

# SID For Improvements and Services

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What is a Special Improvement District (SID)?**

A special improvement district is a non-profit corporation, governed by trustees elected by the property owners of a neighborhood or downtown area, to provide specially-desired improvements and services.

### **2. What is the value?**

It provides property owners with a self-help mechanism to contract for special improvements and services, similar to a mall, for their business area. These special improvements and services are spelled out in an "improvement and service plan" and are in addition to improvements and services normally provided by the city. The owners of 60% of the front footage can legally approve the public improvements and special services plan. All owners then participate and pay their "fair share".

### **3. How is it established?**

Chapter 1710 of the Ohio Revised Code, effective September 28, 1994, provides that owners of 50% of the front footage of an area can petition City Council to create this self-help mechanism.

### **4. Who controls the SID?**

The SID is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees. Six board members are elected by the property owners and one board member is the mayor or his designee. The SID corporation contracts for the improvements and services.

### **5. How is it funded?**

It is funded by an agreed-upon "fair share" as set forth and petitioned for (second petition) by owners of 60% of the front footage in the district. The fair share is collected semi-annually as an assessment through the mechanism of the semi-annual real estate tax bill.

The city is not legally required to participate but rather agrees to participate and pay its fair share as a cooperative portion.

### **6. Can the SID be disbanded?**

Yes. Funding will automatically terminate in twelve years. It can be renewed, but owners of 60% of the front footage must petition for its continuation. If the SID proves to be unsuccessful, 20% of the property owners can petition for it to be disbanded at any time; 50% of the owners must then agree.