

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS, BOUIE, CARTER, HARRIS AND HENRY

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Downtown Development District of New Orleans on its 50th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Downtown Development District (DDD) of New Orleans was created by the Louisiana State Legislature on July 12, 1974, as the Core Area Development District and it was the nation's first assessment-based business improvement district (BID); and

WHEREAS, the creation of the DDD marked a pioneering moment in urban development policy, allowing for a dedicated, locally funded entity to enhance services in the core urban area through economic development, public safety, cleanliness, and strategic capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, following voter approval in 1975, the DDD officially began operations with authority to levy a property tax in support of its mission and was later expanded through citywide referenda in 1979 and 2001 to extend its lifespan and bonding authority through the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the DDD is governed by an eleven member board of commissioners who are appointed by local elected officials and the board is composed to reflect the diversity of the downtown community and provides thoughtful guidance and oversight of DDD programs and policies; and

WHEREAS, the DDD service area is bounded by Iberville Street, the Pontchartrain Expressway, Claiborne Avenue, and the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the DDD has led numerous transformative projects including the seventeen million dollar Canal Street streetscape initiative, and it has successfully issued bonds to support wide reaching capital improvements, thereby enhancing the physical and economic infrastructure of downtown; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the DDD is to cultivate downtown New Orleans as a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative hub that attracts residents, businesses, artists, and visitors from around the globe to the downtown area to experience the city's unique cultural mosaic and rich architectural heritage; and

WHEREAS, through five decades of service, the DDD has helped position downtown New Orleans as a center for industries of the mind such as the biosciences, digital media, and the arts, while preserving its distinctive historic character and fostering a bustling environment of dining, music, shopping, and commerce.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Downtown Development District of New Orleans on its 50th anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Downtown Development District of New Orleans.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE