares crime statistics from the previous month to other figures. "It is essential for the police to share information with local security companies to help them understand what is happening downtown," explains Figueiredo. "In turn, those companies provide extra 'eyes and ears' for the police, helping us keep a finger on the pulse."

By forming this network, the various organizations can determine the best ways to link together to address problems. Bill Wise, General Manager of Intown Parking suggests that "for the city to be successful, the key is a joint effort from all parts of the community including the restaurants, property owners and parking operators. Everyone must take some responsibility for ensuring a safe atmosphere." He adds that "this network enables us to come up with the best solutions." Participants represent a variety of sectors downtown: hotels, private security firms, entertainment venues, universities, RIPTA, Amtrak, Providence Public Library, corporations, the city government, state government, and non-profit organizations.

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis at 30 Exchange Terrace. To be included in the Network, call Frank LaTorre at (401) 421-4450.

STAKEHOLDER FOCUS: RESTIVO MONACELLI LLP

Restivo Monacelli, a certified public accounting and business consulting firm that serves many industries, including the financial services industry, employs over 40 people downtown in its new office at 36 Exchange Terrace. With the bulk of its clients based in Southern New England, the Providence location gives the firm a competitive edge. Although Restivo Monacelli does have a satellite office in Boston, the firm's reputation has enabled managing partner Edmund Restivo Jr. to draw Boston professionals to Rhode Island.

Mr. Restivo believes that "to be viewed as a professional, you should be located in the heart of downtown." In fact, his move into the building last May marked his fifth downtown office location. While this property is his first purchase of this magnitude, he views himself as a pioneer in downtown's residential development. He redeveloped the Conrad Building on Westminster Street in the late 1980's, hoping that downtown Providence would become a pedestrian-oriented residential neighborhood. He is emphatic about this vision, but notes that his plans were slightly premature.

About a year ago, the firm's office was based at 121 South Main Street. Once Brown University purchased the building, Mr. Restivo recognized an opportunity to move across the river. He had been looking for a location on Exchange Terrace for some time, with its quick access to Westminster Street and Rte. 95, along with its view of tree-covered Burnside Park.

Only seventy-five days elapsed between the date of sale, the renovation, and the move into the building on May 6, 2006. The interior had previously been divided into four separate spaces with dropped ceilings that covered the central fireplace. Aware of the building's tremendous potential, Mr. Restivo had the office completely gutted in order to achieve an open, airy feeling. Brian Poor, project manager for David Presbrey Architects, pushed the HVAC to the exterior walls, opened the interior corridor, and partially restored the tin ceilings.

The three-story building occupies 18,000 square feet, with 12,000 for the office and 6,000 for the Union Station Brewery. Restivo is passionate when describing its historic details, noting that when the train station was in use, people walked from the main terminal to the baggage room, where his office is located today. Although the firm pays for a portion of its employees' parking, Mr. Restivo believes that the benefits of the downtown location far outweigh the costs.



Downtown IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR MICHAEL CORSO

Michael Corso plays numerous roles downtown. In addition to working as Cornish Associates' General Counsel, he owns tazza cafe in the ground floor of the Alice Building on Westminster Street. A few years ago, through his involvement in the renovation of Cornish's buildings, he saw the need to create a community meeting/performance space. With its great coffee and expanded lunch and dinner menus, tazza has become **the** downtown gathering spot from morning to night. Now that the restaurant is serving brunch on weekends, he is truly accommodating the needs of the growing residential neighborhood and building upon his earlier success.

As a DID Board member, Corso participates in the operations and marketing committees. He recognizes the importance of overcoming common misconceptions about downtown safety and identifies the maintenance of a clean and safe environment as a main priority. He hopes to continue collaborating with businesses, residents and the local government to find creative solutions to pressing issues, and knows that we must continuously brand the

district as a safe and interesting place in order to maintain the area's vibrancy and uniqueness.

