Greetings Saint Paul Downtown Improvement District Steering Committee,

I wanted to let you all know that today we enter the next phase of the process to create the Saint Paul Downtown Improvement District. After distributing petitions packets to all commercial property owners in the proposed district, we have received signed petitions representing from over 60% of the district. That is more than twice the support required by the state to create the district, and a level of support that provides some optimism that the district will survive the objection period as the process continues over the next three months. This afternoon, we will submit those signed petitions to the Saint Paul City Clerk. This will formally initiate the City’s process to establish the district through ordinance.

On July 15, we have been invited to present both an overview of improvement districts in general, and our recommendations specifically to the Saint Paul City Council during a policy session. These policy sessions are essentially study sessions to discuss various topics generally without any formal resolution or ordinance implications. Over the next six weeks city staff will check the veracity of our petitions and prepare ordinance language as well as budget details to be introduced in mid-August. It is our plan to have the ordinance passed in September with the objection period to follow.

As we step into this next phase, we will be advancing work on our end. First, we have initiated the process of finalizing a pathway to spend City funds and Downtown Alliance funds to build out the Fusion Center in the police offices of the 401 Building. We will also be finalizing the job description and beginning the search process for a safety and security director this month. Finally, we will begin to legally create a new 501-(c)6 nonprofit to be the governing body for the Downtown Improvement District.

Thank you all for your leadership and your partnership so far in this endeavor. Your commitment to collaboration, cooperation, and flexibility is what will ultimately help us endure these challenging days and make our downtown better than it has ever been.

Dear Shari Moore,

Please see the attached petitions of support from property owners wishing to create a Special Service District (aka Downtown Improvement District) according to Minnesota Statute Chapter 428A. You will find that the petitioners surpass the requirements of 428A.08 and are eager for the city to establish a special service district consistent with the management plan that is also attached.

As staff of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, we have been in communication with the Mayor and his staff, the City Council and their staff, as well as the City Attorney’s office and the Office of Financial Services. We will be presenting at a policy session later this month, and look forward to working with staff and elected officials to create a Downtown Improvement District.

Please confirm that you have received this note and its attachment upon receipt. You can contact me at any time if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Joe