

## Walter, Penny

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**Subject:** FW: Comments - Parviz Yazdani - Action Required to Restore Safety and Vitality to Downtown Saskatoon  
**Attachments:** Open Letter to the Mayor and Council.docx.pdf

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 9, 2025 3:03 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Subject:** Comments - Parviz Yazdani - Action Required to Restore Safety and Vitality to Downtown Saskatoon

--- Replies to this email will go [REDACTED]

Submitted on Monday, June 9, 2025 - 14:59

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

**I have read and understand the above statements.:** Yes

**I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.:** No

**I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.:** No

**Date:** Monday, June 09, 2025

**To:** Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** He/him/his

**First Name:** Parviz

**Last Name:** Yazdani

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** Par-VEEZ Yaz-DAWNI

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] 21st St E

**Ward:** Ward 6

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** NEESH Dental, BLOK Dental Studio, Botté Persian Cafe and Kitchen

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** June 11 City Council Meeting

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 6.3.1

**Comments:**

June 9, 2025

Mayor Cynthia Block and Members of City Council  
City of Saskatoon  
222 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Re: Urgent Action Required to Restore Safety and Vitality to Downtown Saskatoon

Dear Mayor Block and Members of Council,

The downtown of any city is more than just a geographic center — it is a barometer of that city's health, identity, and civic philosophy. It reflects how we care for our citizens, how we interact with public space, and how we build a shared urban future. A thriving downtown signals prosperity, safety, and cohesion. But when the downtown core is neglected or unsafe, it becomes a symptom—and often the cause—of deeper urban decay. If the heart of a city is left to decline, no matter how strong the fabric of its citizenry, the city itself begins to unravel. Downtown must be the best part of Saskatoon — walkable, safe, inspiring, and inclusive. It must set the standard for the entire city. Without that commitment, we risk becoming a city whose center ceases to matter, and whose future falters as a result.

As the owner of NEESH Dental, located on the corner of 21st Street and 4th Avenue, and BLOK Dental Studio in the Riversdale district on Avenue B South, I write to you not only as a long-standing downtown business operator, but as someone who has invested deeply in the wellbeing, livability, and long-term success of our city's core.

Over the past 25 years, I have witnessed downtown Saskatoon evolve through economic shifts and urban renewal efforts. However, what we are experiencing now is not a temporary downturn or a growing pain—it is a compounding crisis that is jeopardizing the very fabric of our downtown.

At our Riversdale location, staff and patients have faced repeated incidents of theft, vandalism, and vehicle break-ins. The area has become increasingly volatile, and while police presence exists, it is clearly insufficient to deter criminal behaviour or assure public safety. At NEESH Dental, the issue is more insidious but no less serious: a growing sense among clients and staff that downtown Saskatoon is no longer safe. More than once, patients have had their vehicles broken into—losing valuable tools, books, and electronics. Staff often walk to their cars in groups after dark for fear of what they may encounter. These are not isolated incidents. They are a reflection of a broader erosion of safety and trust.

The visibility of the transient and unhoused population has also increased sharply. While we must approach poverty, addiction, and mental health with compassion and strategy, we must also be frank:

the unchecked clustering of social disorder in the downtown core is pushing businesses, employees, and customers away. This does not serve anyone—least of all those who are struggling.

The idea that downtown Saskatoon can remain the heart of our city without urgent intervention is misguided. If current trends continue, the economic, social, and civic consequences will not be confined to Riversdale or the Central Business District—they will ripple outward, weakening the city's reputation, economy, and cohesion.

We urge City Council to take decisive and immediate action on the following:

Reallocate and expand visible police and security presence throughout downtown and Riversdale, especially during early mornings and late evenings.

Dramatically increase lighting and maintenance of public spaces, including alleys, sidewalks, and parking zones, to enhance perceived and actual safety.

Establish a dedicated downtown safety and revitalization task force—with representation from municipal leadership, business owners, community organizations, and residents—to develop a coordinated and accountable plan with measurable outcomes.

Cease the development and concentration of shelter facilities within the downtown core, and instead pursue modern, supportive, and innovative housing models in areas where they can function without destabilizing the commercial center.

Commit to a long-term, citywide strategy that integrates social services, mental health support, housing-first approaches, and community policing in a way that serves vulnerable populations and protects public space and

economic vitality.

This is not just a business concern—it is a civic imperative. When downtown is unsafe, the whole city suffers. When downtown thrives, everyone benefits.

City Council has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to ensure that downtown Saskatoon becomes, once again, a place where families, businesses, workers, and visitors feel welcome, safe, and proud to be.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome further dialogue and stand ready to support any serious efforts toward long-term solutions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Parviz Yazdani

Owner, NEESH Dental & BLOK Dental Studio



**Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No**

June 9, 2025

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