

For Immediate Release
September 9, 2009

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Councilman Dunaway Launches Attempt to Save Sullivan's

Anderson City Councilman Tom W. Dunaway, III announced today an initiative to save Sullivan's Metropolitan Grill from its anticipated closing on Saturday. Citing an overwhelming response from the public, his devotion to the revitalization of downtown Anderson, and his desire to see South Main Street's anchor remain open and vibrant, Councilman Dunaway called for an immediate summit between city officials and the Nickas family, owners of Sullivan's.

In announcing his efforts, Councilman Dunaway issued the following statement:

"The Sullivan's Metropolitan Grill and its real estate are the true anchors of South Main Street. Yesterday at lunch, the restaurant's traffic was over four times its recent average headcount. Last night, there was not an open table in the eatery. Anderson does not want to lose this dining establishment and they are making their feelings known.

If the city can be helpful, we would not be showing favoritism toward one individual business owner. We have an Anderson Development Corporation (ADC) organized for just this purpose of promoting downtown commerce and the creation or protection of jobs. The original Friends Restaurant, Corbett McGee's and Jax's were all recipients of ADC money. I cannot think of a more pressing or valid reason for exploring our financial options. Sullivan's has been featured in the Wall Street Journal and Southern Living magazine. No other establishment reflects our "new" downtown and the image of Anderson than this place.

To my knowledge, Sullivan's has never requested help from the ADC. If we can intercede on their behalf and keep this landmark open, that would be a win-win situation. I am asking Mayor Roberts and the city administrative team to immediately begin talks with Bill and Sabra Nickas and avert this disaster for downtown. Trees, streetscapes, and downtown art are useless without visitors and business patrons. We must be pro-active to save Sullivan's and I am asking the Mayor and City Manager to step forward in a leadership capacity."

Councilman Dunaway has been on Anderson City Council for 29 years and has served on the Downtown Committee since its inception.