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Letters to the editor

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Downtown residents are champions for the Historic District

I am writing in response to the letter to the editor published on Aug.31 and headlined 'Historic District needs new champions.' In answer to the writer's question, the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) is one voice that speaks for the residents of the Historic District.

As examples of that voice working, the DNA pushed the city to enact the following ordinances: establishment of caps on the number of short-term vacation rentals (STVR) in each ward; creation of the hotel overlay limiting the building of large hotels in the downtown and residential area; stopping the establishment of unmanaged Inns to circumvent STVR caps; and placement of limits on where and when tour groups and quadricycles can operate. Each of these ordinances were initiated by the DNA. Additionally, the DNA fought against the establishment of double-decker tour buses and the building of a cruise ship terminal.

Currently, the DNA is advocating for the establishment of an ordinance limiting the building of large accessory dwelling units in lanes. Our members, who are residents of the Historic District, do not want large buildings or additional STVRs in the lanes. The DNA consistently advocates for the adherence to the Oglethorpe Plan. We have board members dedicated to zoning issues as well as quality of life issues that affect the Historic District. We agree that the strength of Savannah is its homeowners. Our homes are what bring the tourists and film industry to Savannah.

The DNA fights to protect our quality of life using the force of our members to ensure our voice is heard.

David B. McDonald, president
Savannah Downtown Neighborhood Association