

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A BUSINESS CONTINUITY PROGRAM
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY CENTER PARTNERSHIP AND REPEALING ORDINANCE
18569**

WHEREAS, the City of Joliet ("City") is a Home Rule Municipality under and by virtue of the Constitution of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that ongoing and upcoming construction projects have caused and will continue to cause financial hardship to small businesses located in the downtown district; and

WHEREAS, the City, in partnership with the City Center Partnership (CCP), seeks to support affected businesses through the creation of the Business Continuity Program (BCP); and

WHEREAS, CCP has received feedback from its constituents and now seeks to amend the original guidelines of the Business Interruption Assistance (BIA) Program outlined in Ordinance 18569 to address constituent concerns and ensure equitable access to assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that Ordinance 18569 no longer serves its intended purpose and should be repealed to allow for the implementation of the amended program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOLIET, STATE OF ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Ordinance 18569 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 2: The City hereby establishes the Business Continuity Program (BCP), which shall provide financial assistance to eligible businesses located in the downtown district as defined in Exhibit A.

SECTION 3: The City of Joliet approved the allocation of \$50,000 from the Special Service Area on November 7, 2023, and an additional \$50,000 from the same funding source in 2024 to establish the Business Continuity Program. Funds of no more than \$5,000 will be disbursed to qualified applicants, per the program parameters in Exhibit A, as approved by the City Manager and/or their designee and the CCP.

SECTION 4: The City Manager, or their designee, is authorized to collaborate with the CCP to administer the BCP. The CCP shall have the authority, in its sole discretion, to approve applications, issue payments, and make determinations consistent with the program's objectives and amended guidelines.

SECTION 6: SEVERABILITY: If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in accordance with applicable law.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

VOTING YES: _____

VOTING NO: _____

NOT VOTING: _____