October 11, 2013

Councillor David Shiner
Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West, Suite B39
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Councillor Shiner:

RE: COMMUNICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING OCTOBER 15, 2013 MEETING – AGENDA ITEM # GM25.7, UNION STATION REVITALIZATION PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

At the October 15, 2013 Meeting the Government Management Committee will receive a report on Agenda Item # GM25.7 -- Union Station Revitalization Project - Status Update. This report indicates that completion of the Union Station Revitalization project will be significantly above the original budget.

As an organization representing business in the financial core, the Financial District Business Improvement Area applauds good management practice that supports ensuring that projects are completed in a timely and budget conscious fashion. The goal of the revitalization is to create an iconic gateway and primary transportation hub for both citizens and tourists. With a six-year construction schedule, this project has had and will continue to have a significant impact on many businesses and citizens.

It is important that the finished project creates a superb public realm experience on Front Street, with high-level sidewalk materials, pedestrian lighting, landscaping and street furnishing.

In the case of Union Station, we realize that site condition issues have increased planned expenditure; however, we strongly urge that this project be completed to the high level originally envisioned, and that as recommended in the report to the committee, appropriate funds are provided to ensure that the Union Station Revitalization project is completed as originally planned.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (416) 849-3856.

Regards,

Grant Humes
Executive Director

cc:  Councillor Vincent Crisanti
     Councillor Doug Ford
     Councillor Mary Fragedakis
     Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti
     Councillor Pam McConnell
     Candy Davidovits, Committee Secretariat