COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, March 21, 2007

The Council met at 9:39 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. We have pages with us here today. Bryce Brousseau of Vincent Massey Collegiate resides in the St. Norbert Ward and Simone Jaman of Miles MacDonnell Collegiate resides in the Elmwood - East Kildonan Ward. Welcome. And also, the guests, I'd like to introduce on behalf of City Council, I'd like to welcome students from the Canadian Mennonite University. They have taken politics, society and the mass media under the direction of their instructor, former Councillor Donald Benham. Welcome. Also now, I'd like to call on the Mayor to, you have something to say

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have some announcements I would like to make and the first one is, I'd like to, oh, glad he came back with his coffee, I'd like to recognize Councillor Gord Steeves who was appointed the Acting President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities at their Board of Directors meeting held March 3, 2007 in London, Ontario. Congratulations Councillor Steeves, from myself and others.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to acknowledge that today is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for those who do not know the history, very briefly, on March 21, 1960 in the town of Sharpeville, South Africa police opened fire and killed 69 people who were peacefully demonstrating against apartheids past laws. The United Nations General Assembly subsequently declared that day, March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and called on the international community, not only to commemorate that tragedy but also to work together to combat racism and discrimination wherever they exist. This day is an opportunity for the international community to reflect on progress made towards eliminating racism and to continue to oppose discrimination in all its forms, it also happens to be the first day of spring.

And last, Mr. Speaker, I would very much like to congratulate Councillor Scott Fielding and his wife Michelle and their daughter Paige who are expecting again sometime this summer. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Mr. Speaker: I like the word again and just keep going again and again. I'll as Councillor Smith to move the minutes held on February 21, 2007 be taken as read and confirmed. All in favour, contrary? Carried. I'd like to call on Councillor O'Shaughnessy to give condolences, the clerk pardon me, yes, please read it first, read the names of the mover and the seconder also.

Clerk: Moved by Councillor Lazarenko seconded by Councillor Steeves that Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of former Councillor Florence Pierce which occurred on March 5, 2007. Ms. Pierce served the citizens of Winnipeg as Alderman in the city of St. Vital and Councillor for the Glenlawn Ward from 1958 to 1977. This Council extends to her nephews Morton, Norman and Donald, niece Patricia and sister-in-law Dorothy and their families, its deepest sympathy and condolences in their bereavement

Mr. Speaker: Would everyone please rise. Now, we get into the business.

MINUTES

Councillor Smith moves the Minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 2007 be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour, contrary? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Speaker: We have a number of delegations. Ted, Terry Kozak, Citizens for Democratic Transportation Solutions, is Mr. Kozak here? If you are, Mr. Kozak, you have ten minutes

Terry Kozak: Good morning members of Council. In the spring of 2004, a coalition of over 150 concerned citizens throughout North Kildonan banded together to form the Citizens for Democratic Transportation Solutions. The impetus of our group's formation was a long standing frustration over former Councillor Lubosch's handling of transportation issues in his ward, more specifically the closing of McIvor.

Now C.D.T.S. is not a special interest or fringe group. Our membership is broad based from both residents throughout all areas of the ward as well as the business community. This road closure has seen an unprecedented outcry of in excess of over 5,000 residents of North Kildonan demanding the reopening of McIvor. This as some contend is not an issue about inconvenience; it is an issue about fairness, equity and more importantly unnecessary risk to public safety.

So why were the people upset? To help provide some context, the area in question is sandwiched to the west by Henderson Highway and to the east by Lagimodiere Boulevard. Now both of these main thoroughfares take in excess of 30,000 vehicles per day. There are only three direct east west connections in this area, to the south is Springfield Road which currently takes approximately 20,000 vehicles per day, it should be taking 5,000. The most northern peripheral street on the outside of, on the boundary's edge is Knowles Avenue and in the central heart, core of the area, we have McIvor Avenue.

So in effect, the closure of McIvor reduced this already limited, east/west capacity of the area, and in doing so, caused serious negative traffic ramifications which in effect has put at risk the public safety.

