

From: [Silvia Martini](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Email - Communication - Silvia Martini - Municipal Economic Enhancement Program MEEP - CK 1860-1 X 270-7
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Attachments: [2020_06_11_meep_gpc_meeting_letter_.pdf](#)

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Submitted by anonymous user: 68.147.61.74:55520

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, June 11, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

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City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7K1N3

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Please see below mentioned organizations.

Subject Municipal Economic Enhancement Program

Meeting (if known) GPC June 15th

Comments

Please accept the attached letter on behalf of the following organizations to be included into the meeting package for the GPC on June 15th:

- The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Business Improvement District
- Riversdale Business Improvement District
- Broadway Business Improvement District
- Sutherland Business Improvement District
- 33rd Street Business Improvement District
- SREDA
- NSBA

Thank you

Attachments

[2020_06_11_meep_gpc_meeting_letter_.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/393575>

June 11, 2020

Office of the City Clerk

City of Saskatoon
222 Third Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Attention Saskatoon City Council:

Re: Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP)

This letter is regarding the recently announced Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP), where the City of Saskatoon will receive approximately \$35.5 million from the Government of Saskatchewan related to financial recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We understand that City Council will be considering a list of previously identified capital projects that would receive funding through MEEP. We also understand the Province has identified Protective Services as a category for eligible projects.

Over the past few months and years, events have shone a spotlight on the question of safety in Downtown Saskatoon and the broader City Centre area. We are proud of the vibrant, dynamic, and diverse district that has evolved over the past number of years and want to be welcoming to all people and accept that a growing city has challenges.

Efforts have been made for many years around building a safe Downtown and Riversdale. While the issues of mental health, addictions, and homelessness are complex, focused, and immediate resources are needed to address the safety in these key commercial districts.

As you deliberate the allocation of these funds, we are requesting that an investment be made in Saskatoon's City Centre by tackling the following Protective Services projects:

1. Develop a comprehensive Downtown policing strategy complete with tactics and actions to deal with the realities of policing a Downtown district and place community safety as the top priority. This Downtown policing strategy can be modeled after the Centerline Downtown Safety initiative started by the Winnipeg Police Service in 2016, which includes some of the following goals and measures:

- Improve public perception by focusing resources on public nuisance behaviour that is detrimental to the enjoyment of public spaces;
- Police resources assigned ownership of a geographical area within Downtown.

- Support problem-oriented policing by tackling the cause of the problem, yet ensuring that enforcing existing laws is top of mind when dealing with issues that presently exist and often repeatedly occur;
 - Incorporate performance metrics that include perceived safety in the Downtown and Riversdale areas.
2. Develop a communications plan that will urge Downtown businesses and all citizens to report incidents that require Police attention. The Police need to know where incidents are occurring so they can intervene, act, and analyze trends.
 3. Implement a pilot project with the Provincial Ministries of Social Services and Health that examine new ways of dealing with mental health and addictions issues that are prevalent in an effort to address root causes and focus on treatment and recovery.
 4. Finally, the importance of foot and bike patrols in the City Centre can not be overstated. Not only can police officers enforce laws and play a key role working with service providers to find innovative ways to deal with the issues that present themselves daily.

These combined efforts and dedicated resources will assist in addressing the immediate challenges and hopefully ensure that solutions are found to improve things for the benefit of everyone concerned. We need to act today, and the funding allocated from the Province offers out community that opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with our municipal elected officials and administration closely on this particularly important matter.

Sincerely,



Silvia Martini
CEO
Greater Saskatoon
Chamber of Commerce



Brent Penner
Executive Director
Downtown Saskatoon
Business Improvement District



Randy Pshebylo
Executive Director
Riversdale Business
Improvement District



DeeAnn Mercier
Executive Director
Broadway Business
Improvement District



Sheldon Wasylenko
Board Chair
Sutherland Business
Improvement District



Dan Matthews
Executive Director
33rd Street Business
Improvement District



Alex Fallon
CEO
SREDA



Keith Moen
Executive Director
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