

Agenda item D.1 for Reno City Council May 1, 2024 special meeting

Eric Lerude <ewlerude@gmail.com>

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To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Reno City Council,

I am a long time Reno citizen who lives in downtown Reno. I also am a member of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Reno Partnership Business Improvement District.

Please allocate as many dollars and other resources as possible to the Reno Police Department and the Code Enforcement Division so that they can do as much as possible to increase their presence and their effectiveness in carrying out their duties in downtown Reno.

Councilwoman Naomi Duerr recently said something like "Reno is a 24/7 city and we need 24/7 enforcement." Her statement makes complete sense.

There is a certain amount of crime that happens in downtown Reno. Fortunately there may actually be less crime these days but nevertheless there is crime.

But just as bad as any real crime, there is a PERCEPTION of crime happening in downtown Reno.

Real crime and the perception of crime keep away businesses from operating here. Real crime and the perception of crime keep away locals and out-of-towners from visiting the downtown Reno, walking around the area, and frequently patronizing the businesses who are here. Real crime and the perception of crime keep away more people from wanting to live in downtown Reno in all of the residential properties that already exist and that are being built.

With more RPD officers and more Code Enforcement officials being present and addressing problems more quickly and effectively, downtown Reno should become more inviting and more comfortable for business and visitors and residents. With more businesses and visitors and residents, downtown Reno will become an even better place.

When Dick Bartholet was the president of the DRP's predecessor entity, he always would say "Every great city has a great downtown."

In order to help downtown Reno be great, please take as much action as you can with regard to the next year's budget to support RPD and Code Enforcement.

Thanks for your time and consideration, and for all that you do for the City of Reno.

Sincerely,

Eric Lerude

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