

**From:** [Eric Fonstein](#)  
**To:** [Lara Weisiger](#); [Irma Glidden](#); [Ashley Zieba](#)  
**Cc:** [Lois Butler](#); [Kathy Weber](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] DABA BIA  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 11:12:11 AM

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Hi Lara, Irma, and Ashley,  
We received the email below, related to item 5-O on the May 7 agenda. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks, Eric.

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**From:** Cathy Barber [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:24 PM  
**To:** Eric Fonstein <efonstein@alamedaca.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DABA BIA

Good afternoon,

Allow me to introduce myself with a strong need to ask questions.

I am a psychotherapist who moved into 1926 Park Street, Ste #2, last fall. I was taken aback by the extra fees I need to pay to be a part of DABA. I have yet to see any improvements in my area. What kind of improvements are planned for Area B businesses?

I can tell you what I need to make my business more successful that I hope DABA can provide.

The intersection of Park and Blanding is loud and harrowing to pedestrians. I and many of my clients walk slowly due to illness and arthritis. The walk lights are too short. Only if I start to cross at the start of the walk sign, I barely make it to the other side -this for crossing both Blanding and Park. And heaven forbid you are stuck in the middle of the street when the walk sign turns to a red hand. Suddenly pedestrians are invisible or intentionally getting in the way of cars. I have been nearly struck on more than one occasion. I need the walk sign times to be extended significantly in order to cross safely. Cars do not believe pedestrians have right of way at that intersection.

In addition, please add a protected left turn from Park to Blanding. The crazy driving that takes place when half of Park Street drivers are stuck behind someone making a left is scary and noisy. The "no left turn" sign is ignored.

Finally, how does DABA support my business? I know psychotherapy is an outlier business for Park Street, but how does being a member support my work?

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter. I am new to DABA and really don't know what to expect.

Sincerely,

Cathy Barber, LMFT  
[REDACTED]

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