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January 18, 2011

Chief Keith McCaskill
Winnipeg Police Service
Box 1680 - 151 Princess Street
Public Safety Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 2Z7

Re: Downtown Safety, Follow up

Dear Chief McCaskill:

Thank you again for meeting with us recently.

I know you share the same goals as the business community in ensuring that our downtown is safe, both from a statistical perspective and in terms of perceptions about the social challenges of our downtown.

The support of the Winnipeg Police Service has been fundamental to the ongoing and overall programming of the BIZ safety programs from our Outreach program to the Watch and our Downtown Security Network.

In our continued efforts to achieve our goals, below is a summary of our meeting and request.

1. That the City makes a financial contribution towards the continuation of the Outreach program for 2011 and assist us in securing a long-term and sustainable approach to funding. Attached is the most current report on our program and budget. We would request that the City, as a partner, match the business community's cash contribution of \$100,000.00. Our hope is to then leverage our contribution and ask the Province of Manitoba to participate as well.
2. As indicated, the BIZ may be open to submitting a proposal to the WPS in which the BIZ would contract the Outreach Program to the Cadet Program, under the right conditions.
3. That the WPS assist us in better managing the ongoing panhandling issues on Portage Avenue. The BIZ has created a new initiative called Portage Avenue Alive. Please see enclosed summary. Our request is that the City provides Cadets and/or Police Foot Patrols as part of this overall thrust providing extra policing in managing these social issues.

CAN WE GET YOU ANYTHING? 

On items 1 and 3, the BIZ has asked to approach the City Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services during the budget consultation process.

On behalf of our members, thank you for your ongoing commitment to downtown safety and support of the BIZ

Sincerely,

Stefano Grande, B.Sc., M.C.P.
Executive Director

Cc Councillor Gord Steeves, City of Winnipeg
Krista Boryskavich, Executive Policy Secretariat, City of Winnipeg
Alex Robinson, Deputy CAO, City of Winnipeg
Mike Ruta, Acting CAO, City of Winnipeg
Mayor Sam Katz, City of Winnipeg
Kevin Donnelly, Chair Downtown Winnipeg BIZ

Enclosures