

OUTREACH WORKS

*Re: 'Keep policing in our hands,'
Marc Pellerin, Sept. 23.*

Pellerin is correct, police should be the only ones doing police work. The Downtown BIZ's Outreach program focuses on helping intoxicated people and has the support and endorsement of the chief of police and the chief of fire and paramedic services.

In 99.9% of cases, the Outreach team transports people whose only infraction is public intoxication to a safe place. The work

Sun, Sept. 26/09

Outreach members do is not pretty — many times those being handled are dirty, soiled or covered in vomit. While unpleasant, it doesn't require the services of police to see them to a safer environment. Through ongoing and frequent dialogue with community police representatives, police administration and police who work "the beat" downtown, we know rank and file members appreciate that they are not bogged down with the time-consuming task of transporting people to a safe haven.

Outreach members are armed with all the training requirements requested by both the city and the province, and we are mindful that there is some peril in being on the front lines. We continue to hope that none of our members will ever be faced with a threat to their safety. This however, does not diminish from the reality that the Outreach program works, should be supported and should

become a consistent platform in the multi-tiered efforts to maintain safe, clean streets downtown and everywhere.

KEVIN DONNELLY
CHAIR, DOWNTOWN WINNIPEG
BIZ SAFETY COMMITTEE
It fills a vital role, no doubt.