



LOCAL FIRST

The voice of La Plata County's local, independent business community.

January 26, 2022

Jose Madrigal, City Manager
Kim Baxter, Mayor
Barbara Noseworthy, Mayor Pro Tem
Melissa Youssef, Councilor
Jessika Buell, Councilor
Olivier Bosmans, Councilor
Hal Doughty, Durango Fire Chief
Durango Fire Protection District Board

Dear Durango City Council and Durango Fire Protection District:

The Local First Board of Directors submits the following recommendations to the City of Durango and the Durango Fire Protection District regarding the former 9R Administration building.

Local First serves as an advocate for locally-owned, independent businesses in La Plata County and we are concerned that the proposal to move the Fire Department and Police Department into the former 9R Administration building will have a significant impact on the sense of place and economic opportunity for downtown Durango. We have been approached by business owners and community members who are concerned by the proposed changes and would like more information about how it will affect future opportunities for locally-owned, independent businesses.

1. We request that the City and Fire Protection District prioritize an economic impact analysis for the proposed redevelopment so that businesses and community members are better informed about potential community impacts.
2. Additionally, we reiterate our stance that opportunities for public input during this process are critical to ensure community cooperation, comfort, and support of any redevelopment.

With these two actions, the City and Fire Protection District can effectively inform and include the public in this process while ensuring that all entities involved in the proposed development are aware of the impacts it may have. Thank you for your time and consideration, please let us know if you have any questions or want to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Emily Bell, Local First Managing Director
Local First Board of Directors

