



May 16, 2023

Mr. Michael Montgomery, Deputy City Council Administrator

City of Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

107 N. Nevada Ave. Ste. 300

RE: Greater Downtown Colorado Springs Business Improvement District open board position

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

The Greater Downtown Colorado Springs Business Improvement District (BID) has four board openings in July 2023 due to the completion of three-year terms by Eric Brenner, Red Gravy; Mark Earle, resident; Uyen Le-Morrison, Beauty Bar; and Ann Sebastian, Cushman & Wakefield. Ann Sebastian has chosen not to seek a second term due to a relocation, while Eric Brenner, Mark Earle, and Uyen Le-Morrison will continue for a second and final three-year term, with full support of the board.

Ordinance states that the particular opening created by the departure of Ann Sebastian needs to be filled by a representative of 50,000 square feet or more of real estate within the BID. The BID advertised its board opening through the Downtown Partnership website and newsletter, used by thousands of downtown stakeholders.

At the May 16, 2023, regular board meeting, the BID board unanimously voted to recommend that City Council appoint Michael Brantner of the Pikes Peak Library District, located at the Downtown campus, to fill the vacant seat. Mr. Brantner's letter of interest is included here. You will note he is a longtime resident of Colorado Springs, has a significant background in safety, and passion for the Downtown community with a sincere interest in the BID's mission of an urban environment that is clean, engaging, welcoming, and walkable.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Gondeck, BID Executive Director

Greetings,

My Name is Michael Brantner, and I am writing to inform you of my sincere interest in applying for the Downtown Partnerships, Business Improvement District (BID) Board.

My interest in this Board is driven by my passion for the Downtown area due to my direct and daily involvement in it through my current position with the Pikes Peak Library District as well as my previous professional experience with other organizations associated with Downtown. The area also holds a special distinction for me in the Colorado Springs area.

As a native of Colorado Springs, I spent my formidable years participating in activities Downtown with my family and friends. As a child, my mother and I would do all of our Christmas shopping Downtown, our family frequented dinner and visits to several parks downtown throughout the year. Every Saturday, my father would take me to Michelle's for a Monty Cristo and a sundae, and I remember fondly visiting the Pioneer's Museum every year on school field trips.

Now as a parent, I continue creating special moments with my children Downtown by attending concerts, cooling off in the Uncle Wilber fountain, spending evenings with my wife or friends having dinner and a cocktail, and supporting local business owners by purchasing from their shops. We are also Founder's Club Season Ticket members for the Switchbacks FC at Weidner Field where my family attends every game after having dinner or drinks Downtown.

In my professional career, I have spent over 15 years creating a safer downtown area through the organizations I worked with including ten years working as an overnight Security Shift Supervisor for Memorial Health System's downtown campus. During this time, I also worked as a Security Supervisor for the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center downtown during and after their large facility remodel. For the last five years, I have been the Chief Safety, Security and Community Resources Officer (CSO) for Pikes Peak Library District, and my office is located Downtown on the Penrose Campus.

I have a bachelor's degree in Public Management, and hold a suite of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other Security and Safety related certifications. I have worked as a Fire Fighter, an Incident Commander, Crew Chief, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Protection Officer, Security Officer, Assistant Instructor for four online universities, and now a CSO. To me, the most important aspect of a profession is my ability to better the community through the application of it. In my opinion, to contribute to my community in a positive way is every citizen's responsibility. Although, I have not served on a board previously, I have a long history of volunteering in my community. I am an Eagle Scout through the Boy Scouts of America and am currently the Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 110, out of Cheyenne Mountain Elementary School. This is the largest Cub Scout Pack in the city with over 70 Kindergarten through Fifth Grade kids. This active Pack attracts kids from all over the county instead of simply the local area. I routinely volunteer at Gold Camp Elementary for school events as well as classroom assistance and field trips.

In college, I volunteered through the City of Colorado Springs and the Department of Agriculture collaboration program, Teens In Positive Service (T.I.P.S), leading local at-risk youth in a summer experience program.

I volunteered for many years with the El Paso County Wildfire Team as a fire fighter and Type 5 Incident Commander.

Over the years, I have spent hundreds of hours volunteering at Care and Share, Litter Clean ups, Earth Day events, and many other Colorado Springs betterment programs.

I have a passion for this community, especially the downtown area, and I wish to share my talents and passion for improving the area for the rest of my community and my family. Our downtown area continues to grow as the city does. The continued expansion, revitalization and investment are wonderful to see, but there are existing challenges and future issues that will result from the growth and I look forward to assisting in meeting those challenges.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Brantner