DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

Dear Downtown Community,

On Monday, December 22, the Fargo City Commission will make a final decision on **relocating the Downtown Engagement Center (DEC)** out of the core of downtown to the Resource and Recovery Center at 2001 1st Ave. North. This is a critical moment for Downtown Fargo and it's important that you make your opinion heard **by contacting the City Commission.**

This move has been planned for years through the City's Downtown InFocus Plan, which were adopted by the City Commission. The issue on the agenda is not about the services being provided. The issue is about relocating from the current building and location; which were not designed to manage the scale of activity happening there. As a result, the impacts spill into surrounding streets, businesses, and public spaces, and downtown continues to bear that burden.

Those impacts are real. Businesses are struggling, some have closed, and the perception of downtown has been damaged. That perception, whether fair or not, affects customer behavior, investment decisions, and the long-term vibrancy of our city's core.

Downtown needs action, not continued debate. The ongoing cycle of discussion around an issue is not helping downtown, and it continues to unfairly pit downtown against services for people in need. We can support people and support downtown at the same time.

The City Commission now has the opportunity to:

- Follow the InFocus Plan they already adopted
- Improve service delivery in a purpose-built facility
- Reduce ongoing impacts on downtown businesses and public spaces
- Send a clear, positive signal about downtown's future

Downtown voices matter right now.

I strongly encourage you to contact the full Fargo City Commission and urge them to proceed with relocating the DEC to the Resource and Recovery Center.

commission@fargond.gov

Your message can be brief, respectful, and focused on the need for action. Downtown needs to be heard.
Thank you for standing up for Downtown Fargo.

Sincerely,
Rocky Schneider
Executive Director
Downtown Community Partnership

DRELATED READING:

For those interested in a broader perspective, read the published editorial by Rocky Schneider in the Forum on why supporting Downtown Fargo and supporting people experiencing homelessness are not opposing goals.

→ Supporting Downtown and Supporting People Should Not Be Opposites

Looking for a Last-Minute Holiday Gift?
If you still have someone on your list, the Downtown Fargo Gift Card is an easy way to shop local and give something meaningful this holiday season.

Downtown gift cards can be used at over 80 locally owned restaurants, shops, and experiences. Every dollar spent stays right here in our community, supporting the small businesses that help make Downtown Fargo a place people want to be.

It's a simple gift that supports local jobs, local owners, and the long-term health of our downtown.

→ Purchase a Downtown Fargo Gift Card