

MainStreetBIZ

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September 7, 2021

Dear Main Street Area BIZ Property Owner,

The Main Street Area Business Improvement Zone ("BIZ") has begun its eighth year of operation. The past 18 months of the COVID pandemic have been a challenge for all of us; but through it, the BIZ has continued to provide high-quality service. Now, as downtown begins to reopen, I would like to update you on the BIZ's scope of work and invite you to attend the Annual Meeting.

As a reminder, the boundary of the BIZ is Huron Street on the north, Fifth Avenue on the east, Liberty and William on the south (with the Federal Building, the Transit Center and the old Y parking lot cut out), and Ashley on the west. Services of the BIZ have been maintained throughout the COVID shutdown, with modifications made to respond to business needs.

Sidewalk snow removal services: Snow removal that provides safe and predictable access is Job 1 for the BIZ. The BIZ continues to keep the sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb cuts free of snow and ice by melting small accumulations and shoveling larger snowfalls.

Sidewalk sweeping and handbill removal: When snow and ice are gone, the BIZ keeps the sidewalks in the district neat and clean by sweeping and removing handbills.

Both the snow removal and sidewalk sweeping services were modified during the shutdown in order to accommodate the outdoor dining policies and practices established by the City and the Main Street Area Association.

Landscaping: The BIZ plants and maintains the 24 concrete planters we placed in locations off of Main Street with four-season plantings that give the sidewalks visual interest year-round. In June 2020, given the impact of COVID, the BIZ increased its annual contribution to the Main Street Area Association for the planting and maintenance of the tree boxes along Main Street.



The **2019-2021 Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, September 23, 8:00 am in the Celtic Room at Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main Street.** COVID protocols will be in place; all attendees will be required to wear masks and we will provide socially distanced seating, hand sanitizer, etc. The Annual Meeting includes items that require a vote of the property owners in attendance. If you cannot attend, but would like to vote, a Proxy form is attached. Please complete the form, scan, and email to Betsy Jackson at betsyjackson@theurbanagenda.com no later than September 22nd. The agenda for the Annual Meeting, the *2019-2021 Main Street Area BIZ Annual Reports (draft)* and the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 audit reports are available to review or download at www.annarbormainstreetbiz.com.

The BIZ board of directors suspended regularly scheduled meetings – including the 2020 Annual Meeting – due to COVID restrictions. During that time, board members whose terms would have lapsed agreed to stay on until elections could be held. As a result, there are seven seats up for election; four seats with terms ending on June 30, 2023 and three seats with terms ending on June 30, 2024. Prospective board members must be commercial property owners within the BIZ boundary and should be prepared to:

- Attend board meetings 6-12 times per year
- Participate on standing or ad hoc committees as requested
- Serve as an information source about the BIZ
- Be the 'eyes and ears' for the BIZ regarding service delivery and trouble shooting.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please contact BIZ Chairman Ed Shaffran at edward@shaffran.com, no later than Thursday, September 16.

Doing business downtown has been tough, and keeping the Main Street area clean and accessible has been more important than ever. The Business Improvement Zone has been operating, first on Main Street and now in the expanded area, for ten years. Now that we've begun our eleventh year, we can look back, with pride, at the standard of excellent service, conscientious governance, and creativity we have maintained, even in these emergency times. These are standards that we will carry forward. Your participation and insight are always welcome. I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on September 23.

And please feel free to post or photocopy this letter to share with your tenants; all are welcome!

Sincerely,



Edward Shaffran, Chairman
Main Street Area Business Improvement Zone Board of Directors
734.665.1200 X 701, edward@shaffran.com

**MAIN STREET AREA BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ZONE
PROXY STATEMENT 2021**

Name of Property Owner within the BIZ Zone: _____

Company Name & Address: _____

Parcel Number: _____

Contact telephone or email address: _____

I _____, do hereby authorize the following person to represent me at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Main Street Area Business Improvement Zone and to vote on my behalf on any agenda items requiring a vote of the property owners.

Name & Title of Proxy:

Signature of Property Owner

Date