



BE DOWNTOWN.
D A Y T O N

November 29, 2022

To our downtown community and supporters:

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Dayton Holiday Festival. This celebration is not just about the festival itself - it's about celebrating a half century of making incredible holiday memories downtown with you. We want to thank all of you who've been sharing in this holiday tradition with us - including those who came downtown on Friday to attend or participate in our Dayton Holiday Festival kickoff events.



Friday night's festivities did not end with the celebratory mood we had planned for. As you're likely aware, a disturbance between some juveniles occurred and a gun shot was fired into the air during the Dayton Children's Parade Spectacular in Lights. The parade was abruptly canceled, but we are so thankful that no one was hurt. We are incredibly appreciative of the Dayton Police Department's immediate and quick action in responding to the disturbance. Each year, we work closely with the police to develop a safety plan for the festival and, moving forward, we will continue to work with them to evaluate those plans and adapt as necessary to ensure the festival remains as safe and welcoming as possible.

The end of Friday's celebration was and continues to be very disappointing for all of us, as we know it was for you. We are heartened by the fact that, up until the disturbance, it was truly an amazing night filled with holiday fun. We loved seeing all of you downtown and appreciate you coming out to welcome the holiday season downtown as we have for the last fifty years.

There are so many great things happening downtown, and an incident like this does not define who we are and what our city is about. We remain determined and resolute in our mission to grow our downtown, and continue working together to make it a place we all can enjoy. Toward that end, we have a fantastic lineup of events and activities planned throughout this holiday season, and look forward to seeing you downtown in the coming days. You'll find details at daytonholidayfestival.org.

As always, thank you for your support, and happy holidays.

Sandra K. Gudorf
President, Downtown Dayton Partnership

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