Now speaking to fairness, out of the hundreds of kilometres of streets in the area, the only section of street that benefited from the closure was the one kilometre strip of McIvor between Gateway and Devries. Traffic volumes on this short stretch which encompasses approximately 85 households went from 2600 cars per day down to 265. To put this in perspective according to Census Canada, there are approximately 16,000 households in the North Kildonan Ward. This road closure benefits less than half, 0.5% of those entire households. It is also important to note that there is another stretch of McIvor that runs basically the remaining 70% portion that runs from Raleigh to Henderson Highway.

Now, traffic volumes when McIvor was closed did not change whatsoever. Open or closed this remaining portion, the majority of it still takes between 5 and 6,000 cars per day. So there are basically two tiers of McIvor where only a short portion benefited from the closure.

Risk to public safety, the Springfield and Lagimodiere intersection, which is just a short one kilometre south of where the barricade lays, post McIvor closure, the vehicle collision rates at this intersection increased an unconscionable 65% according to both City of Winnipeg data which replies on police reports, it went from pre-McIvor from thirty collisions per year up to fifty and also figures from Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation specific for this intersection. Pre-McIvor closure it went from 70 to between 115 and a 120 collisions per year.

Now, according to a 2003 North Kildonan traffic study by the City of Winnipeg, it states that the increase in traffic volumes as a result of McIvor closure already placed overburden pressure on this intersection and pushed the volume to capacity ratios of this intersection into dangerous levels. Moreover, the Fire

Paramedic Services also indicated that they receive a high number of calls to this intersections for motor vehicle collisions. According to M.P.I.C., annual collisions at this intersection went from the city wide ranking of 24th to a top ten ranking post McIvor closure.

Now, this area has been very slow growth. There has not been any significant residential or commercial development that would warrant any other fluctuations of this increase in collision. Now, this increase in annual collisions has cost M.P.I.C. annually in excess of 200,000 dollars per year in additional claims. Now, thankfully no fatalities have yet occurred.

In the fall of 2006, a report out of the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Winnipeg states, and I quote, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service has concerns with the closure of McIvor at Devries as it has the potential to be detrimental to response times over the longer term in the eastern section of the ward. Now part of their, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service mission is to and I quote, to provide optimum emergency and stable patient pre-hospital care to the citizens of Winnipeg. This closure in effect has severely compromised their ability to provide optimum emergency service to the citizens of Winnipeg.

Democracy prevails. In the 2006 election, Councillor Jeff Browaty was transparently clear on the issue of reopening McIvor. The election results were clear and the residents of North Kildonan have spoken. Former Councillor Lubosch's vote count in this geographic area plummeted by 70%. He went from over 2700 votes in 2002 to just over 800 votes in 2006. In fact, in an October 26 Winnipeg Free Press article Mark Lubosch was quoted as saying, we ran a tremendous campaign but there was a lot of anger over traffic issues around McIvor.

To the residents of the McIvor, to the McIvor Residents Association, if safety issues are a concern then they should proceed to have their street paved and sidewalks installed. For 25 years, this has been a long-standing recommendation on behalf of the city of Winnipeg. However, these residents refuse to have the required infrastructure upgrades. You cannot complain about traffic safety while refusing to upgrade your roads and sidewalks over the past twenty five years, via local improvement.

In fact, these same residents in 1982 successfully petitioned against having these local improvements done. It is important to note that the remaining McIvor between Raleigh and Henderson was paved with sidewalks over twenty years ago and I applaud this responsible action as homeowners who are on this stretch have provided a safe environment that separates vehicular and pedestrian traffic. After twenty five years it is long overdue that the other residents of McIvor do the responsible thing and undertake the required infrastructure upgrades.

In closing, the Executive Policy Committee recommendation that McIvor be reopened on the understanding that all accesses to Lagimodiere Boulevard be reviewed as part of the Chief Peguis Trail is founded on the fundamental principles of fairness and equity. More importantly it speaks directly to the concerns of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service as it relates to public safety for all residents of North Kildonan. On behalf of Citizens for Democratic Transportation Solutions, I thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kozak. Any questions of the delegation Councillors? If not, thank you sir. The next delegation is Vern Toews in opposition to Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

Vern Toews: Mr. Speaker I have additional documents that I would like handed out to Councillors at this time if it's possible.

