



**Downtown
Kitchener**
Business
Improvement
Area

January 20, 2025
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
260 King St. W., #200
Kitchener, Ontario

MEMBER SAFETY - MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Alex Robson, Coven Market
Adam Mawer, Workhaus
Aislinn Clancy, MPP – Kitchener Centre
Alexandra Giovanatto, Downtown Kitchener BIA
Alicia Weber, Shoppers Drug Mart
Amanda Case, 3DLifestyle
Amber Kuhn, Bobby O'Brien's
Aura Hertzog, City of Kitchener
Betty Simpson, Building Owner
Breanna Crossman, Downtown Kitchener BIA
Brian Bennett, City of Kitchener
Bridget Hinnegan, THEMUSEUM
Cameron Dale, Kitchener Market
Cara Watson, AOK Craft Beer + Arcade
Colleen James, Regional Councillor
Sgt. Amanda Henning, Waterloo Regional Police Service
Cory Bluhm, City of Kitchener
Craig Beattie, Perimeter Development
Cynthia Sundberg, Virtual Causeway
Dan Chapman, City of Kitchener
Darryl Moore, CMG Entertainment
David Marskell, THEMUSEUM
David Mullock, Waterloo Regional Police Service
Dawn Tran, Matter of Taste Coffee Bar
Debbie Chapman, Ward 9 Councillor
Donna-Marie Pye, Relish Cooking Studio
Drew Gillingham, DiBattista Group
Eda Dede, MPP – Aislinn Clancy
Faith Igbinedion, 3DLifestyle
Gloria MacNeil, City of Kitchener
Leah Bisch, Starbucks
Linda Jutzi, Downtown Kitchener BIA
Lorena Canjura, Mi Tienda Latina
Lori Karpow, Hollywood Weddings Inc.
Lori Muller, Downtown Kitchener BIA
Lucas Pelletier, Alex Vanrugen
Mandy Derry, Crabby Joes
Maria Burjoski, Relish Cooking Studio
Marta Generoux, Ziggy's Cycle
Martha Wallace, Momentum Developments
Mayor Berry Vrbanovic, City of Kitchener
Megan Goodchild, The Attic Yoga
Mike Morrice, MP – Kitchener Centre
Mike, Double Double
Miki Ferrall, Crafty Ramen
Miranda Campbell, White Tiger Vintage
Mohit Malik, Big D's Hot Chicken
Nour Alhariri, Alhariri Shop Clothing Store
Patience Moses, MPP – Aislinn Clancy
Pavesh Patel, Union Burger
Peter Greaves, Marlowe
Peter Sweeney, Region of Waterloo
Phong Tran, Matter of Taste Coffee Bar
Poojan Patel, Tamasha
Rick Endrulat, Virtual Causeway
Sam Prout, Grand Trunk Saloon
SJ McLean, The Grand Surf Lounge
Staff Superintendent John Goodman, Waterloo Regional Police Service
Stefanie Golling, Downtown Kitchener BIA
Stephanie Stretch, Ward 10 Councillor

Helen Fylactou, City of Kitchener
Inspector Gzima Dietrich, Waterloo Regional Police Service
Irfan Darsot, Ace Shawarma and Big D's Hot Chicken
Jamie Lauckner, Libro Credit Union
Jay Shah, 165 King Street West
Jayden East, Sativa Bliss Cannabis Boutique
Jessica Toomer, Libro Credit Union
Jon Rennie, odd duck
Jordan Dolson, Legacy Greens
Katherine Martin, Perimeter Development
Kathy Kerekes, Scotiabank
Laird Robertson, NEO Architecture
Lane Burman, Cocoon Spathecary

Sumit Gupta, Shivi Perfumery
Superintendent Sloden Lackovic, Waterloo Regional Police Service
Sydney Laurie, Marlowe
Terry Pender, Waterloo Region Record
Tim Kennedy, Lowland Properties
Constable Tori Harshman, Waterloo Regional Police Service
Tyson Ferneyhough, Crabby Joes
Tyzun James, Café Pyrus
Vajih Rajabi, 2020 Vision Clinic
Vipul Patel, Tamasha
Yasin Mohamed, Sahars Kitchen
Zafar Khan, Shoppers Drug Mart

The meeting began with Darryl Moore as Chair.

