



BUSINESS

Kansas City’s downtown is ‘back in the game’

By Diane Stafford

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About 1,000 attendees are expected at the Downtown Council’s annual meeting from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Kansas City Convention Center. FILE PHOTO BY JOHN SLEEZER JSLEEZER@KCSTAR.COM

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Downtown Kansas City is on a revitalization roll that will be celebrated Friday at the [annual meeting](#) of the Downtown Council.

About 1,000 attendees are expected at the event at the Kansas City Convention Center, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This year, the event’s theme is Back in the Game.

Christopher Leinberger, a national expert on the importance of a vital downtown, will give the keynote address. Other local speakers will review the debut of the streetcar line, the attraction of new businesses downtown and future plans.

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Albert P. Mauro, a former Downtown Council board chairman and a leader in multiple civic endeavors, will receive the Philip Kirk Jr. Award, the council’s highest honor.

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Five individuals will receive the council’s Urban Hero Awards for helping improve downtown’s residential, recreational and commercial status. They are: Andrew Bracker, brownfields coordinator for the city; Vince Bryant, with 3D Development; Deb Churchill, with the City Market; Julie Nelson Meers, with mobank; and Matt Staub, a streetcar advocate.

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Kansas City Mayor Sly James discusses his approach and philosophy when challenges and conflicts in governing arise. In his second term, James has had to deal with a fractious City Council and others resistant to his ideas about the airport, street

BY VIDEO BY JILL TOYOSHIBA, REPORTED BY LYNN HORSLEY AND STEVE VOCKRODT

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BY JOYCE SMITH

MAY 14, 2020 01:50 PM



After decades in the same spots, TCBY in the Prairie Village Shopping Center and Mely's Yogurt & Ice Cream in Corinth Square are seeing new concepts and names: Chill in the Village and Summer Salt Ice Cream Co.

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