THE
EXCHANGE
DISTRICT BIZ

492 MAIN STREET WINNIPEG, MANITOBA CANADA R3B 1B7 P. 204.942.6716 F. 204.943.8741
EXCHANGEDISTRICT.ORG

Members of EPC,

The Exchange District BIZ is a key partner in the City's management of our downtown's historic core. Working on behalf of 400 businesses, our staff work year round to clean, maintain, and beautify our public spaces, work with partners to add vibrancy and activity, and boost visitation and economic development in the area.

Over 70% of our operations are funded by our members through the BIZ levy, with a portion of our work coming through municipal grants in exchange for providing services to assist the City of Winnipeg in maintaining the public realm. These include grants for graffiti removal, transit shelter cleanliness and general cleanliness.

In the draft municipal budget, the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ has received a significant increase of $110,000 for two of these grants, "Transit shelter cleanliness" and "Biz zone cleanliness." We are requesting consideration for a commensurate increase for the same two grants.

Examined as a basic fee-for-service model, the grant allocation proposed in the draft municipal budget is as follows (Appendix 2, p 308):

**Downtown Winnipeg BIZ**

BZC Grant: $608/block
($152,000 for 250 blocks)

TSC Grant: $2,916.67/shelter
($175,000 for 60 shelters)

**Exchange District BIZ**

BZC Grant: $320/block
($8,000 for 25 blocks)

TSC Grant: $1250/shelter
($10,000 for 6 shelters)

We are requesting increases to match the per-block and per-shelter costs of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ— a total of $15,200 for the BZC and $23,328 for the TSC (a total increase of $20,528). The funding will allow us to improve service levels by adding additional Maintenance and Beautification worker hours year-round as well as upgrading equipment for deeper cleaning and better efficiency.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Dear Mayor Gillingham and Councillor Browaty,

We are writing to thank you for prioritizing downtown renewal and cleanliness in this year's budget and to request a small amount of additional funding for the Exchange District to better support that work.

First, we were pleased to see the headline budget include additional funding of $110,000 for downtown cleanliness, and the new earmarked hotel tax increase. However, we were surprised to see that the entirety of that funding is earmarked for the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ with no increase for the Exchange District BIZ. This was particularly disappointing since funding levels were already disproportionate.

Both the DWB and the EDB receive grants for "Biz zone cleanliness (BZC)" and "Transit shelter cleanliness (TSC)," and contribute significantly to these efforts well beyond the allocated funding. In our opinion, a simple and fair way to consider the grants is to view them as equivalent to fees for services that we maximize by leveraging our member levies, going above and beyond what the city can efficiently deliver on its own. On that basis, here's how the grant funding breaks-out:

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As per the City's Strategic Priorities Action Plan and its reflection in the multiyear budget, Winnipeg's Downtown is a priority. We believe that includes the Exchange District as one of the city's preeminent attractions for Winnipeggers and visitors alike. Your support in the essential work of keeping sidewalks, laneways, open spaces, and transit shelters is an important part of ensuring this National Historic Site remains clean, safe, and attractive for all.

Thank you for your support for our shared Downtown and for your consideration,

Mary Agnes Welch,
Chair

David Pensato,
Executive Director