

**MICHAEL R. TURNER**

TENTH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



2183 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6465

DISTRICT OFFICE:

120 WEST 3RD STREET  
SUITE 305  
DAYTON, OH 45402  
(937) 225-2843

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 29, 2025

The Honorable Jeffrey Mims & Dayton City Commissioners  
Dayton City Hall  
101 West Third Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Mayor Mims and City Commissioners,

Our group of community leaders have convened to make recommendations on how we can improve and strengthen downtown Dayton. This group has consisted of elected officials and representatives from the local, state and federal government, law enforcement, higher education, and the business community.

We have met regularly to address growing concerns from the community regarding downtown Dayton, and have identified four areas of concern: safety, social services, intergovernmental coordination, and economic development. Collectively we have agreed on the attached list of issues and recommendations we believe will help to improve these concerns.

Downtown Dayton is the core of our region's economic and civic life. It is of extreme importance that public and private investment be protected to maintain and create conditions for future growth. This will require swift coordinated action, clear accountability, and timely execution.

Further, we respectfully request that the City of Dayton and Montgomery County:

1. Consider and adopt the attached resolution affirming a shared commitment to downtown safety, services, and economic preservation and development and
2. Direct the preparation of a comprehensive implementation report to be completed within 20 days of passage of the resolution. Clear direction and accountability are essential to restoring confidence, improving public safety, protecting and promoting private capital investment, and ensuring that downtown Dayton continues to grow and thrive.

These recommendations need to be implemented in a public-private partnership, and we stand ready to assist as this work moves forward.

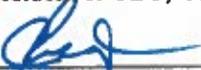
Sincerely,



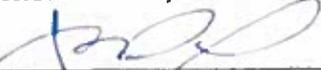
Mike Turner  
Member of Congress (OH-10)



Erhardt Preitauer  
President & CEO, CareSource



Chris Riegel  
President & CEO, Stratacache



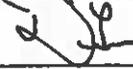
Jason Woodard  
Principal, Woodard Development



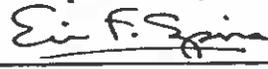
Willis E. Blackshear, Jr.  
Senator, Ohio Senate District 6



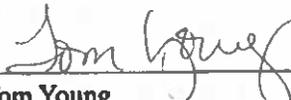
Phil Plummer  
State Representative, Ohio House District 39



Desiree Tims  
State Representative, Ohio House District 38



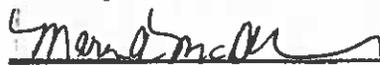
Eric Spina  
President, University of Dayton



Tom Young  
State Representative, Ohio House District 37



Andrea White  
State Representative, Ohio House District 36



Mary McDonald  
Commissioner, Montgomery County



Rob Streak  
Sheriff, Montgomery County



Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Dayton



Chris Shaw  
Commissioner, City of Dayton



Darius Beckham  
Commissioner-elect, City of Dayton

## **Justice/Policing Group Summary**

City Manager Shelley Dickstein, State Representative Phil Plummer, Sheriff Rob Streck  
**FIRST ISSUE**

- There has been a perceived increase in downtown criminal activity, including property damage, and an apparent increase in the homeless population, including individuals with mental health issues. The downtown RTA hub has also seen an increase in all of these types of activities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- An increased police presence downtown, and an increase in enforcement by those officers downtown. A visible presence is a deterrent.
- Real-time monitoring of the camera system downtown and direct communication with those monitoring and the officers in the field.
- The city and county revisit the memorandum of understanding that currently has the Dayton Police provide service for county property downtown. This should be changed, and the sheriff's office should provide a presence and service for those county properties to help protect their capital investments and those of other community stakeholders. This will allow Dayton Police to use their resources in other parts of downtown.
- Implement a communication system that will allow all of the private security providers at each downtown building to communicate with each other and the Dayton Police.
- The Dayton RTA must create its own police force to be headquartered at the RTA Hub downtown.
- The Dayton Police Department, the County Sheriff's Office, the University of Dayton Police, Sinclair Police, RTA Police, and private security services should be fully coordinated downtown.

### **SECOND ISSUE**

- Officers report an unwillingness to arrest individuals because of their belief that either individuals will not be prosecuted or that inadequate enforcement in the judicial process will take place. Insufficient support in the judicial process creates an environment of lawlessness.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A review of the Dayton Municipal Court structure.
- Create a downtown docket to be created that will hear cases only from downtown and enforce the penalties that apply to each case

- Judges are assigned to this docket not magistrates.
- Stringent prosecution of those who commit crimes downtown.

#### **WHO WE NEED IN OUR WORK GROUP**

- City Law Director
- Dayton Police Department
- University of Dayton Police/Sinclair police
- RTA
- Courts

#### **CONCLUSION**

Downtown is the core for economic development growth for the city, county and entire region. These recommendations will help to protect the capital investment of the private and public sector downtown and set the stage for increased growth and development in the future.

