

What Downtown Mobile Business Leaders and Property Owners Say

“Through the establishment of the BID in downtown Tampa, the heart of the city became a great place to live, work and play. Downtown grew more vibrant as older buildings were redeveloped, and we saw retailers move in along with upscale bars and restaurants.

-Lee Moncrief
SouthTrust Bank

“In my opinion, a successful investment should be measured by more than financial goals. The BID will serve as an excellent tool to attract people to our arts and entertainment district, as well as other points of interest in downtown. I believe that the BID will have a positive effect that will extend far beyond its boundaries.

-Carlos Parkman
President, Centre for the Living Arts

The BID is a great plan for downtown Mobile. We have a BID in Columbus, Georgia and it has worked great. The BID workers have a real presence in the community and do a lot for downtown: they help clean the sidewalks and streets, give out directions and give tourists and visitors a real sense of security. It is a self-imposed fee, one that is worth more than we pay. The services received are well in excess of the cost.

-William Gantt
Owner, The Cannon Brew Pub,
Columbus, GA & Mobile, AL

Malls and shopping centers gained a competitive edge by creating a functional organized body to manage an area. By forming this Business Improvement District we are creating a cooperative environment to manage Downtown Mobile. As individual property owners we can do good things to improve downtown Mobile, but when we work together we can accomplish the unbelievable.

-Scott Gonzalez
Owner, Three George's Chocolates

Regions Bank supports the BID in downtown Mobile for several reasons. Not only will it help improve the safety and cleanliness in the downtown area, but we see it helping us market Mobile. With the Maritime center, the new cruise line, the RSA Tower and other developments, now more than ever we need to promote Mobile. In order to grow our city, we have to tell our story and we think the BID allows the downtown property owners the opportunity to band together and get the word out.

-Fred Taul
President and CEO, Regions Bank

I am a supporter of the Alliance for Downtown Mobile and urge my friends and neighbors to support it as well. The central business district requires additional services and it is only right that we who will benefit from them are the ones to pay for them. This is a tried and proven vehicle for civic improvement and I say, 'let's get on board!'

-E.B. Peebles, Jr.
Chairman Emeritus
Mobile Arts & Sports Association

I am a strong believer in the need for a vibrant downtown, serving as a hub for the surrounding areas. Today we have the unique opportunity with the recent investments being made in upgrading hotels, cruise lines and new office buildings. These investments could change the direction and, as a downtown businessperson and property owner, I would like to ensure the momentum continues. Other cities have used a BID-type program to harness such situations and breathes life back into their downtown communities. I feel as though an efficiently run BID can benefit everyone in the Mobile metropolitan area for many years to come.

-Robert Drew
President & CEO
Willis of Alabama, Inc.

As both a business and property owner downtown, I support the BID concept for downtown Mobile. I feel it CAN and WILL offer much needed services, which will make downtown a more sought-

after area for businesses to locate, and property owners to develop. It will also play a big role in the perception our downtown visitors take with them when they return home.

-Bill Monahan
Grand Central

Palmer and I have long waited to invest in our downtown. Now with the prospect of the BID coming to Mobile we are willing to undertake a restoration project. We are confident that the BID will bring about this city's much-needed renaissance. We hope to see the many other vacancies addressed with an aggressive recruitment effort, and we as property owners will work cohesively for Mobile, as well as for ourselves. Collectively, we can make this area a vibrant place for residential, business and leisure activities. The BID is the means to get us there.

-Ann Bedsole
Downtown Mobile Property Owner

The BID is a way that we as property owners can play a role in making downtown Mobile cleaner, safer and more accessible to our customers. It is a sound investment in our businesses and our community.

-Michele Kitson
Executive Director, Mobile Opera

I think it's a wonderful project with a great deal of potential.

-Russ Adams
Proprietor, Bienville Books