CHAIR'S REPORT 2024 - 25

Welcome to all business owners and members, Councillors and Local Board members.

It is my pleasure to reflect on our achievements and progress over the last 12 months, my third and last year as Chairperson.

The Board's primary responsibility is to set priorities in our deliverables and allocate funding from your targeted rates. WBA is one of the largest Business Improvement Districts in Auckland region and our targeted rate levy is the lowest. I commend to you the resolution for a modest increase in your targeted rates to offset increasing costs. We are proud of what we continue to deliver with our member funds to benefit our business community. Later in the agenda we will present our 2026/27 Business Plan and indicative Budget for your approval.

In May our Security Sub-committee completed an expression of interest process to select our contracted security patrol company for the next three years. We were impressed by the quality of the five short listed proposals. The successful company was Global Security. Since they started, in July, we have had excellent service and quality reporting from our night shift patrolling officers who keep a focus on crime prevention, illegal rubbish dumping, tagging and our hot issue of the moment, illegal truck parking on our roads. Referrals from their reports have translated into 1500 plus infringement notices issued by AT enforcement officers. We hope this will act as a deterrent to transport companies and owner operators who park unsafely and illegally.

We enjoy a good working relationship with local police and politicians. Reported crime in our area has trended down this year. We average 6 burglaries and car break ins per month, very low for an area of our size with 700 businesses. Matt Winiata, our representative from Manurewa Local Board has been instrumental in arranging better coverage from contractors on berm mowing and illegal rubbish dumping cleanups. I take this opportunity to thank Matt, and we congratulate him with his election as Ward Councillor to the Governing Body, and wish him well, as he stands down from WBA Board.

Many of you have enjoyed attending events hosted by WBA during the last 12 months: Networking breakfasts, After Five at different venues, Lunch and Learn sessions with some great topics and presenters, and our popular coffee cart visits to different streets during warmer months. A personal highlight was the Breakfast with Mike McRoberts presenting on his journalism career, including reporting from war zones around the world, such as Afghanistan.

Further to this report, you will see me in a short video presentation about a new initiative we bring before you as a resolution to approve (in principle) funding for a special project. I trust you have taken the time to read the paper outlining our vision in the pre-meeting materials. As a Board, we hope this will stimulate thought and discussion prior to voting.

I have some thank you's to finish. I would like to thank our present Board members for their engagement and contributions during the last 12 months, the former Board members I have served alongside, Lenna Taylor, our wonderful secretary, and Gary Holmes for his energy and leadership of our operational team. My final thanks go to Michelle and Diana for their enthusiasm and hard work. As I retire, I leave this organisation in great hands and in good heart.

Dave Pizzini, Chairperson, 17 October 2025