



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Sarah Brothers

sbrothers@downtownsandiego.org

916-220-6161

Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe Program Awarded Highest Honor at Annual Golden Watchdog and Fleece Awards

Annual Event by San Diego County Taxpayers Association Recognizes Program for Good Governance

SAN DIEGO – Nov. 16, 2023 – At the San Diego County Taxpayers Association’s 27th Annual Golden Watchdog and Fleece Awards the Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe program was nominated for the Public-Private Partnership Award and awarded the Grand Golden Watchdog award – the program’s highest honor – in recognition of its excellence in public spending, decision-making, and efficiency through the Property & Business Improvement District. The SDCTA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary taxes and fees. The organization’s annual event convenes with community and business leaders, elected officials and more to recognize the organizations or individuals who exemplify good governance.

The Downtown Property & Business Improvement District, otherwise known as Clean & Safe, has a more than 20-year history of providing enhanced services in Downtown San Diego. Those services include unhoused care, safety, maintenance, beautification, janitorial, and power washing of Downtown corridors, among others, and would otherwise not be available from any government entity. The program provides those services across six Downtown neighborhoods, making up 275 blocks of the Downtown area, thanks to assessments paid by property owners within the boundaries of the special district. It also pursues special projects funded by philanthropy and private investment to provide even more value to ratepayers like its Grow Urban tree-planting initiative to replenish Downtown’s urban canopy and its investment in a new San Diego-specific design of Big Belly trash cans that are tamper-proof and operated by a foot pedal.

For its 20+ years of operation, the program has prioritized its responsibility as a steward of public funding, not only through efficient spending and delivering a tremendous return on investment for its ratepayers, but also through its engagement with the community. The program involves Downtown’s neighborhoods in its mission to make Downtown more clean, more safe, and more vibrant through

activations like community walkabouts, monthly safety network meetings, outreach to community groups, and opportunities for the Downtown community to provide feedback throughout the year.

“Every day, every shift, the PBID’s Clean & Safe team comes into Downtown’s urban neighborhoods ready to roll up their sleeves and make a difference” said Doug Korn, Chair of the Clean & Safe Board of Directors and General Manager of the US Grant while accepting the Grand Golden Watchdog award.

Betsy Brennan, President and CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership also recognized the hard work of the Clean & Safe ambassadors saying, “their everyday work efforts are a reflection of the bright future we know is ahead for Downtown San Diego.”

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*The **Downtown San Diego Partnership** is a nonprofit organization that serves as the principal voice and driving force behind the economic and cultural prosperity of Downtown San Diego through membership, advocacy and public services. It also serves as the managing organization for several special districts including the Clean & Safe program that provides enhanced public services in the 275 blocks of Downtown. For more information, visit downtownsandiego.org.*