



May 12, 2019

His Worship Mayor Clark and City Councillors
Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services
City Hall
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Members of SPC on PDCS,

Re: Item 7.2.4 Streamlining the Downtown Development Process

Downtown Saskatoon is supportive of the recommendation in the report that the program remains strategically focused on the Downtown, with the stated goal of catalyzing new development within a concentrated area.

This essential theme was also one realized in the recent Destination Downtown workshop held in March 2019 led by Mr. Larry Beasley and a team of visiting experts and approximately 50 Saskatoon residents. While the report was only recently circulated to the participants and will be the subject of upcoming reports to this committee and to City Council, it is worth noting that one of the outcomes of the workshop was that “the inner-city is too big and the power and breadth of market supply and demand as well as government resources are not strong enough to support or sustain random investment.”

The report before you today aligns with the notion expressed by Mr. Beasley that “phasing for development of the Downtown must be clearly sorted out, and actions need to build upon one another.” We look forward to the planned refresh of the 2013 City Centre Plan and continued efforts on behalf of the City of Saskatoon to support this important district for our city and region.

I would like to thank Galen Heinrichs, Brent McAdam, Lesley Anderson, and Lynne Lacroix for their efforts on this report, and in the entire process regarding Downtown development.

Sincerely,

Brent Penner
Executive Director