



September 8, 2020

Dear Mayor Carter,

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Oshawa Business Improvement Association Members and Board of Directors to express our sincere thanks for the efforts the City has taken to address the issues in the Downtown core. However, the situation is escalating and we are in desperate need for more to be done.

Our members have clearly expressed their concerns in our regular discussions, and most recently have made their feelings well known identifying safety and security in the Downtown as a top priority issue needing immediate attention. The impact of Covid-19 has only served to amplify the situation, as the frequency and extent of incidents have escalated considerably. Our members have seen increased acts of vandalism, crime, and social disrespect, to the point that it is creating a growing tension in our community that is becoming untenable as businesses are trying to desperately recover from Covid-19 impact.

We are grateful for the programs already in place that address these issues, such as the Welcoming Streets Initiative, the On-Point needle program, increased private security patrols, as well as support services such as Mission United. However, the rising number of incidents and growing prevalence of unsheltered persons remains of great concern for our community's overall health and safety. Although the above-mentioned efforts have been helpful, Downtown needs greater changes to ensure a vibrant, inviting, safe and economically sustainable place for our businesses, our out of town visitors and our extended community. That is why, we believe, greater investment in policing is needed now in Downtown Oshawa to show an increased and visible presence of law and order that will help address and deter the criminality aspect for the safety and well-being of our community.

Our recent visit with you and other community members touring the Downtown area reaffirms what our members are clearly expressing; more needs to be done. We want our focus to return to beautification, economic growth, and creating a vibrant, inviting Downtown. We are calling on the City of Oshawa to help support downtown businesses, and to ensure that everyone feels safe, and has a sense of belonging within our community. We would be pleased to accompany and support you on your quest to secure additional resources to combat this amplified situation in Oshawa's Downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ivano Labricciosa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ivano Labricciosa
Chair, Oshawa Downtown BIA Board