WINNIPEG SAFE CITY INITIATIVE

SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES
UN WOMEN GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

April 29th, 2022

Mayor Bowman and members of Council,

On April 6th, 2022, at the Standing Policy Committee of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works (SPC-IRPW), several survivors of sexual violence in taxicabs appeared in delegations to support VFH By-Law 129/2017. We offer this position statement as an expression of our support to the brave women and men who came forward that day. We also acknowledge the countless others who were not present but live with the impacts of being targeted by sexualized and racialized violence while using taxicabs in the City of Winnipeg.

As a signatory of UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme, approving the Taxicab Drivers' Code of Conduct is the bare minimum that the City of Winnipeg can do to ensure that all women and girls, particularly Indigenous and BIPOC women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, have protection from sexual harassment, assault and/or exploitation. Doing so will reflect the City of Winnipeg's commitment to its own Indigenous Accord as well as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. Additionally, by increasing accountability mechanisms, this Code will also further professionalize the taxicab industry.

Not only do we envision a city in which all women and girls are free from sexual harassment, assault and exploitation, we also strive for a city in which all women and girls feel free to move through public space with safety, ease, and confidence. Supporting the implementation of the VFH By-Law 129/2017 moves us all closer to that reality.

Respectfully,

Crystal Van Den Bussche, MSW, RSW
Coordinator – **Winnipeg Safe City Initiative**
E: CVanDenBussche@winnipeg.ca