Mr. Speaker: You have ten minutes.

Vern Toews: Okay. Mr. Speaker, Your Worship Mayor Katz, City Council Members. My name is Vern Toews and I'm a McIvor Avenue resident. I feel like I'm being chastised for being a resident of this street. I am here to speak in complete and utter opposition to this

recommendation that comes before you, to reopen McIvor Avenue to Devries, and now I have ten minutes to put twenty years of history into context.

On May 18th, 2005, Mayor Katz, Councillor O'Shaughnessy, Gerbasi, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas and Wyatt all heard the information put before you and supported and voted in favour of permanently closing McIvor Avenue to Devries, sorry Councillor Lazarenko you were away on city business.

Now less than two years later, I have a new ward representative who asks that you reverse this decision, basing on it saying community support. Well out of 27,000 eligible voters in North Kildonan less than 24% voted in favour of my new ward representative's position. The reason being offered up is that the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedics general policy to have all city streets open and without traffic calming measures is prevalent. Also closing our street was an inconvenience. I'm sorry but Mr. Kozak has been quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press citing inconvenience.

As to other residents who have also complained, there's also been an increase in traffic accidents at the major intersection of Springfield and Lagimodiere, as well Mr. Kozak failed to mention his famous 4,000 name petition that was signed in opposition to this closure.

Well, let's start first with the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service. The 2003 report of January and you'll see in my hand out there, its the last one cited, clearly noted that from Public Works consultation with Winnipeg Fire and Paramedics and the Winnipeg Police Service, they reported clearly there would be no negative impact on their provision of emergency services with our street closure.

Four years later, Chief Ken Sim, last month when I spoke with him had no information to show that the high level and standard of service provided to North Kildonan residents has been negatively impacted or adversely affected by the closure of our street. In spite of their general policy, they agreed to our closure and they still don't have any information to show that anything was wrong with the services they provide.

Regarding the traffic accident statistics, I'm sorry, I'm going to take serious objection to Mr. Kozak's use of M.P.I. data. I refer to the Winnipeg Police Service and also the Public Works collection of vehicle accident statistics, if you'll note there, its about the third last page that I have listed in my handout, they clearly show there's actually been a decrease in the number of vehicle accidents at the location of Springfield and Lagimodiere which is a signal controlled intersection that saw the most influx of extra traffic coming their way.

I would also note that in there, I make reference to the fact that Public Works and Property Planning Departments still continue to strongly support the closure of our street and who are you using as reference, these are the traffic engineers, the city planners who are saying keep McIvor Avenue closed.

In regards to the 4,000 name petition that Mr. Kozak has made reference to in his past discussions, that petition has a lot of non-North Kildonan residents as far out as Kenaston Boulevard, Inkster, these aren't North Kildonan residents that are directly impacted, they're inconvenienced because they have to find a different major route to get through.

North Kildonan residents are affected, yes; I'm not going to say that. Were they happy about this closure, no, not totally but when there's a measure done for safety as opposed to convenience, not everybody's going to be happy about that. If you look at the handout before you, you will see pictures of school children who use the public pathway that the closure provided for. This is one example of the safety measure that was instilled and put in place and protects the residents of McIvor Avenue. Yes, we're a stretch of maybe about a kilometre of houses, there's 85 homes there but if part of those 85 homes, there was 39 new homes built that helped to close our street.

Those 39 residents signed agreements to purchase their homes with the understanding that McIvor would be closed. Documents that were signed with the developer, with the agreement that you now choose to try to rescind. That developer made an agreement to say okay as part of my responsibilities I'm going to put 39 homes in and then I'm going to close the street and we'll try to work it out best as possible. Well now, those residents bought with the understanding and they have legal documents to show that they bought those homes saying McIvor's going to be closed.

And if you look at the fact that you take away that public pathway, that's one example. That's for city bus use, school charters and the River East School Division pickup and delivery of school children who come off Strongberg and McIvor Avenue and lets not forget that coming down McIvor Avenue right now there's another section called Clearview where there's a pedestrian crosswalk where Mr. Kozak and his Ragsdale resident children have to cross over to go to Sun Valley School.

