



To: Anchorage Assembly  
Fr: Anchorage 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Mall

Re: Downtown Camping Ordinance

Assembly Members,

Anchorage 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Mall Management Team **fully support** Mayor Bronson's current Ordinance Proposals for downtown Anchorage. Over the last 3 years downtown Anchorage has gone backwards regarding vagrancy, property crime, vandalism, open drug and alcohol consumption and the always impactful retail theft. Many Anchorage residents will not come downtown to shop anymore due to the continued vagrancy and crime. They do not feel safe parking in the garages or walking the streets for fear of being accosted, potentially robbed, or running into an individual with mental illness. There are no repercussions for the current issues plaguing downtown Anchorage and our businesses deal with criminal activity daily. Mentally ill people screaming and causing a scene, using fire exits as restrooms, physical violence, and open retail crime without a care. Some businesses have closed due to this activity as they could not afford the increased operational costs to add more security, repair vandalized property year over year or just too much theft of product. A collective group of concerned downtown businesses has been meeting with Mayor Bronson and his team for the past 14 months to speak to our concerns of the condition of downtown and what can be done to revitalize the area, keep it safe and inviting for Anchorage residents and our coveted tourists that visit every summer. Mayor Bronson has taken the brunt of the complaints from the businesses about the issues that have plagued downtown, and he and his team have done their best to make sure we are heard, and our concerns are validated. We feel we are very slowly making positive progress with Mayor Bronson, his team and APD in reversing the slide of downtown, its negative perception and returning it to a vibrant traffic draw that it used to be. We ask that the Assembly pass this ordinance as responsible parties to Anchorage and the downtown area.

Warm Regards,

Anchorage 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Mall Management Team  
GM Mark Vlahovich, DMBD Paige Barker, OD Eric Robinson

- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Jewelers, Bottoms Boutique
- Alaska Walking Store, Fast Fix Jewelers
- Arctic Gold and Gems, Excalibur Sports
- Alaska Mint, Tent City Taphouse
- JC Penney, Kays Jewelers
- Burgers Wings N Things, Infinity Jewelers
- Sullivans Steakhouse, Salon DaVinci
- Circular, Alaska Creperie