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## **Downtown Bremerton Association Proposes \$30,000 Partnership to Preserve and Improve Downtown Outdoor Dining**

*DBA offers funding and a collaborative path toward a permanent streateries program ahead of the October 15 deadline.*

**BREMERTON, Wash.** — The Downtown Bremerton Association (DBA) today released a partnership proposal asking the City of Bremerton to keep downtown's three existing streateries in place under a written, safety-checked transition while the City adopts a permanent outdoor dining program. DBA's board has approved an initial \$30,000 to help downtown restaurants bring their streateries and sidewalk cafés up to a consistent, code-compliant standard.

The City has asked that the current streateries be removed by October 15, 2026. The proposal asks the City for three things:

1. **A bridge before October 15.** A written extension of the removal date for the three current streateries — Local Boys and Remedy on 4th Street and South Pacific on 1st Street — with interim permits through April 30, 2027 for each one that passes a safety check, while owners file complete permit applications.
2. **A permanent program.** Action on the streateries and sidewalk café ordinance the City Council received on September 22 (proposed BMC Chapter 11.07), which sets safety, accessibility and insurance standards and includes a transition for existing streateries. If the Administration prefers its own program, DBA asks that it include the same transition.
3. **Shared designs.** Optional standard streateries designs, funded by DBA, that the City can include in its design manual so restaurants can build to an approved design.

“We share the City's goal of a safe, accessible, well-kept public right-of-way,” said Jessica Combs, Executive Director of the Downtown Bremerton Association. “This proposal gets safety checks done now, gives every current streateries a clear path to

either a permit or removal, and puts better outdoor dining in place for the 2027 season, without an abrupt loss for the restaurants and staff who depend on it.”

**Safety first during the transition.** Under the proposal, DBA and City staff would jointly verify interim conditions within 30 days: stable structures with no trip hazards, an accessible route from the sidewalk with no gap or step at the curb, an unobstructed sidewalk, reflective markers facing traffic, clear sight lines at crosswalks, hydrants and driveways, and current liability insurance naming the City as additional insured. City fire and traffic staff could inspect at any time and close a streateries immediately for a hazard. No new streateries would be added until a permanent program is in place.

The City and the businesses disagree about whether the current permits remain in effect. DBA takes no side in that dispute; the proposal asks for a fresh, written transition so the question does not have to be settled first.

**A supporting role, not a permitting one.** Each business would apply for and hold its own permit, carry required insurance, sign the City's hold-harmless agreement, and remain responsible for upkeep, compliance and removal. The City keeps full authority to approve, condition, inspect, suspend or revoke any permit. DBA's role is to fund design work, help restaurants prepare complete applications, and bring downtown businesses together as one coordinated voice.

**Funding.** The initial \$30,000 is intended to support optional standard designs and engineering, help with permit applications and required safety and accessibility improvements, and an outdoor dining assistance fund for compliant improvements such as accessible dining surfaces, barriers, and railings. DBA plans to grow that amount by recruiting contributors through the Washington Main Street Tax Credit Incentive Program, which gives eligible contributors a state B&O or public utility tax credit worth 75% of their contribution, and through a community fundraising campaign. DBA became a designated Washington Main Street Community on January 1, 2026.

**A proven path.** Other Washington cities have made the same transition. Walla Walla made streateries permanent in June 2025, giving existing operators 90 days to meet operating standards and until year's end to meet construction standards. Wenatchee and Everett also run established programs, with Wenatchee's code giving its downtown association a formal role.

“Streateries have become part of downtown Bremerton's character and a real source of revenue for our local businesses,” Combs said. “We're ready to put funding and work behind a permanent program, and we look forward to building it together with the City.”

DBA has asked to present the proposal at the Public Works Committee on October 20 and to the City Council on October 21. The target opening for the 2027 outdoor dining season is May 1, 2027.

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### **ABOUT DOWNTOWN BREMERTON ASSOCIATION**

We are a community-focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of our city's downtown core utilizing the [Main Street Approach®](#), a nationwide, time-tested framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization. We are partnered with the City of Bremerton to manage and curate events and activations for Quincy Square.

Our team of Board Members, Employees, and Volunteers are dedicated to cultivating Downtown Bremerton as the crossroad for connection, community investment, and culture.

We envision Downtown Bremerton as an intersection of art, connections, and heritage - where everyone can find their community.

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