

STATEMENT OF

**RICHARD H. STEVENSON
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
CLISE PROPERTIES, INC.**

BEFORE THE

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY'S
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING,
AND TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT**

REGARDING

**BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY: IMPROVING INFORMATION
SHARING WITH STATE & LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

MAY 25, 2007

1:00 PM

BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELLEVUE, WA

Good afternoon. My name is Richard Stevenson. I am president and chief operating officer of Clise Properties, Inc., a 120 year old commercial real estate company, with approximately 3 million square feet of commercial space, mostly located in the downtown core in Seattle.

I am also a past chair of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Seattle and King County and a current Board member of the Downtown Seattle Association, Housing Resources Group, and the Downtown Emergency Services Center.

I have managed commercial property and commercial real estate companies in the Seattle area for approximately 27 years. Generally speaking, during that time, I believe that those of us in the industry have formed a very strong relationship with local law enforcement and specifically with those of the Seattle Police Department.

My first real professional interaction with SPD was in or around 1991 when businesses located on First Avenue, near Pike Place Market, formed a Business Improvement Area for the purposes of managing street issues, including cleaning, panhandling. The then West Precinct Commander, Capt. Clark Kimerer, agreed to a formal interaction between rented security patrols and the West Precinct for the purposes of communicating issues common to the business improvement area's goals and that of the Seattle's downtown West Precinct. This, at the time, was very bold and innovative thinking. Since that time, we have had a close working relationship with the Police Department as it relates to emergency response, sharing of information, and often times on a street level, having individual officers having access to buildings for the purposes of surveillance, occasionally access to restrooms to bicycle police, and other operational issues.

I am here today in front of you because it is my feeling that with regard to Homeland Security, we would prefer to see their efforts and resources used to bolster local law enforcement on our behalf as opposed to stand alone and potentially duplicate services. We would hope that between local law enforcement and Homeland Security there would be the type of communication between entities needed to provide us with intelligence, financial resources, manpower, and technology to provide safety for our downtown commercial office buildings and the vitality of the urban core as a whole.

What I mean by this is that I believe local law enforcement including their relationships with ATF, FBI and others have provided us a strong and reliable core and I think their efforts should be further buttressed by a federal homeland security funding for vital infrastructure improvements that are mutually agreed upon by the various parties. It would seem to me a mistake for Homeland Security, or any other governmental agency to go it alone in Seattle when it could act as valuable support and a team member for an existing and functional local public private relationship.

The excellent relationship between the downtown business community and the Seattle Police Department has been the result of years of collaboration on real world challenges. We worked together for many years at ground level, and our relationships have been tested and retested over time. The key to our success has been a thorough understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities. The private sector does not want to take on the role of law enforcement. We want to be informed, consulted and provided timely warnings. In return, we lend our support and assistance to law enforcement as they perform their duties. We have valuable information and insights into the strengths and vulnerabilities of the buildings we own and manage, and are at the table when public safety and homeland security priorities are debated by our elected officials. I have every confidence that Chief Kerlikowske and Deputy Chief Kimerer will give me the information we need if threats are identified, and I believe they are confident that Clise Properties and our colleagues in the downtown business community will do everything within their power to cooperate and assist the police department. This has been a model relationship, and is only possible at the local level because of our frequent and ongoing interaction in the course of our daily business.

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET

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