



Proposed Dayton Convention Hotel Planning  
Testimony

Dayton City Commission

Amanda Byers

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Good morning Mayor Mims, City Manager Dickstein and members of the City Commission, my name is Amanda Byers, and I am the Director of Talent & Policy for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. As the largest regional business advocate in the greater Dayton region, the Dayton Area Chamber serves as the most trusted voice of business for nearly 2,200 businesses and organizations in southwest Ohio in a fourteen county region.

The chamber has been a strong supporter of the Dayton Convention Center, from the original task force which was comprised of private leaders, public leaders and hospitality leaders which identified our lack of hotel rooms as a challenge for the future success of the Dayton Convention Center. The chamber recognizes that a healthy, vibrant, and modern convention center supports both downtown businesses, as well as businesses and citizens located in our Dayton neighborhoods, in turn attracting workforce and driving local spending.

Accommodations have always been a part of the redevelopment plan and with the unexpected closure of the attached hotel, key stakeholders have been working on a solution for over 2 years, the chamber supports the proposed solution of a new adjacent headquarter hotel.

As we have seen in other communities, successful convention centers require a modern, flexible, attractive space, currently underway, and a nationally recognized headquarter hotel brand is a key driver of regional business.

The new and upcoming hotel openings of the Hotel Ardent and the Arcade's Hilton Garden Inn will be a welcome addition, but as the original identified there still leaves a large gap in the identified 500+ committable hotel rooms necessary to support regional business.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Montgomery County Convention Facilities Authority economic development agreement and proposed investment, and wishes to thank the commissioners for their leadership and vision to make Dayton a destination of choice.