

October 27, 2023

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee
City of London

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA GRANTS TO ADDRESS IMPACTS OF HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Members of Council,

On behalf of the London InterCommunity Health Centre, I am writing to support the recommendation to provide grants to the Downtown London Business Association and the Old East Village Association to begin addressing the impacts of the Health and Homelessness crisis on their members.

We believe that the plan to build a network of Hubs and grow our stock of Highly Supportive Housing are critical elements of turning the tide of this crisis. As we work to implement our new approach, core area businesses will continue to struggle with the day-to-day impacts – it is critical that we support our Business Improvement Areas to assist their members through this unprecedented time.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to core area business owners and their BIA representatives for their open and earnest participation in the Health and Homelessness movement. The Health and Homelessness summits deepened our understanding and appreciation for the impacts of this crisis on our core area businesses, and helped us find common cause in our frustrations, and more importantly in finding our resolve to dig in and find solutions together. We learned that we may approach this issue from different perspectives, but in the end, we want to accomplish the same things. It has been a pleasure working in partnership with our business leaders, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Regards,



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