Cornish Associates owns several buildings downtown that house residential lofts and retail space including the Alice, Burgess/O'Gorman, Peerless, Smith and Wilkinson. Describing the impact of the DID on the area, Corso explains that "a clean and safe neighborhood is undoubtedly easier to lease, and it's created more and more foot traffic. New retail tenants have a level of comfort knowing that they can call on the DID when needed, and they'll benefit from downtown cooperative marketing strategies." He adds that he "often runs into people who haven't been downtown in years, and they can't believe the progress we've made."

Cornish tenants include Design Within Reach, Salon Marc Harris, cathers & coyne, Butterfield, Queen of Hearts, Symposium Books, tazza cafe, Gracie's, Cuban Revolution and clover, with others slated to open soon.



BOARD RETREAT SUMMARY

On February 15th, members of the DID Board of Directors met at the Peerless Building for an extended meeting led by Steve Gibson, President of Urban Place Consulting. In this different setting, Board members took the opportunity to reexamine the organization's core purpose, values and ideology. Other broad topics included project prioritization, the Board decision making process, and an evaluation of current services. To request a copy of the summary report, call the DID office at (401) 421-4450.

CLEAN & SAFE SUMMARIES

Statistics for October 1st through January 31st 2007

Clean Team:

Trash Removed (in lbs): 77,425
Graffiti tags removed: 567
Stickers/ handbills removed: 205

Combined Clean & Safe Team:

Pedestrian assistance: 3,817
Property/ business contacts: 1,213
Motorist assistance: 987
Passive panhandling: 768
Aggressive panhandling: 75

DID AMBASSADOR FEATURE: **Bridgette Holton**

What makes Bridgette Holton such a standout DID employee? This part-time Clean Team leader knows that she has a big responsibility, and she takes it seriously. She views herself as a leader, recognizing that she can set an example for others by showing patience while helping patrons.

Born in Florida, Bridgette came to Providence in 1991. A graduate of Classical High School, she is now studying to become an emergency medical technician (EMT). She has worked for the DID for almost a year, and because her job is so interactive, she has really come out of her shell. She thinks that the city looks excellent, and she takes pride in her contributing role.





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IMPROVEMENT
District

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ART WINDOWS: Looking Behind the Glass

The Providence Foundation and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) are sponsoring the Providence Art Windows, a rolling art show that will be installed in two 3-month exhibits, beginning in March. Liz Keithline, program consultant, hopes that the program will “increase foot traffic downtown, heighten awareness of rental opportunities and strengthen the link between the city’s arts community, the business community and the broader public.” Jury-selected pieces will be displayed in ten empty windows at

downtown locations such as the URI Library, Trinity Repertory Company, RI Housing and the former Providence Journal Building. A full map and list of window locations will be included in programs, and will also be available online: www.providencedowntown.com.

The Art Windows opening will take place at Design Within Reach, 210 Westminster Street from 6-8 PM on Thursday, March 15th. Please join us!



GALLERY NIGHT PROVIDENCE: Celebrating its 11th Season



For more information, visit: www.gallerynight.info.

On the third Thursday evening of each month from March through November, visit the city’s hottest art spots for Gallery Night! Seven downtown galleries are participating: BankRI Gallery, Chapel Gallery & Labyrinth, Copacetic Rudely Elegant Jewelry, The Gallery at 17 Peck, risd|works, RISD Sol Koffler Graduate Student Gallery and URI Feinstein Providence Campus Gallery.

The Gallery at 17 Peck’s Dan Kelley states, “According to our recent exposure in major magazines and press, 17 Peck is recognized as having the biggest shows in New England to feature appearances from world-famous artists—all in one gallery in downtown Providence! I am truly bringing in the best of the best, the highest caliber of events which will energize the Gallery Night Providence tour and the downtown area.”

Parking is free from 5-9 PM on Gallery Nights in eight designated MetroPark lots. Wander through the streets downtown, or hop on the free Art Bus at any time! 2007 Gallery Nights are scheduled on March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, October 18th and November 15th.