

TORONTO FINANCIAL DISTRICT BIA

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June 20, 2014

Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti
100 Queen Street West, Suite B27
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Mammoliti:

**RE: A RESILIENT TORONTO THAT ATTRACTS GLOBAL BUSINESS
PE28.6 RESILIENT CITY – PREPARING FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE**

As the Business Improvement Area representing Toronto's Financial District, we greatly appreciate the opportunity we've had to participate in consultations leading up to the release of *Resilient City—Preparing for a Changing Climate*. We look forward to further working with City Staff to ensure infrastructure resiliency becomes a key strategic priority for the City of Toronto.

The area we represent is Toronto's most dense employment centre, including 15% of the city's jobs in our 15 square blocks. An additional 6,000,000 sq. ft. of office space is under construction within a 10 minute walk of Union Station – more than three-quarters of all office construction across the city. As we experience this unprecedented development, **our consultations with key Financial District stakeholders reveal growing concerns regarding the pace with which the public sector is investing in new infrastructure.** Winter and summer storms in 2013 revealed further vulnerabilities that, if left unaddressed, will be detrimental to Toronto's economic competitiveness.

We strongly support the work accomplished so far with *Resilient City – Preparing for Changing Climate*, and encourage the City to approve recommendations outlined in the report, specifically:

- **Escalating infrastructure resiliency to a senior level**, such as the City Manager's office, is crucial to ensuring Toronto makes infrastructure resiliency a key competitive advantage when competing for business retention and attraction in the global economy; and
- The Toronto Financial District BIA participate as a key stakeholder in future public-private collaborations, such as the WeatherWise Partnership, **to ensure that private sector stakeholders have an opportunity to assist in identifying infrastructure priorities**, vulnerabilities and risks that could impact the economic viability of the downtown core.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this study. Infrastructure resiliency is a significant priority for our Financial District and the City of Toronto. Please contact me directly at ghumes@torontofinancialdistrict.com if we can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GHUMES".

Grant Humes
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Sarah Doucette
Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon
Councillor James Pasternak
Councillor Gord Perks
Councillor Jaye Robinson
Rob Rossini, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer City of Toronto
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