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3rd Issues Forum: Thursday, June 12 ***Managing Downtown Retail in a Tough Economy***

9:30 am to 11:30 am
Burgdorff Cultural Center, Maplewood

Go to the DNJ website for more information about this important session on the future of downtowns and retail. The Forum is free and open to anyone involved or interested in downtowns and business districts.

DNJ Testifies in Support of A2867 – Permit Extension Act

In early June Downtown NJ joined with other members of the Smart Growth Economic Development Coalition to testify in support of A2867 Permit Extension Act. The Assembly Housing & Local Government Committee voted unanimously to send the bill to the full Assembly for a vote.

The Coalition was created to encourage and support legislation to find balanced, reasonable solutions to the current economic crisis facing our communities and business districts, create jobs and address the need for smart growth and development.

DNJ will continue to update its members on the progress of this bill and the other recommendations.

Update on State Comptroller's Audit Request

In response to the State Comptroller's May 7 letter and request for audits from Improvement Districts, representatives of Downtown NJ and NJ Managed Districts Association met with state officials to clarify the issue. DNJ and NJMDA will send additional information to members.

The parties agreed to advise Improvement District organizations or their municipalities to also send audits to the Comptroller. Currently, the audits are sent to the Department of Community Affairs. DNJ was represented by Kathleen Miller Prunty, Marvin Reed, Bob Goldsmith, Esq. and Stuart Koperweis.

Thursday, September 18, 2008 ***The DNJ Annual Conference***

The site will be Rahway, that downtown junction on the Northeast Corridor which is experiencing

unprecedented transit-oriented redevelopment. A variety of the city's new residential, office, and retail ventures will be highlighted.

Conferees will gather at the newly restored Union County Center for the Performing Arts, a one-time movie palace that anchors the city's downtown revival.

Using the theme "Hard Times? ... but Real Opportunities!," conference planners hope to paint an optimistic future for New Jersey's traditional towns as the ideal place to shop, work, and use less price-soaring gas. Keynote speaker will be Dan Biederman, president of Bryant Park Corporation, a public-private partnership that is transforming "the back of the city library" into the heart of mid-town Manhattan's real estate boom and its most prominent gathering spot.

Break-out sessions throughout the day will feature panels on such topics as: "Mixed-Use Development," "Retail Trends," "Using New Media to Advertise," "Hospitals Downtown," "Arts and Entertainment Districts," "Main Streets into SIDs," and "New Parking Management Technologies."

A variety of public officials – both State and local – as well as numerous companies that service the downtown management market will be on hand to interact with conference participants.

Details will be coming soon on conference registration, as well as a special "night-on-the-town" preview, September 14, at the city's new 15-story Hotel Indigo Skyview Rahway.

Welcome New Members!

This month we are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- **The Netcong Community Partnership**
- **The Township of Haddon**
- **East Hanover Business Association**

We encourage you to share this newsletter with colleagues and other professionals involved in downtown projects and commercial districts. Know someone who would benefit from membership? Just forward the name and we'll follow up.

DNJ Names New Management Team

The Executive Committee announced that Beth Lippman would take over as interim Executive Director of the organization on June 15 to manage the day-to-day operations. Beth will focus on membership recruitment, communications and the Downtown Business Assessment Team (DBAT).

Beth served as Executive Director of DNJ from 2002 to 2006. She manages her own firm, Downtown Resources, which specializes in managing and creating Special Improvement Districts. She has also been a member of DNJ since 2000. This experience makes Beth a natural choice to expand membership to business districts.

Stuart Z. Koperweis, another familiar name to DNJ members, will be the Director of Government and Corporate Relations. He will begin on July 1. Stuart will keep the organization aware of issues and proposed legislation that may impact business districts and serve as a liaison to State government. He will also concentrate on corporate membership, utilizing his vast network comprised of over seventeen years in economic development and real estate.

Stuart has been a member of DNJ since 1996. His firm, S3X Associates, LLC, has helped create or has been associated with more than 25 improvement districts and economic development corporations in

New Jersey.

Thank you from Joe Steiner

This is my last edition of the DNJ Newsletter. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of the organization during the time that we have been here. I plan to be involved in a number of projects both within DNJ and elsewhere. I am sure that our paths will cross again, and if I can be of help to any of you, please feel free to call us at Organization Resources. (You'll find our contact information on our DNJ webpage, which is a natural lead in to the next topic).

Have you updated your webpage?

Have you updated your DNJ web page? Every member has a special page that they can update. The key representative of each member has received their username and password so that they can go in and update information as well as provide input on their special events and programs. Please look at your page today and update it soon!

If you have a problem downloading or printing this newsletter, a copy of it is available at the DNJ website in the easily printed PDF Format. Visit www.DowntownNJ.com