DOWNTOWN WINNIPEG BIZ

January 16, 2024

Executive Policy Committee
Council Building
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Executive Policy Committee,

My submission today is in support of agenda item eighteen. At the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, we promote, care and advocate for a vibrant and inclusive downtown. To have businesses actively seek to become members of our Business Improvement Zone is an honour and a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team.

Since 2020, downtown has seen more businesses close than open. This has a direct impact on our budget, as less businesses in our zone result in decreased Annual Rental Value (ARV). In fact, the ARV of our zone has dropped 12% since 2020, yet our team continues to deliver at a high level of service. In our most recent survey, over 80% of BIZ members say they are satisfied with the value the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ provides.

We are also seeing a shift in usage of buildings across downtown; while we certainly welcome and advocate for increased residential development and best use of buildings, the transformation of downtown also impacts our total budget.

In this changing landscape, we are committed to continue offering a high level of service throughout our zone and welcoming the businesses within this small expansion.

A strong and vibrant downtown is critical for the future success of our entire city and the more individuals and organizations contributing to revitalization, the more improvement we will see. We are excited to work with new members and continue to partner with the City of Winnipeg to serve the needs of our downtown community.

Sincerely,

Kate Fenske
CEO, Downtown Winnipeg BIZ
kate@downtownwinnipegbiz.com
204-958-4622