



Downtown Springfield, Inc.  
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August 16, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The DSI Board of Directors, representing 150 business members in the downtown and adjacent neighborhoods, unanimously supports the proposed Center for Health & Housing.

It is true that Downtown Businesses are often the most adversely affected by the perceptions of visitors to a large homeless population. Yet what we believe is most compelling about the proposed Center is that it doesn't just "move the problem around;" its approach will actually break the cycle of homelessness. This is a win for these individuals and a win for our community at large.

In addition, the Center makes sense fiscally, and will save our community thousands of dollars in emergency, police and other services. The selected site is located near other social agency resources and is within walking distance of the downtown hub where many individuals experiencing homelessness spend a considerable amount of time. The selected site has been vacant, there is no other tenant on the horizon, and it is perfectly suited for this purpose.

The Center for Health & Housing is a huge step forward for our community's response to homelessness and we should embrace this opportunity to transform our approach.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kuhn, Kuhn & Trello  
Board President

Lisa Clemmons Stott  
Executive Director