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January 18, 2011

Mike Ruta, Acting CAO  
City of Winnipeg  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 510 Main Street  
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

**Re: Request for Funding Consideration for Downtown Safety Programs, 2011**

Dear Mike:

The Downtown BIZ would like to request that the City of Winnipeg consider the following budget and resources requests from the downtown, to enhance downtown safety for 2011.

Subsequently, we would like to make a presentation at the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

The support of the City has been fundamental to the ongoing and overall programming of the Downtown BIZ safety programs from our Outreach Initiatives. The Downtown BIZ believes that these programs are not only working, but need to be sustained and grown to address the ongoing and significant business and public concerns regarding downtown safety. And we believe a partnership approach is critical.

Attached is a letter sent to the Mayor's Office in late 2010, which further emphasizes our concerns on downtown safety and the negative impacts in not better managing this issue.

In our continued efforts to achieve our downtown safety goals, below is a summary of our funding request.

1. That the City provides a financial contribution towards the continuation of the Outreach program for 2011 and assists 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 goal is to then leverage our contribution and ask the same from the Province of Manitoba.

2. This summer, with the anticipated support of the Winnipeg Police Service the BIZ would like to play a role better managing the ongoing and serious 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 this social issue. The BIZ will be investing over \$250,000 in cash towards this new safety initiative, and the business and property owners are currently being asked to make a contribution as well. We would like the City to make a commitment to ending panhandling on and around Portage Avenue, the economic engine of our City where significant investments are being made and also considered as part of the overall Sports and Entertainment District initiative. We would request that the City make a commitment of 10 dedicated Cadets and/or Foot Patrols committed and sustained to this area, as part of our Portage Avenue Alive Initiative.

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  
Ross McGowan, CEO, CentreVenture Development Corporation  
Mayor Sam Katz, City of Winnipeg  
Kevin Donnelly, Chair Downtown Winnipeg BIZ

Enclosures