

July 13, 2026

Dear Community Leaders, Elected Officials, and Members of the Media,

Please find enclosed an Open Letter from the Maryland–Sherbrook Community Supporting Safer Streets Through the Winnipeg Police Service Safety Enforcement Initiative.

This letter represents the collective voice of businesses, property owners, residents, employees, and community organizations who live and work in one of Winnipeg's most resilient and diverse neighbourhoods.

We are issuing this letter because the level of violence and public safety concerns affecting our community has escalated significantly in recent months. These challenges are impacting businesses, frontline workers, families, students, seniors, and visitors who deserve to feel safe in their own neighbourhood.

Our community supports the Winnipeg Police Service's public safety enforcement initiative because residents, businesses, employees, students, and visitors deserve to feel safe in the places where they live, work, learn, and gather.

This open letter has been endorsed by a growing coalition of community partners who share a common goal: restoring safety, confidence, and opportunity throughout the Maryland–Sherbrook neighbourhood and the West End.

We encourage you to read the enclosed letter and consider the experiences of those who live, work, volunteer, study, and operate businesses in this community every day. We hope it contributes to a constructive dialogue about the shared responsibility of creating safer neighbourhoods while continuing to support those most in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Maryland–Sherbrook Community

Representing businesses, property owners, residents, employees, community organizations, and stakeholders committed to a safer, stronger West End.

Contact

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WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

July 13, 2026

An Open Letter from Maryland-Sherbrook Community

Supporting Safer Streets Through the Winnipeg Police Service Safety Enforcement Initiative

The Maryland-Sherbrook Community is speaking publicly because the level of violence in our neighbourhood has reached a point where remaining silent is no longer responsible.

In the last five months, our community has experienced a significant increase in daytime robberies and stabbings, multiple fires set in business vestibules, break-ins, threats to children and other vulnerable people including seniors living in our neighbourhood and those accessing community programs, as well as serious threats and assaults against area employees, volunteers, and health-care workers.

For this reason, urgent action is needed in the area, and community stakeholders are standing in support of the Winnipeg Police Service's recent public safety enforcement initiative aimed at addressing serious issues taking place on sidewalks and public space. We continue to strongly believe in essential supports for those experiencing addiction, but it must come with measures to protect immediate threats to public safety. All levels of government should be coordinating with one another to address these issues.

This kind of violence and drug use is unacceptable and does deep damage to communities. The drugs being used cause extreme changes in behaviour, and we have seen serious violent harm to individuals using public space simply to get to needed amenities like thrift stores, local pools and grocery stores. Additionally, drug purchasing causes dangerous gang proliferation as it drives the local illicit economy. Recently, a building with significant drug trafficking was closed in the area after residents and employees reported violence, frequent public sexually explicit activity and threats nearby.

It is incumbent on us as community stakeholders to advocate for the safety of our kids, seniors, families and employees. The activity we have described is happening within a few hundred meters of a major high school, several daycares, Manitoba's second largest university, and a long-standing senior living facility, including a personal care home. The urgency of the safety issues demands an urgent enforcement response. Taking no action will lead to the perpetuation of cyclical violence and trauma as toddlers are exposed to violence, high school students are exposed to gangs and drugs, employees, volunteers and health care workers feel afraid to go to work in their neighbourhood.



For this reason, we support the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Police Service taking action to address public intoxication and drug use and the violent consequences we have witnessed. This action along with all governments working together to continue to provide more support to individuals suffering from addiction are absolutely critical.

The organizations and businesses around Portage Avenue and Sherbrook and Maryland streets will continue to publicly support initiatives that create a safer West End. Our community members deserve a place where employees can get to work safely, students and seniors can move freely through the neighbourhood and families feel comfortable accessing amenities and visiting local shops, restaurants and community spaces.

The West End has long been one of Winnipeg's most resilient and diverse communities. We believe it must also be one of the safest.

Sincerely,

The Maryland–Sherbrook Community

Representing businesses, property owners, residents, employees, community organizations, and stakeholders committed to a safer, stronger West End.

Supported by:

- West End BIZ
- Lion's Manor
- Winnipeg School Division
- West Broadway Youth Outreach
- Just Like New To You Thrift Shop

Contact

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