



January 5, 2016

To: Council President Merv Bennett, President Pro Tem Jill Gaebler and members of City Council

The Board of Directors of Downtown Partnership expresses support for the 2016 ordinance pertaining to pedestrian access on sidewalks in Downtown Colorado Springs and Old Colorado City.

The historic hearts of the city – Downtown and Old Colorado City – are the only two commercial areas in the entire city designed specifically in a pedestrian-oriented manner. Safe and clear passage on these sidewalks is essential to ensuring a welcoming experience for all people, be they residents or visitors exploring the locally owned small businesses and cultural amenities in these areas. The people who live directly within the downtown core in lofts and apartments also require safe and clear access on sidewalks, as for many it is the direct front-door access to their homes.

Downtown Colorado Springs provides ample outdoor public seating opportunity – more than any other commercial area in the city – on more than 60 metal benches, nearly 100 flowerbed seat walls and seven vault-vent benches, as well as numerous benches in downtown parks and in commercial patios. This ensures all people have easy access to convenient seating, while this ordinance will ensure pedestrians have clear passage through sidewalk right-of-ways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Edmondson".

Susan Edmondson
President & CEO