



# Frequently Asked Questions

*about Downtown BHM's Business Improvement District (BID)*

[downtownbhm.com/about/bid](https://downtownbhm.com/about/bid)

## What is a BID?

A Business Improvement District (BID), like the Downtown BHM BID, is enabled by state law and granted by city ordinance after property owners petition for their support. It is a district where property owners formally pool their resources to provide supplemental services that build on basic services provided by the city.

Determined with input from property owners, BID services can include security, litter pick-up, graffiti removal, pressure washing, district events, marketing programs, and other special projects. Services are funded by BID property owners via an assessment based on their appraised property values as determined by Jefferson County. Think of it as a homeowners' association for a business district. Those extra services make a place more competitive by creating a cleaner, more attractive district and giving it a distinctive identity.

The Downtown BHM BID Board contracts with REV Birmingham to manage the BID, which has been around in what is now the City Center sub-district since 1995. Since the BID's formation, the City Center has seen increased property values; decreased crime; and a cleaner, friendlier environment for residents, employees, and visitors to enjoy. Five Points South and The Switch joined the BID in December 2023, and services launched on July 1, 2024.

## What names has the BID been known by?

The legal name of the Downtown BHM BID is the City Center District Management Corporation, sometimes abbreviated as CCDMC. In the program's early years, the BID funded only CAP (City Action Partnership) services, which is the BID's Clean and Safe program. More recently, the BID funded Downtown BHM brand and website development ([downtownbhm.com](https://downtownbhm.com)), and, as new sub-districts have been added to the BID, we have begun saying "Downtown BHM BID" to be clearer than CCDMC and to be more inclusive of all districts.

## Who runs the Downtown BHM BID?

The BID Board is comprised entirely of property owners (or representatives of property owners) from all three sub-districts of the Downtown BHM BID: City Center, The Switch, and Five Points South. The Downtown BHM BID Board of Directors meets regularly throughout the year to set priorities for each sub-district's budget and nominate/appoint new board members who own property within each sub-district. The board schedule is published at [downtownbhm.com/about/bid](https://downtownbhm.com/about/bid).

## What services do you provide?

BID services, which are determined by a board of property owners, include a district manager who oversees the district and is the go-to person for district questions and problem solving; the CAP Clean and Safe program; district marketing ([downtownbhm.com](https://downtownbhm.com) + @downtownbhm on social media); and special projects approved by the board. CAP services, listed at [downtownbhm.com/cap](https://downtownbhm.com/cap), include safety

patrols, hospitality greetings and directions, homeless outreach services, litter pick-up, graffiti removal, and public space pressure washing.

### **What are the boundaries for BID/CAP Clean and Safe services?**

CAP provides services through its Clean and Safe program in public areas, not on private property. While CAP ambassadors may come into a building or business within the BID to check in with owners/tenants/stakeholders, CAP does not patrol these areas. This distinction includes open air areas on private property like courtyards or parking decks. You can see the BID service area map, including CAP Clean and Safe services, at [downtownbhm.com/about/bid/](http://downtownbhm.com/about/bid/).

### **How do I request CAP Clean and Safe services?**

You may call 205-251-0111 to request CAP services or report district issues (such as graffiti, litter, or panhandling).

### **How can I pay my invoice?**

Payment can be made online via credit card or ACH, or by mailing a check to City Center District Management at P.O. Box 11, Birmingham, AL 35201. To receive an electronic invoice with a link to pay online, please email [billing@downtownbhm.com](mailto:billing@downtownbhm.com).

### **Is this payment required?**

Per state legislation, every property owner in the BID must pay the annual special assessment (billed in October). Government, Religious, and Nonprofit properties are exempt from assessment, although many make voluntary contributions. You will receive this bill at the address you have on file with the Jefferson County Tax Assessor to receive annual tax bills, unless you have provided our team with an alternate address.

If you would like to change your billing address, please email [billing@downtownbhm.com](mailto:billing@downtownbhm.com). If payment is not received by the due date indicated on the invoice, the legislation allows lates fees, penalties and/or a lien to be placed on the property.

### **How do you calculate the assessment?**

In the City Center, invoices are billed at 0.1% of the appraised property value provided by Jefferson County at the time of invoicing. In Five Points South and The Switch, the rate is 0.3%.

For example, if a property is appraised at \$100,000, the assessment amount would be \$100 in the City Center and \$300 in The Switch and Five Points South. The rate is set higher in Five Points South and The Switch because property values in those districts are lower, mostly due to property size. The City Center sub-district contains tall office towers that generate more assessment revenue per acre. The goal of the BID is to provide the same level of service in the lower density districts as is provided in the City Center.

### **How do I get involved?**

Check [downtownbhm.com/about/bid/#districts](http://downtownbhm.com/about/bid/#districts) under the "Sub-district Information" tab for a list of upcoming public meetings, and fill out the newsletter sign-up form under the "Stay in Touch" subheading to receive emails with BID updates and more downtown news.