

San Rafael Chamber

May 6, 2013

Mayor Gary Phillips and City Council
City of San Rafael
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94915

Re: Proposed Downtown Ordinance – Business Improvement District

Dear Mayor Phillips and Council Members:

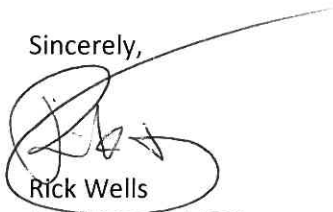
On behalf of the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors we are writing to share our support for the proposed city ordinance to expand the downtown Business Improvement District (BID) and levy assessments on all licensed businesses within the proposed district. The Chamber received an official request for support and the Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee heard a presentation from San Rafael BID Directors: Stan Gibbs, John Godsey, and Mike Lamorte regarding possible support of the proposed Downtown Ordinance. The request was ultimately directed to the Chamber Board of Directors for consideration.

The Board believes that the proposal is beneficial to the overall business climate in downtown San Rafael. Further, the Chamber Board voted to support the proposed BID ordinance with the following recommendations: First, that the BID make a concerted effort to continue to partner and collaborate with the Chamber whenever possible to encourage economic vitality. Second, to establish a formal relationship with the Chamber and consider drafting a memorandum of understanding with the Chamber to prevent any unnecessary overlap in activities. It was further recommended as part of the motion that the BID and Council consider the equity of their fee structure when renewing the ordinance in the future.

The Chamber is looking forward to continuing our support of the Business Improvement District. We are optimistic about expanding on our existing partnership and work with the BID in order to further complement each of our efforts.

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce believes that a healthy business community is invaluable to the community as a whole. We urge your approval of the new ordinance.

Sincerely,



Rick Wells
President and CEO

cc: Chamber Board of Directors
City Manager and Economic Development Department
BID Representatives