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London  
CANADA

October 30, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you with regard to item 2.2 on the SPPC agenda and the staff recommendations for funding support for the Downtown London and OEV BIAs for mitigating health and homelessness impacts.

While we recognize that the Downtown London & OEV BIAs are experiencing higher intensity impacts in their catchment areas than the Hamilton Road and Argyle BIAs are experiencing, nonetheless there is still significant impacts on the east end BIAs as well. Both the Hamilton Rd & Argyle BIA Executive Directors are spending very significant portions of their work hours—and sometimes after hours—focused on assisting businesses with navigating these challenges.

We also recognize that increasing police budgets, standing-up of the HUBS system, creating supportive housing space and more housing in general, are all better, more sustainable in the long term, options to help BIAs thrive. However, bridging the need today with the work council is already doing on those better long-term directions is critical. And while our BIAs have ideas to mitigate the impacts, they do not have the fiscal capacity to undertake these on their own.

We have had preliminary discussions with our BIAs since the SPPC report was made public and while this has not been sufficient time to work out a detailed plan, our BIAs are happy to work jointly to develop a shared approach to maximize a return on investment from the city. To that end, we are asking for an amendment to the staff recommendation with the following new clause:

*That, a one-time grant of \$250,000 to the Argyle and Hamilton Road Business Improvement Associations be APPROVED, with funding to be sourced from the Operating Budget Contingency Reserve funds.*

Sincerely,

Shawn Lewis  
Deputy Mayor  
Ward 2 Councillor

Hadleigh McAlister  
Ward 1 Councillor