OPENING STATEMENTS

Mayor Berry Vrbanovic kicked off the meeting by thanking the BIA for its collaboration in tackling safety concerns and introducing representatives from the City of Kitchener. Mayor Vrbanovic shared that this is an opportunity for them to listen and welcome thoughts and ideas from member businesses on what the City of Kitchener and its partners can do to assist in making downtown better.

Darryl Moore introduced representatives from the Region of Waterloo, Member of Parliament and Provincial Parliament for Kitchener Centre, and Waterloo Regional Police Services.

On behalf of Chief Mark Crowell, Staff Superintendent John Goodman introduced representatives from Waterloo Regional Police Services and shared their hopes that we can collaborate and work towards solutions together after today's meeting.

Reflecting on the Town Hall meeting in November 2024, where frustrations were voiced, Mr. Moore acknowledged the overwhelming response and that the meeting's format was designed to ensure the appropriate representatives have the chance to hear member voices.

MEMBER STATEMENTS

The following businesses shared statements:

- Cynthia Sundberg, Virtual Causeway
- Jay Shaw, Building Owner: 165 King Street West
- David Marskell, THEMUSEUM
- Ramin Hayratiyan, Serrinia Café (electronic submission)
- Tyson Ferneyhough, Crabby Joes (electronic submission)
- Drew Gillingham, DiBattista Group

- Jacob Landman, Marche Leos (electronic submission)
- Phong Tran, Matter of Taste
- Alicia Weber, Shoppers Drug Mart
- Marta Generoux, Ziggy's Cycle (electronic submission)
- Vajih Rajabi, 2020 Vision Clinic
- Bernie Nimer, Ridgewood Holdings Inc.
- Tony Oliveira, DNA (electronic submission)
- Lane Burman, Cocoon Spathecary
- Craig Beattie, Perimeter
- Indira Vaughan, Mark's Caribbean Kitchen (electronic submission)
- Amber Kohn, Bobby O'Brien's
- Donna-Marie Pye and Maria Burjoski, Relish Cooking Studio
- Alex Robson, Coven Market (electronic submission)
- Miki Ferrall, Crafty Ramen
- Jamie Lauckner, Libro Credit Union
- Kathy Kerekes, Scotiabank
- Irfan Darsot, Ace Shawarma and Big D's Hot Chicken
- Pavesh Patel, Union Burger (electronic submission)
- Jon Rennie, odd duck
- Sumit Gupta, Shivi Perfumery
- Tyzun James, Café Pyrus
- Adam Mawer, Workhaus
- Vipul Patel, Tamasha
- Betty Simpson, Building Owner
- Nour Alhariri, Alhariri Shop Clothing Store
- Sam Prout, Grand Trunk Saloon
- Sydney Laurie, Marlowe

Key concerns addressed by the businesses:

- Increasing issues such as break-ins, drug use, and vandalism, highlighting the impact on safety and operations for both staff and customers.
- Significant financial burdens due to security costs, theft and damages.
- The need for a prioritized and transparent plan, including proactive measures to address public safety.

Requests for action include:

- Increased police presence, effective solutions, and prioritization of safety measures.
- Urgent need for support, resources, and collaboration to address safety challenges.
- A transparent, actionable, and timely plan to address safety issues.
- Advocacy to higher levels of government.

Linda Jutzi thanked the businesses for coming and sharing their challenges and observations.

REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENTS

The following representatives shared statements:

- Mike Morrice, MP – Kitchener Centre
- Aislinn Clancy, MPP – Kitchener Centre
- Staff Superintendent John Goodman, Waterloo Regional Police Service
- Colleen James, Regional Councillor
- Peter Sweeney, Region of Waterloo
- Mayor Berry Urbanovic, City of Kitchener
- Dan Chapman, City of Kitchener

Key items addressed by the representatives:

- Thanks and acknowledgement to members for coming together to ensure downtown can thrive.
- The value of developing strategies, ensuring dollars are spent in the right places, and that people feel safe.
- Importance of reporting incidents. Waterloo Regional Police Service will use data to allocate resources for solution-driven response.
- A collective commitment to engaging in the process for a safe downtown.

Linda Jutzi thanked members for sharing their challenges and noted the desire to facilitate a future meeting for representatives to share steps that will be taken to address member concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned.