

The Downtown Outreach Initiative

Prepared by the Downtown BIZ
Funding Request
City of Winnipeg
March 2009

A partnership with the:

WINNIPEG PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

ENTENTE DE PARTENARIAT DE WINNIPEG

Background

- An innovative partnership between the City of Winnipeg, the Downtown Business community (BIZ) and the Province of Manitoba.

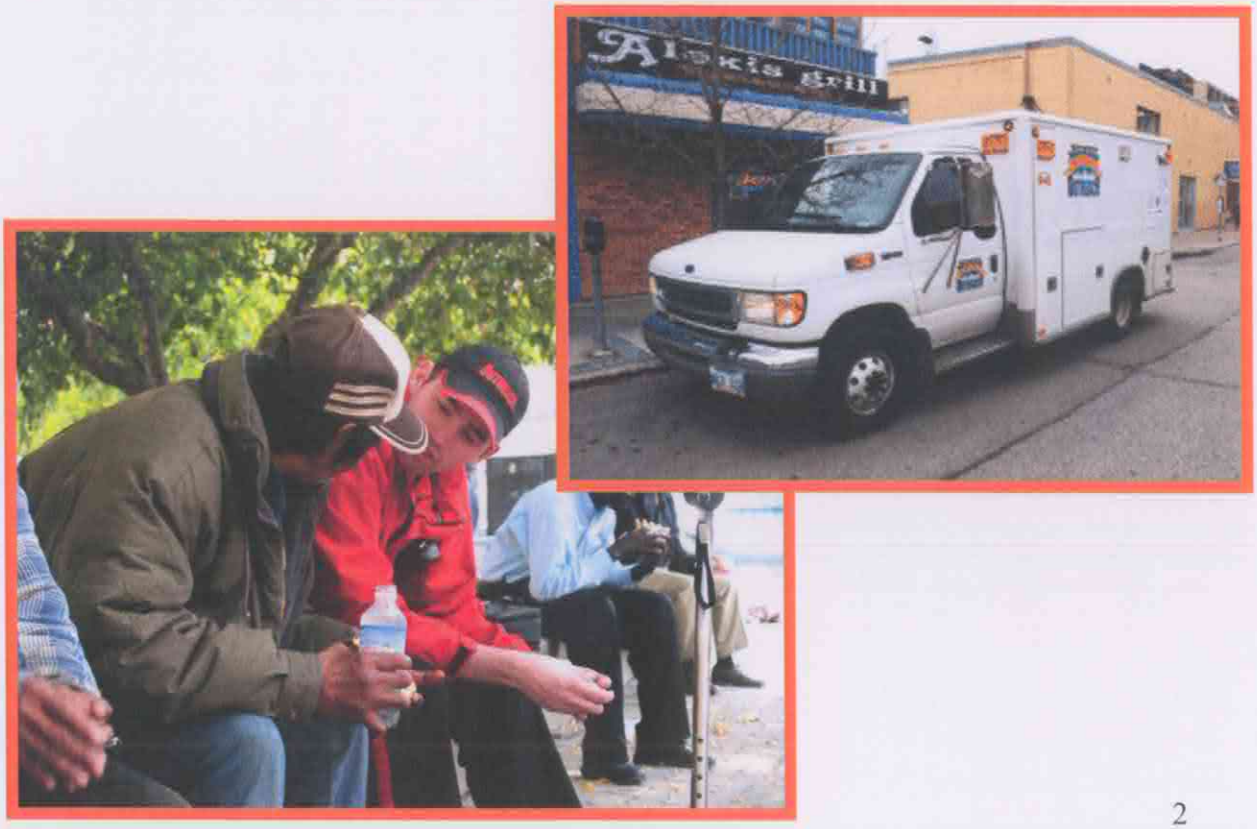
- This initiative runs from 2006 to 2009 (September 30th)

- Cost of the Three Year Program / Contributions

Province	$617,000 (cash)
City of Winnipeg	$387,000 (in kind)
BIZ	$509,000 (cash + in kind)
Total	**$1,513,000**

- Funded by the Winnipeg Partnership Initiative.

- Initiative involves specially trained BIZ Watch staff (the Outreach) to provide outreach services for those at risk and to enforce the IPDA Act in the Downtown. IPDA powers of arrest have been provided to the BIZ over the period of the agreement.



- Strongly supported by the Winnipeg Police, Fire Department and Paramedic departments.

The Goal

To quickly assist intoxicated people in the Downtown and help them off the street and into a safer environment, improving public safety as a result.



Results to Date

The program has been implemented successfully and to date, has delivered on the primary goals envisioned.

- Over 4000 IPDA with average response time less then 10 minutes (compares to previous response times of 55 plus).

- Twenty per cent of the individuals have been diverted to alternative locations other than the Main Street Project. This has saved the City dollars.

- Individuals at risk have been saved from the elements because of such timely response.



- The City now has a resource that is able to respond to public intoxication and quickly.

- Saving the City over $1 million per year in providing this alternative service delivery. Fire, Police and Paramedic departments are no longer tied up for hours dealing with these minor level incidents, thus allowing them to be able to respond much quicker to more serious calls.

- The partnership has been so successful that these services have been expanded to include Sunday and Monday from 0730-2330 hours and Tuesday to Saturday from 0730-0400 hours, providing even more benefit to the City.

- Perceptions are changing, "City and the BIZ are doing something about public intoxication".



- Preparing youth to enter WPS, trained to higher levels.

The Issues and Funding Request

2009 - Year Budget (Note for 12 months)

BIZ	$83,000 (cash)
City of Winnipeg (WPA)	$114,000 (in kind)
Province (WPA)	$71,000 (cash)
Shortfall	*$177,500 (cash)*
Total	**$445,500.00**

- In October we were advised by the City of Winnipeg that the Downtown Assessed Rental Value (ARV) has decreased and so too has the value in which the BIZ budget is set from.

- In 2007 the ARV for the Downtown was at $107,104,160.00, while in 2009 it will be reduced to $89,074,484.

- Accordingly the BIZ annual budget for 2009 has decreased by over $200,000.00 from 2007.

- This loss of business assessment was unexpected. Given the level of Downtown development activity a natural increase in BIZ levy was expected and this would have led to an increased budget for the BIZ Outreach program.

- We advised the partners of the WPA Agreement, immediately.

- The BIZ requires assistance from the partners to complete the program until the end of the year.

- Over the last month the BIZ has been able to reduce this shortfall in the budget to $147,000, through sponsors / partnership. This amount represents the shortfall until the end of the year.

- The BIZ requests that the WPA Agreement be re-opened to address this situation with the cooperation of the Province.

- The BIZ requests that the WPA Agreement be re-opened and the City contribute financially (up to $147,000 gap) to help the BIZ complete this successful initiative, until the end of the year.

- The BIZ has also sent a letter to the Provincial Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs requesting same.