## **Social Services Work Group**

State Senator Willis Blackshear, State Representative Desiree Tims, State Representative Andrea White

### **FIRST ISSUE**

- There is an apparent increase in the homeless population and individuals with mental health issues downtown. Reportedly, many of them are not from our community and are being brought here from other communities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Conduct a census of downtown homelessness to determine where they come from and create a plan to return those who are not from our community back to the community that brought them here.
- Create a comprehensive inventory of existing services and programs.
- Combine duplicated services and eliminating those that no longer serve a purpose.
- After an individual has been provided with services how do we help them return to where they came from?
- A moratorium and limiting the number of group homes through code enforcement.
- Enforce existing codes and city ordinances on retail establishments where criminal behavior tends to congregate.

### **SECOND ISSUE**

- The downtown RTA Hub and the immediate surrounding area have seen an increase in unlawful behavior and activity.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Create a list of after-school services and programs for students who are forced to ride the RTA buses to and from school.
- Create an RTA police force.
- Encourage Dayton Public Schools to continue to find an alternative to RTA busing.

### **WHO DO WE NEED IN OUR WORK GROUP**

- ADAMHS

- DPS
- City of Dayton Zoning
- Montgomery County

### **CONCLUSION**

These recommendations will make a positive difference in the type of activity that is happening downtown and provide an environment for continued economic development and capital investment.

## **INTRAGOVERNMENTAL WORK GROUP**

City Commissioner-elect Darius Beckham, Montgomery County Commissioner Mary McDonald, Mayor Jeff Mims, Representative Tom Young

### **FIRST ISSUE**

- There is a lack of communication and collaboration across all levels of government. The city, county, and state governments are operating independently of each other creating gaps and overlapping in policy, services, and funding.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Representatives from all levels of government should meet regularly to discuss community issues, projects currently pending, and issues that need action. All levels of government must prioritize consistency and efficiency in the execution of existing and future policy and work together to implement all the recommendations from the working groups. Work to cap the number of Charter Schools.

### **SECOND ISSUE**

- Our goal is to increase new businesses downtown and to retain established businesses downtown.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- The city, county, and state government convene to identify existing policies and opportunities for new polices that would incentivize businesses to bring their workers and/or remain downtown.

### **WHO WE NEED IN OUR WORK GROUP**

- Representatives from local/county government agencies
- Representatives from downtown businesses
- DPS

### **CONCLUSION**

In order to be successful at addressing downtown security, it is necessary to improve communication, and policy alignment between city, county, and state levels of government. This group should meet quarterly and be convened by the Mayor and the County Commission President.

## **BUSINESS COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP**

Andy Horner VP University of Dayton, Ellen Miller-CareSource, Erhardt Preitauer - CareSource, Chris Riegel -Stratacache, City Commissioner Chris Shaw, Jason Woodard-Woodard Development.

### **FIRST ISSUE**

- The issues listed by the other subgroups must be addressed in order to improve The perception of downtown for maintaining economic development and capital investment.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Business community participation in each of the other three subgroups and work together to implement their recommendations.
- Create a downtown specific economic development/redevelopment fund to encourage continued capital investment downtown.

### **SECOND ISSUE**

- There are multiple groups and organizations that business owners support intended to provide services and a forum to businesses to address these types of issues such as, the Downtown Dayton Partnership, Destination Dayton, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Dayton Development Coalition.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- The Special Improvement District and the organizations listed above must be reviewed and reformed to determine what services should be provided, increase effectiveness, and eliminate duplicative services.

### **WHO DO WE NEED IN OUR GROUP**

- Other Downtown Business Owners

### **CONCLUSION**

Downtown should be a place for people to work, live, play, and feel safe and secure. In order to protect the capital investment that has already taken place downtown and encourage continued capital investment, these recommendations need to be implemented in a true public-private partnership. Finally the SID has become a social organization while it

**A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING OUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING AND STRENGTHENING DOWNTOWN DAYTON**

Resolution No.

**Whereas** downtown Dayton is the core for economic development growth for the city, county and entire region; and

**Whereas** almost \$400 million in public-private investment was made in downtown Dayton in 2024; and

**Whereas** downtown Dayton has seen over \$3 billion invested over the past four decades; and

**Whereas** downtown Dayton is on track to have an additional \$1 billion invested by 2030; and

**Whereas** a group of business leaders, elected officials and local law enforcement have come together to identify issues and make recommendations that would strengthen and protect downtown Dayton to ensure it remains a place for people to work, live, play and feel safe and secure; and

**Whereas** in order to protect the capital investment that has already taken place downtown and encourage continued capital investment;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of Dayton that:

1. The City recognizes the Safety and Security Working Group as a volunteer committee concerned for the longevity of the City of Dayton.
2. The City will review all of the issues and recommendations identified by the Group.
3. The City thanks the working group for their recommendations and hereby directs the City Manager to forward the recommendations of the working group to the appropriate department heads of the city of Dayton for review and to provide a report to the City Commission.
4. The report shall consist of who is responsible for each recommendation, what specific actions must be taken, applicable timelines and, any required policy, funding, or intergovernmental changes necessary.
5. The report shall be presented to the City Commission within 20 days of enactment of this resolution.