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(734)668.7112
(734)668.7261
P.O. Box 7596

Ann Arbor, MI 48107
www.mainstreet
annarbor.org

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
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March 9, 2009

Mayor John Hieftje
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Hieftje and Members of City Council,

The members of the Main Street Area Association would like to encourage you to reconsider the 2010 City budget proposal which would eliminate 14 police officers.

The Ann Arbor Police Department is a vital part of our community. Specific to downtown, the beat officers who patrol the streets are essential to keeping downtown safe and in turn lively, desirable and economically healthy. Studies and surveys show time and time again that safety is a top consideration for visitors when considering venturing out to explore a new area. Maintaining Ann Arbor's reputation of being a safe community is more important now than ever before. These difficult economic times call for action to ensure we keep our reputation as a safe and fantastic downtown to visit, live, and do business.

The Police Department has a direct impact on the quality of life of every individual in our city. The AAPD attracts the best and the brightest officers. The short term effect of losing 14 officers would be devastating to the community. The long term effect would be the inability to attract the best candidates to serve in the Ann Arbor Police Department.

The Police Department is often taken for granted. They take care of business every day without most citizens realizing the impact this department has on life in Ann Arbor.

Once again I urge you to reconsider these proposed budget cuts.

Sincerely,

Newcombe Clark
President
Main Street Area Association

Maura Thomson
Executive Director
Main Street Area Association