From:	jhenderson62@comcast.net
To:	bbethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Cc:	Jackie Hatley; Mike Chestnut; Mike Lowder; Philip Render; Gregg Smith; johnkrajc@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject:	[External]Petition-Clean Up Downtown Myrtle Beach
Date:	Monday, June 8, 2020 9:37:51 PM
Attachments:	Social Media Comments-MB.pdf Petition Signatures 6-8-2020.pdf Petition Comments 6-8-2020.pdf

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Mayor Bethune and Council members,

My name is John Henderson and I live off of Glenns Bay Rd in Myrtle Beach. I have been coming here since 1972 when I was ten years old. I lived here from 1984-1988 while serving my country in the United States Air Force stationed at MBAFB. We purchased our home in 2014 and last year we made this our permanent home.

The current state of Ocean Blvd does not have the family feel it once had. I do not expect it to go back to what it once was, but many people do not feel safe going down there and you will see that from comments on the petition that was signed. I have even spoke with merchants who do not feel safe. We have vacant lots, homeless on the boardwalk and it is not a good look for a town that was once a premiere destination on the East Coast.

I remember years ago that police officers use to ride golf carts, walk and ride bikes up and down the Ocean Blvd especially in the evening, so you had little chance to get out of line. Ocean Blvd gave you the feeling that it was not the place to misbehave.

You had stated previously that you would not pay much attention to this petition since I do not live within the city limits of Myrtle Beach but I do shop and frequent businesses in the city which is revenue for the city. As you will see from the petition comments many people frequent downtown. One comment was from someone who owned a property on 38th Ave N. but is not a permanent resident who also pays the higher property tax rate. Are you saying that since they do not have voting rights that you do not care what they say?

I am asking you and the city council to please consider how unhappy many people are with the current state of Downtown Myrtle Beach.

I have attached the petition with 1,954 signatures and another attachment which has the comments that some signers left. Also, I am attaching a list of social media comments which I put together from various pages.

I will also be sending a copy of everything to Gov. McMaster

I look forward to hearing from you in response to the petition.

John Henderson
301-873-2010