

BY: MR. FRANCZYK

RE: LOCATE NEW TRAIN STATION IN CENTRAL TERMINAL

WHEREAS: In the wake of the closing of the dilapidated, damaged Exchange Street passenger station in recent weeks, Congressman Brian Higgins has called for immediate action leading to the location of a new AMTRACK train station; and,

WHEREAS: Significantly, the location the congressman pinpointed for the new station is the Central Terminal on Paderewski Drive, Buffalo's principle, historic 1929 Art Deco train station; and,

WHEREAS: Congressman Higgins correctly pointed out that the redevelopment renaissance in Buffalo now makes the return of the Central Terminal to its original purpose possible; and,

WHEREAS: The Congressman recently toured the Central Terminal with members of the Central Terminal Restoration Corporation (CTRC) and was impressed with its overall condition; and,

WHEREAS: In a letter to New York State Transportation Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll, Higgins called for the immediate use of one to two million dollars of the allotted 25 million dollars for a new train station study and eventual capital improvements; and,

WHEREAS: The Central Terminal was built by the premier railroad station architects in the nation, utilizing the finest construction materials, and has been deemed structurally sound in an architectural feasibility study by the renowned firm Hamilton, Houston, Lownie, which was recently updated; and,

WHEREAS: Unlike the so-called former "Am-shack" station on Exchange Street, the rail lines of the Central Terminal connect to many of the major cities in the nation, such as Chicago, New York and elsewhere, which the Exchange Street Station does not; and,

WHEREAS: The designation of the Central Terminal would also be a tremendous boost and catalyst for greater revitalization of the East Side, whose hard-working people are striving every day to put in the back mirror years of decline and blight; and,

WHEREAS: Numerous events have been held in the Central Terminal's magnificent concourse over the last few years, including Jazz Festivals, Oktoberfests, Buffalo's largest Halloween Parties, Wine Shows, Buffalo's largest Dyngus Days, educational tours, Ghosthunter live national TV broadcasts, weddings and many, many other events; and,

WHEREAS: Canadian developer Harry Stinson has been given designated developer status for city-owned land adjacent to the Central Terminal for residences, and has been working with the CTRC for development of the Central Terminal; and,

WHEREAS: The Common Council has adopted many resolutions in support of the Central Terminal, most recently in favor federal funding for fast speed train hub between Buffalo and Albany;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Common Council asserts its support for Congressman Brian Higgin's plan to use one to two million dollars in New York State transportation funds for studying the use of the Central Terminal as the city's new train station, particularly since not a penny of the \$70-million state and federal funds spent on upstate train station improvements have been used in Buffalo;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Common Council supports the Central Terminal on Paderewski Drive as Buffalo's new principle passenger train station.

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