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December 9, 2021

The Honorable Sylvester Turner  
Mayor, City of Houston  
901 Bagby  
Houston TX 77002

Dear Mayor Turner:

By creating more outdoor space for dining and drinking, More Space: Main Street has made it safer and more comfortable for patrons to return to Downtown establishments thus helping the food and beverage industry recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We began working with City of Houston's Planning & Development Department in the summer of 2020 announcing the program and guidelines last November, with a goal of continuing through March 2022. To date, we have four participants. Although we're disappointed that more businesses did not take advantage of the program, the ones that have are incredibly appreciative, and more importantly, have communicated that the extended outdoor space has increased their visibility and revenue. We've only received positive feedback about the program from residents and other stakeholders with no complaints regarding street closures.

Our hope was to see a significant bump in Downtown's workforce this past summer, but because of the variants and uncertainty within the community, that did not happen. Luckily our busy parks and public spaces, along with in-person sporting events, helped attract visitors to Downtown. The good news is our back to work numbers are on the rise and we are hopeful as the new year approaches.

But even with more people Downtown it is still vital that we to continue to support our stakeholders moving forward, especially small businesses, and whole heartedly support extending More Space: Main Street through March 2023. Not only will this allow business participants to recoup their expenses and continue to generate additional revenue, but we believe that it will incentivize two or three others to participate in the program. It's an important tool to help in Downtown's recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristopher Larson". The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the end. Below the signature, the name and title are printed in a clean, sans-serif font.

Kristopher Larson  
President & CEO