

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

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City and Regional Chamber Partner for Downtown Business Relief and Economic Development

City seeds downtown business relief efforts with \$200,000 grant for businesses impacted by the Realty Tower explosion

YOUNGSTOWN, OH – The City of Youngstown and the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber are bringing together key stakeholders through a public-private partnership to coordinate relief for downtown businesses impacted by the Realty Tower explosion and recent construction projects, as well as spearhead a long-term strategic plan for the sustainable economic growth of the downtown area.

“Our downtown is the economic backbone of our city, and we recognize the strain the last few years have had on the area’s businesses – from COVID to construction and now the Realty Tower explosion,” said Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown. “It is critical that we not only get our businesses back open, but plan for a successful future by creating and realizing a long-term strategic vision for a vibrant Youngstown.”

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Valley’s largest economic development and business advocacy organization, will serve as the fiscal agent for business relief funds starting with a \$200,000 seed grant from the City of Youngstown. The grant was approved by City Council in June.

“We want our downtown businesses to know that we hear you and we are here to support you. Your commitment to our community has been unwavering,” said First Ward Councilman Julius Oliver. “This is an opportunity now for our entire community to come together and push Youngstown forward with a shared strategy and vision for a vibrant downtown.”

As part of its advocacy on behalf of the downtown area, the partnership will also collaborate on the recruitment of prospective businesses, retention and growth of current businesses, the promotion of events to help bring patrons back downtown and a housing strategy to increase residential options downtown.

“We want this to be the beginning of a long-term effort to stimulate economic development in downtown Youngstown,” said Guy Coviello, Youngstown-Warren

Regional Chamber President & CEO. "It has been heartwarming to see so many people and organizations rallying to help the downtown area and we want to play a part."

The Chamber's foundation will be able to accept donations from private individuals and organizations earmarked for the business relief effort. 100% of those funds will go to identified downtown businesses.

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