



December 29, 2021

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Members of City Council  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
107 North Nevada Avenue, Suite 300  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Re: Downtown Commercial Districts – Sitting or Lying Down Ordinance Amendment

Honorable Members of the Colorado Springs City Council:

I am writing to encourage your favorable support of the proposal to expand the geographic scope of the Downtown Commercial District and the corresponding regulations relating to the prohibition against sitting and lying down within public right of ways.

Our Downtown is developing to its south, while major physical improvements are transforming South Nevada Avenue, as proposed within its approved urban renewal plan. Together, these synergistic developments offer our community an opportunity to restore the important physical connection that South Nevada Avenue represents to our southern residential & recreational areas and our greater downtown civic center.

Since 2009, our company has financed over \$60M of commercial investments within the South Nevada Avenue Urban Renewal Boundary and our involvement has provided us with a close-up perspective into the behaviors along South Nevada Avenue. Beyond the wholesale panhandling at nearly every intersection south of Interstate 25 to East Cheyenne Road, pervasive drug dealing, drug consumption and overdosing are daily occurrences. Destructive use of street drugs incapacitates individuals, resulting in sitting, lying and sleeping along the sidewalks and within South Nevada Avenue's right of ways. As a native of Colorado Springs, I have never witnessed the volume of street drugs and associated behaviors within the areas proposed for the expansion of the Downtown Commercial District. These behaviors communicate a very negative image to visitors coming into our community center and tourists transporting from our southern lodging clusters & The Broadmoor Hotel north to our museums and colleges located downtown.

If the South Nevada Avenue Urban Renewal Plan is to succeed, we need to discourage unacceptable behaviors that unnecessarily tarnish our community image. It is not too much to ask for people to respect our public corridors in a manner that facilitates a safe and healthy environment for those who want to or have to utilize sidewalks and/or access public transportation.

My personal involvement in the South Nevada Avenue Urban Renewal Plan and my love for Colorado Springs compels me to seek your support to reclaim our entry corridor through thoughtful ordinances in support of our law enforcement and first responder personnel.

Sincerely,

*Danny Mientka*  
Principal  
The Equity Group