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,

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
Candy Davidovits (Secretariat Contact)
Jim Baxter, Director of the Environment and Energy Division
Mark Bekkering, Manager, Implementation & Support Environment and Energy Division
David T. MacLeod, Senior Environmental Specialist Environment & Energy Division