August 18, 2014

Dear Mr. Hecker,

As the Board of Garden District Neighborhood Association, we would like to show our support for the Living Streets Alliance Pedestrian Safety and Walkability initiatives.
This organization has the expertise and track record to enable them to help neighborhood associations and our residents determine suitable projects to improve walkability utilizing methods that provide safe routes for the daily commutes of our residents in our community – children and adults.

Garden District neighborhood is located in the heart of Tucson and is one mile square, bordering Speedway on the south, Grant on the north, Swan on the east, and Alvernon on the west. We are an active neighborhood even though the vast majority of our residents are renters. Our neighborhood has very few sidewalks, making pedestrians very vulnerable to vehicles. Because of our large footprint, lack of nearby parks, and challenging demographics (7000 residents, predominately low income, high number of walkers, and a high number of foreign refugees), we rely on municipal funding for capital improvements that we desperately need. Without Neighborhood Reinvestment funding we would not have the sidewalks on Columbus Blvd. that are protecting our many residents from vehicles as they go to work, walk their children to school, or walk to catch the bus. Unfortunately more is needed to protect the thousands of residents from vehicles and just as important, to provide them with safe walking and biking routes for exercising and commuting.

We support Living Streets Alliance in their quest to receive money from the next County bond election. With that money they will be able to help fund projects that will directly benefit the Tucson inner city neighborhoods. We are hoping to be one of them as we partner with Living Streets to solidify our plan for a safer walkable neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Lois Pawlak    President
Kris Yarter    Vice President
Meg Johnson    Secretary
Anna Marie Patti    Treasurer