

November 27th, 2008

**Mr. Dave Bronconnier**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**The City of Calgary**  
PO Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

cc: Mr. Joe Ceci, Alderman  
The City of Calgary  
Aldermanic Offices (8001)  
PO Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB  
T2P 2M5

**Dear Mayor Bronconnier:**

**Re: Safety Concerns in Bridgeland Riverside**

The purpose of this letter is to express to you my serious concerns about both the increasing incidences of property crime and the escalating presence of vagrants in the community of Bridgeland/Riverside.

We have had an alarming increase in the number of break & enter crimes in our community in 2008. For example: year to date (as of November 12<sup>th</sup>) we are already 50% above our 3-year average (2005 to 2007) with respect to the number of home break & enters recorded in Bridgeland/Riverside.

Additionally, there has been an alarming increase in the amount of vagrant activity in our community over the past several months. With the recent closure of the Beer Land Plus Liquor & Wine store (located at 415-4<sup>th</sup> Street SE), we have seen an explosion of vagrants crossing the bridge and loitering along the Edmonton Trail and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE corridor. This activity has spread to residential areas within the community and has become a major concern to many people who have responded to my regular articles in the Bridgeland community newsletter, The Bridges.

Finally, with the recent talk of the city being in negotiations to purchase the Cecil Hotel and Tavern – there are major concerns within our community that a closure of the Cecil will further increase the number of vagrants crossing over into Bridgeland/Riverside to access the liquor stores in our area. Where else will they go if the Cecil is lost to them?

I am interested in knowing what type of leadership your office can provide on this issue? So far, all I've seen is evidence that the problem of vagrancy and homelessness is being moved from the East Village to communities like Bridgeland. If a strategy is not yet in place to deal with this very serious issue, I would be very interested in helping you to develop one. Your attention to this issue would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,



**Jeff Keet**  
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