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March 9, 2011

City of Austin
Attention: Mr. Bob Gedert – Director, Solid Waste Services
and Mr. Gerry Acuna – Chair, Solid Waste Advisory
Commission
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-1088

Dear Mr. Gedert and Mr. Acuna:

On behalf of the Downtown Austin Alliance, I wish to express our support for renewal of the Downtown Refuse Contract District.

For more than ten years, the Downtown Refuse Contract District has proven to be an effective system for keeping alleys with the heaviest concentrations of bars and restaurants exceptionally clean. This program has helped to reduce litter, foul odors and rodents, and is critical to our efforts to build value and vitality in downtown Austin

The DAA has been very pleased with the manner in which Solid Waste Services has managed the current and prior contracts and the bid process for the forthcoming contract period. We whole-heartedly support moving forward with renewal of the contract district – provided any potential increase in cost is within reason, which Mr. Gedert has assured us is the case.

We would ask that SWAC and SWS staff recommend that Austin City Council approve renewal of the Downtown Refuse Contract District as well as the selected vendor contract.

Sincerely,

Joel Sher
Board Chair