



## **Western Hill Revitalization**

**A Presentation to St. Catharines City Council**

**Prepared by the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce**

**October 6, 2008**

**Good Evening Deputy Mayor Secord, City Councillors, and members of city staff. My name is Kithio Mwanzia, and I am the Policy Coordinator at St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce. I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on this issue of incredible relevance to the growth of St. Catharines.**

**As the voice of business, the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce is committed to ensuring that there is a vibrant business and investment environment in St. Catharines and Niagara through fairness, smart regulation and competitive incentives. It is also our responsibility as a member driven organization representing over 1100 businesses and 28,000 employees to provide input on areas that we see to have an effect on the business community.**

**The Chamber has in the past and continues to support the Community Improvement Plan (CIP). This has opened up mutually beneficial opportunities for the business community and the City of St. Catharines. It has proven particularly in the downtown to have a significant return on investment.**

**The Chamber is also supportive of the continued development of key corridors as major arteries to our downtown. The use of the CIP has been identified as a catalyst for this in the Merriton Area to the East, and we are supportive of this being extended to the West. This is in-line with the Chamber's additional support of prosperity corridors and the establishment of key clusters around the downtown. This would also be an important step towards developing gateways at entry points to our downtown.**

**The establishment of a revitalization study that will be cost shared, will further develop the City's capacity to make budgetary allocation decisions based on a collective and cohesive strategy.**

**Again, thank you for giving us with this opportunity to provide some insight from the perspective of the business community and again we reiterate the Chambers support for the CIP and the opportunities it has in developing our City.**

**Thank you**