

Leona Agouridis

Leona Agouridis is the executive director of the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID), the 43 square block area of the central business district that connects the White House to Dupont Circle. Since assuming leadership of the Golden Triangle BID in 2006, she has transformed the organization from a two-person operation focused on cleaning and trash removal to one that fulfills its broader mission to supplement city services and create an environment that supports sustained economic vitality.

Leona provides the long-term vision and management for creating a unique downtown experience in the Golden Triangle, as seen through the success of several programs, many of them in conjunction with the District government. These include the Connecticut Avenue median, installation of public art throughout the neighborhood, the construction of rain gardens at 19th and L Streets, and the activation of Farragut Square. Furthermore, Leona's ensures that the neighborhood is clean and safe by leading the Golden Triangle's Ambassador Program and its Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness programs, both of which are considered best in class nationally.

Leona improves neighborhood security and advances individual and corporate emergency preparedness through strong partnerships and active engagement, innovative educational opportunities, and value-added systems. As the executive director, Leona regularly works with public safety leaders and members of the community before, during, and after emergencies and critical incidents. She aims to ensure the business community is adequately prepared to respond and recover from emergencies and incidents that disrupt business operations and the economy. Leona has promoted a variety of preparedness topics with businesses in the Golden Triangle BID, such as active shooter, tenant emergency and shelter-in-place planning, suspicious activity reporting, business continuity, and commuter safety. Leona has led the Golden Triangle BID through numerous neighborhood-wide emergencies, disruptive incidents, and National Special Security Events, such as the 2011 earthquake, 2015 Papal Visit, 2016 power outage (21-buildings), 6 presidentially declared major disasters related to severe weather, and 3 Presidential Inaugurations. Due to these efforts, the Golden Triangle BID has won two FEMA awards for individual and community preparedness.

Leona brings more than 30 years of leadership experience with a strong background in public relations, agency operations, and executive management. Prior to joining the Golden Triangle BID, Leona was an assistant general manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). On September 11, 2001, Leona oversaw and managed WMATA communications. In response, she increased rider and employee awareness and vigilance through a number of public and internal strategic campaigns. Prior to becoming assistant general manager, Leona served as WMATA's director of media relations, rebuilding the media relations office and function following a deadly accident and subsequent NTSB investigation.

Prior to working at Metro, Leona was the Registrar of Voters for the District of Columbia.

Education

M.A. English, University of Virginia, 1983

B.A. English, Lehigh University, 1982 Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude