
DOWNTOWN

NEWSLETTER

A Pivotal Moment for Downtown Fargo

Last night, the Fargo City Commission approved the final action needed to move forward with the relocation of the Downtown Engagement Center to the new Resource and Recovery Center at 2001 1st Avenue North. The lease begins January 1, and the transition will start immediately, with services phasing in over time. This is an important moment for Downtown Fargo.

For years, the Downtown Community Partnership has advocated for a solution that holds two truths at the same time. Our community needs compassionate services for people experiencing homelessness, and Downtown Fargo must function as a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place for businesses, workers, residents, and visitors. This decision allows us to move forward on both.

I want to sincerely thank the Mayor and City Commissioners, City staff, and the many downtown businesses, residents, and partners who wrote, showed up, and engaged constructively throughout this process. Your voices mattered.

I also want to recognize the nonprofit partners who will utilize the new Resource and Recovery Center. This facility reflects years of planning led by service providers themselves and will operate as a two-year pilot to demonstrate that coordinated, purpose-built space works. As it proves itself, it will be essential for the State and regional partners to step up alongside the City to support long-term solutions.

While fundraising efforts must continue, we now have the solution in place that we have been asking for. I am deeply grateful to the private partners who have already committed funding and in-kind support. Follow-through now matters.

For the past five years, the location of the Downtown Engagement Center has created daily challenges in our downtown. That will not be our challenge in 2026. This relocation does not solve every issue we face, but it separates homelessness services from bad actors and allows us to address downtown behavior issues more clearly and effectively. Continued coordination with the Fargo Police Department will be essential to ensure downtown feels safe and welcoming every day.

This decision allows Downtown Fargo to turn the page.

If you would like to watch my remarks to the City Commission from last night, you can view them here:

[Watch the City Commission comments](#)

Thank you for your continued support of Downtown Fargo and the work of the Downtown Community Partnership. Let's carry this momentum forward together.

Rocky Schneider
Executive Director
Downtown Community Partnership