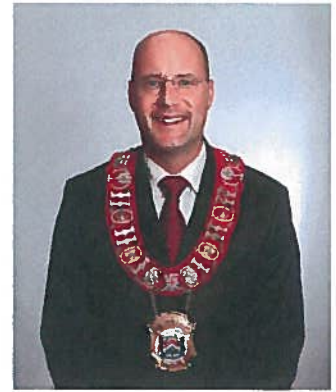




London
CANADA

OFFICE
OF MAYOR
MATT BROWN



April 24, 2017

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Office of Executive Director, UN Women
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
United States

RE: UN Women's Safe City Initiative - City of London, Ontario CANADA

Dear Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,

I am writing to express interest in participating in UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Program Initiative (FPI) following our conversations with Laura Capobianco, Advisor, Safe Public Spaces, in the Ending Violence against Women Section in UN Women Headquarters. I understand that the goal of this Global FPI is to assist local authorities in making their cities and public spaces inclusive, safe, smart and sustainable, so that all can enjoy the opportunities that cities afford. We understand that there are several important benefits that would be available to the City of London in participating in this Global Initiative including; access to knowledge and tools, technical assistance, and participation in networking and advocacy in the areas of prevention of sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls.

I am very concerned about recent incidences of sexual violence on public transportation, and acknowledge the voice of woman survivors who have come forward to report the issue and access our services, and want to build with us a strong prevention initiative. The city has developed a number of initiatives and policies aimed at increasing safety among women, girls, and men and boys. We know that 1/3 Canadian women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. We also know that locally, sexual violence is common—locally Sexual Assault Centre London has a counselling wait list of over 50 individuals, and serves over 750 individual survivors through counselling and answers over 1000 calls on our sexual assault crisis line every year. Like other cities around the world we are committed to ensure that public spaces are safe for everyone.

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Therefore, the city of London would like to participate as a champion city in UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Program Initiative because we would like to strengthen our policies on gender equity and ending violence against women and girls. As a first step we will commit consider committing resources in 2017 to conduct with multi-sectoral partners an initial scoping study, drawing on UN Women's Safe Public Spaces Global Guidance Notes and Tools. We have identified several community partners who are willing to participate including academic researchers at Western University and ANOVA (Sexual Assault Centre London and Women's Community House).

Our expectations from this partnership with UN Women are to receive updates on latest developments or cross regional results of the Global FPI, to be given a designated focal point in UN Women Eliminating Violence Against Women Section to discuss our initiative as it develops following the review of key stages of the program following review of UN Women Global Technical Guidance Notes on Safe Cities.

I have appointed Marcel Marcellin, Senior Policy Advisor, as a Coordinator for the program located in my office, who assuming council's approval, will be responsible for all aspects of program development and implementation supported by our city's budget, as well as communication and reporting to UN Women, as will be agreed by both parties. Marcel Marcellin will report directly to me, and will have my personal support and the support of relevant heads of other departments of the city administration. We will also consider a relevant budget to support some of the start-up activities informed by the program design process.

Finally, I would like to thank UN Women for exemplary leadership in this founding strategic and innovative program that brings together all important areas of UN Women's mandate. Your expertise in women's economic empowerment, peace and security political participation, ending violence against women and girls, and relevant research is very much needed to achieve women's rights and gender equity at regional, national and global levels. I also thank you kindly for your interest in engaging with the city of London.

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Sincerely,

Mayor Matt Brown
City of London

Cc: Kalliopi Mingeirou, Chief of EAW Section (OIC):

kalliopi.mingeirou@unwomen.org

Marie Elena John, Special Assistant to Executive Director: marie-
elena.john@unwomen.org

Purna Sen: Director of Policy Division purna.sen@unwomen.org

Laura Capobianco, UN Women Advisor, Safe Public Spaces:
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Louise Nylin, Programme Advisor (ECA): louise.nylin@unwomen.org

Encl: Short City Profile
Anova Support Letter

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