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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12/13/2022**

## **Local Leaders and Community Members Share Support of Business Improvement District Effort**

**Rochester, NY**— Rochester leaders and community members are discussing the future of the city’s downtown and sharing their excitement for a potential downtown Business Improvement District (BID) in “Local Voices.” This new video series, created by the Rochester Downtown Partnership (RDP), features people with a variety of connections to downtown sharing their support for the BID effort for downtown Rochester and the new ROC the Riverway spaces and encouraging others to get involved in the process.

“Local Voices,” which can be viewed at

<https://www.rochesterdowntownpartnership.org/localvoices>, features brief interviews with Mayor Malik Evans, City Council President Miguel Meléndez, Jr., and people who live, work, and create in downtown. Viewers can learn more about the BID formation process in downtown Rochester at the [Rochester Downtown Partnership website](#).

“Part of the success of Rochester is having a vibrant downtown. A BID has the ability to spark this creative energy altogether. Get involved, make your voice known. You’ll be part of the success and the renaissance of our downtown,” says Mayor Malik Evans.

“There’s no better organization... than an independent Business Improvement District that works both with the private sector and the public sector to help execute a vision for vitality in a downtown setting,” says Patrick Dutton, a real estate developer in downtown Rochester.

In an effort to prioritize community engagement and accessibility in the BID formation process, the RDP is offering open office hours and downtown walking workshops, or “WalkShops.” The public is encouraged to attend these informational gatherings and share their thoughts, concerns, and feedback on the future of downtown. Updated information regarding the timing and location of Walkshops and office hours is available at <https://www.rochesterdowntownpartnership.org/events>.

“As we continue to gather community information and feedback regarding a BID for downtown Rochester, we are thrilled to highlight voices of downtown Rochester through ‘Local Voices.’ We encourage the public to join the process ahead and get involved,” says Galin Brooks, Executive Director of RDP.

View the “Local Voices,” video series at

<https://www.rochesterdowntownpartnership.org/localvoices>. Provide feedback or get involved by emailing [connect@rochesterdowntownpartnership.org](mailto:connect@rochesterdowntownpartnership.org). More information and project-related documents are accessible online: <https://www.rochesterdowntownpartnership.org/resources>

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**About the Rochester Downtown Partnership:**

Established in 2021, The Rochester Downtown Partnership, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, is a public-private partnership between RDDC, Finger Lakes Empire State Development, City of Rochester, and ROC2025. This partnership is jumpstarting a new, collaborative way of managing downtown and ROC the Riverway