



September 2, 2020

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services
Province of Saskatchewan
Room 303, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

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

Dear Minister Merriman and Mayor Clark,

Re: Another Concern Regarding Negative Street Activity in Downtown Saskatoon

As a follow-up to letters dated *July 22, August 6, and August 11*, here is another communication received by our office regarding concerns about negative street activity in our district.

On September 2, 2020, I received the following email from Murray Helmer, a resident of Saskatoon. Mr. Helmer consented to have his comments shared along with his name. Mr. Helmer's email came the day after another stabbing that occurred either inside or outside The Dube Lighthouse in the 200 block of 20th Street East, see Saskatoon Police Service Media Release 2020-0616 related to Occurrence Number 2020-89735:

I'm sorry to say that my family and I will no longer be doing any business in Downtown Saskatoon until The Lighthouse is moved or closed and the people from it are dealt with. I just can't risk getting mugged or stabbed as happened yesterday!

Mr. Helmer's concerns are similar to others received recently and follow letters and public statements from the Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District over the last several months. Again, the purpose of sharing comments such as this is to assist those responsible in shaping public policy and delivering services to realize that the status quo is



creating challenging and unsafe situations for everyone, and we must seek new ways of doing things or risk an escalation of the present-day situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Penner'.

Brent Penner
Executive Director

cc: Chris Beavis, Chair, Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District
Murray Helmer
Deputy Premier Gordon Wyant, Q.C.
Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Health, Province of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon City Councillors
Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners
Chief Troy Cooper, Saskatoon Police Service
Supt. Randy Huisman, Saskatoon Police Service
Insp. Cameron McBride, Saskatoon Police Service
Rob Garrison, Community Support Program
Don Windels, The Lighthouse
Silvia Martini, Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
Randy Pshebylo, Riversdale Business Improvement District
Todd Brandt, CEO, Tourism Saskatoon