



January 12, 2006

City of Racine – Parks and Recreation c/o Mr. Donnie Snow, Director 800 Center Street Racine, WI 53403

Dear Mr. Snow:

It has been demonstrated across the country that the development or redevelopment of outdoor plazas and open spaces as public gathering places will also help nurture the community spirit, bring things for people to do downtown, and create places for people to celebrate their culture and history. Experience throughout the country has also clearly demonstrated that hosting a mixture of various activities is an important element to a downtowns success.

For these and other reasons, DRC has played a very active role in the renovation of Monument Square. We have directly invested over \$50,000 in planning and design fees. DRC has also raised \$500,000 for construction that made the project possible. Furthermore, DRC is committed to continuing its fundraising efforts to add some of the amenities that could not be afforded in the original project.

As we continue our revitalization efforts, we hope to be able to program Monument Square for a variety of events. We want people to always think about Monument Square when they are looking for things to do in Racine. During the upcoming year, DRC could potentially have as many as 70 events at Monument Square. Unfortunately, the City's new policy for charging a use fee will make the majority of those events unfeasible.

The purpose of this letter is to request the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City of Racine waive the fees for DRC for five years as a consideration for our contributions to the renovation. Listed below is a tentative schedule of events for the upcoming year:

- Downtown Farmers' Market every Saturday from 7 a.m. 1 p.m. beginning Saturday, May 6 through Saturday, October 28.
- Music on the Monument Fridays from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July 7, 14, 21, 28 August 4, 11, 18, 25
- First Fridays Friday evenings from 6-9 p. April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1

Refer to Finance & Personnel

Downtown Racine Corporation

- Party on the Pavement Saturday, October 7
- Re-dedication of Monument Square TBD
- Monument Square Art Fair June 10 and June 11
- Lakefront Artists Fair May 6 and 7
- <u>Festival of Trees</u> November 3-5, November 10-12, November 17-19, November 24-26
- Gallery Nights Saturday evenings from 5-9 p.m.
   February 11, July 22, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1
- Firefly Sidewalk Sale August 10 from 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.
- Party on the Pavement October 7 from 9:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.
- Downtown Holiday Open House December 2 from 10 A.M. 7:00 P.M.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to talking further with you about this matter.

Sincerely,

Devin Sutherland, Executive Director

cc: Mayor Gary Becker