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July 6, 2009

Province of Manitoba - Justice
Dave Chomiak
104 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

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Dear Honourable Minister Chomiak:

On behalf of the Downtown BIZ, I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us recently to discuss the success and continuation of our Outreach Program.

Your feedback is important to us, and we were pleased to hear that there is good community support for the Downtown BIZ Outreach project.

Please find enclosed the plan, based on your feedback, for the continuation of the Outreach Program. In the appendix is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation provided at the meeting.

Our initiative would not have been possible without the leadership and support of the Province, the City of Winnipeg, and specifically the Winnipeg Police and Fire Paramedic services.

We believe this program is making a difference in enhancing downtown safety and helping those most vulnerable to move off the street and into a safer environment. Your endorsement has given us the confidence to proceed in working with our partners to develop a permanent program for our downtown.

Over the next several months the BIZ will be meeting with the various levels of government to develop a sustainable funding approach for our Outreach Initiative. But we need your continued support.

It would be appreciated if your organization can provide a letter of support for the Outreach program **before July 15th, 2009**. Please address the letter to the Chair of the Downtown BIZ, Ms. Jackie Stephen.

In addition, if there are opportunities to form funding partnerships, Stefano will be in touch to discuss further.

Thank you for your time and support for this important initiative.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stefano Grande".

Stefano Grande B.Sc., M.C.P.
Executive Director



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September 25, 2009

Province of Manitoba
Minister of Justice David Chomiak
Room 104 – 450 Broadway
Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

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Dear Honourable Minister Chomiak:

Re: Downtown BIZ – Outreach Services

Please accept this letter from the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ as a request to meet with the Minister of Justice for reasons as outlined below.

Under the Winnipeg Partnership agreement, the Province of Manitoba, the Federal Government of Canada, and the City of Winnipeg have partnered with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ in the delivery of the Downtown Outreach Initiative.

Recent analysis indicates the three-year-pilot project, which comes to an end on December 31, 2009, has been a success in every measurable category.

The program is a model of how community and governments can work together to address common safety and social concerns, while maximizing the stretched resources of the City's fire, paramedic and police services. This community-based solution has proven effective and is strongly supported by all sectors of the community.

As indicated in the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement, the Downtown BIZ would like to continue with this important initiative permanently.

The City of Winnipeg, along with the support of Winnipeg Police, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, and other partners, has been working with the BIZ to finalize funding partnerships on a go-forward basis.

The BIZ would like to also provide this service outside our downtown boundaries with partners who share common goals, e.g. the Health Sciences Centre. However, the BIZ has recently been advised by Manitoba Justice that under the City's BIZ Charter (section 435), the Downtown BIZ cannot operate the Outreach program outside its boundaries, primarily due to provincial liability concerns.

Manitoba Justice has told the Downtown BIZ they will not appoint BIZ employees to enforce the IPDA outside BIZ boundaries, unless the City provides a letter to them confirming the area in question is within the boundaries of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone.

While the BIZ has received legal advice contrary to this requirement, the BIZ has decided to work in good faith with Manitoba Justice, and has asked the City to make the necessary changes.

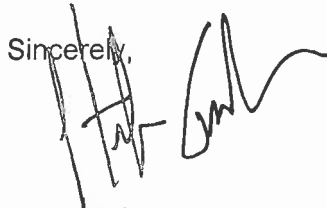
We anticipate this letter from the City is forthcoming.

Given the impending continuation of the Outreach Program, the Downtown BIZ would like to meet to confirm the following:

1. The Province of Manitoba continues to support this partnership and that Manitoba Justice works with the Downtown BIZ to maintain the spirit of cooperation created by the Outreach Program to enhance our community.
2. Manitoba Justice continues to appoint BIZ staff (Outreach Patrols) within current Downtown BIZ boundaries, as per the normal conditions of the appointments.
3. Manitoba Justice, upon receipt of a letter from the City of Winnipeg extending the Downtown BIZ boundaries for the Outreach Program, confirms they will not withhold appointments to BIZ staff to enforce the IPDA in these areas.
4. Manitoba Justice is forthcoming on any further issues that may prevent the Downtown BIZ from moving forward in this initiative on a permanent basis.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



Stefano Grande B.Sc., M.C.P.
Executive Director

Cc: Ron Lemieux, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Province of Manitoba
Chief Jim Brennan, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Chief Keith McCaskill, Winnipeg Police Service
Alex Robinson, Deputy Chief Administrative, Officer City of Winnipeg
Inonge Aliaga, Urban Development Branch, Intergovernmental Affairs
Jackie Stephens, Chair, Downtown Winnipeg BIZ
Charlene Muloin, Registrar, Province of Manitoba – Justice
Helen Clark, Chief Allied Health Officer, Health Sciences Centre