



To Edmonton City Council:

Members of the Association of Edmonton Convention Hotels have recently had the opportunity to meet with Bob Black and Steve Hogle of the Katz Group to discuss the proposed Edmonton Arena District. Members as a whole were very impressed with the scope and design of the arena and entertainment complex plan.

While there are questions which remain to be answered regarding funding and some logistical issues, the support for the development of the Edmonton Arena District and the revitalization of the downtown core of our city in principle was very strong among our members. The fact that there exists 16 contiguous acres of land on which to create this development speaks not only of the opportunity, but also the need to take advantage of this time in Edmonton's history to bring our professional hockey arena and surrounding area up to world calibre.

The safest downtown areas in the world are those which are bright, vibrant and busy. Unfortunately after regular business hours, Edmonton does not currently display that type of family-friendly, well-traveled downtown neighbourhood conducive to both locals and tourists enjoying everything our city can offer. AECH believes the Edmonton Arena District can be the catalyst to creating the atmosphere every Edmontonian would love to see in our downtown.

As business professionals and proud citizens of Edmonton, we sincerely hope that our elected councilors dedicate your efforts to making the Edmonton Arena District a reality.

Let's Go Oilers!

Robert Blackwell
President, Association of Edmonton Convention Hotels