Mitchell Street Business Improvement District 1635 S 8th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-383-6601 fax 414-383-2334 BID #4

November 6, 2007

Members of the Common Council City of Milwaukee 200 E Wells Street Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: item 21, 2008 proposed budget

To all concerned:

This amendment has us both confused and disappointed. We realize that many council members do not have the historical information concerning the money given to business improvement districts from the special purpose account and are relying only on research provided by the LRB.

There was a time when our business improvement district was supplied with assessed values of city owned property within the BID district. Even though the assessed value hasn't been supplied for a number years, I think it's fair to assume that the value has not decreased. Over 30,000,000 in schools and other city owned property within the bid doesn't contribute toward bid assessments yet one can reasonably argue that the city does benefit from bid activities.

Our bid was given the \$25,000 with the understanding that bid activities also benefit those properties owned by the city. I believe we have maintained our part of the bargain. We have removed well over \$260,000 worth of graffiti in the past ten years, we installed and paid for our own lighting system when the city was not able to and we have taken strong stands against crime to name a few.

If this cut is made, it will effectively eliminate any graffiti removal program we have remaining after the other city cuts made directly to the graffiti abatement program the past year. It will be a large step backwards just as things were looking hopeful.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider this action.

Sincerely,

Judi Keller

Executive Director

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