But guess what happened, a couple of years ago Sun Valley School said that crossing is too far away from our school and we're going to pull the school patrol that we have there so currently if those kids are supposed to cross, there's no signage to indicate there's pedestrian crossing, there's no protection for those kids.

Right now there's only a couple hundred cars that go down the street. Why, because it's only the residents who live on the street that are making use of it, so there's not a big concern. You shove close to 3,000 cars coming down there with minimal control and any control measures and now you subject those kids that just aren't McIvor and Strongberg kids, its Ragsdale children who have to cross over and if you don't have concern for their safety because you put the measures in place, well then I'm sorry, I have to take issue here and Mr. Kozak keeps trumpeting that this is a broad based community support.

Well the primary organizers of his grouping live on Ragsdale, because the Ragsdale residents weren't too pleased about the fact that now their street, which is designed to carry 5,000 cars, its a residential collector, the best one in our area that's between the rural cross sections streets, only carries maybe about 2,000. Less than half the designed capacity, so the organizer group they go get everybody upset and sure some of the other streets got affected to, but they had speed bumps, traffic calming measures put in place, signs showing that there are restrictions coming on their street and what happens then, well Mr. Kozak makes use of their anger against the speed bumps and says oh, McIvor Avenue residents. Are we the only ones that benefited, well, he seems to think so but I would say no, its Strongberg and Ragsdale residents who benefited.

In regards to his discussion about what the residents have refused to have on their street, at one time the old residents have told me in the verbal history that they came to the city and said, you know what, we're willing to foot the bill, pave our street and then put in the sidewalks but with the understanding, close our street. Well guess what, city administration says we can't do that and now Mr. Kozak says, oh well, safety is a big issue. Safety, oh McIvor Avenue residents should be concerned and if they're that concerned put in the street.

Well I tell you what, the street works as it is right now without us having to deal with dealing with up to 38,000 dollars in taxes that we have to foot the bill for. If it's so concerned, why not put the city to task and put them, let them put the street and sidewalks in and them foot the bill. Why do we have to pay for something that works as it is, gives us the safety measures that we have right now and we take for granted. Why are you going to reverse this when the city administration supports, the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedics has no issue with it when it was put in place and they still don't have any information to show that the service has been negatively affected.

Traffic accidents haven't climbed, they've actually gone down at the major intersection, Mr. Kozak has made reference to. So what was the point? What was the point? 2001, the discussion started and over four years, community meetings, Council, open community discussions in the neighbourhood with fellow residents trying to hash out better solutions. We don't have a very good traffic situation in our area, but when they made one measure to take place, what's going on is now just unacceptable to try and undo it and what Mr. Kozak has failed to note and I will point this out, you yesterday as a City Council approved the capital spending budget. That capital spending budget now gives us money for the Chief Peguis Trail extension which is going to draw that extra traffic, the other streets saw climb in the residential areas. He also fails to note that the Headmaster collector that is going to be connected to Lagimodiere just north of our area is halfway done and per the developer is supposedly going to be completed by next year.

And if there's other area residents that sit here today in this chamber and have to complain about the traffic measures that are in place with their speed bumps, well then petition to get them removed because the McIvor Avenue residents want the closure, they want it kept in place. I ask you and I urge you, I don't want your sympathy. I don't want your empathy. I want your support. Vote against this recommendation.

I am a parent. I am a registered nurse who is a health care professional. I understand what safety means, but if you're going to put my kids at risk, my neighbours kids and disregard the developer's agreement that you made and throw it out the window, I'm sorry, you lose any integrity that this City Council has in your decision making policies. Our street works well for those that live on the street. Leave it closed for the safety of the residents of McIvor and Strongberg and Ragsdale. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillors any questions? Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Mr. Toews, thank you very much for your presentation. I just want to ask you, if McIvor was voted to be open right now, I understand what you're saying there's going to be a lot of compromise of safety. Has there been any work done to date in your community with your local representative or with the City of Winnipeg, relative to mitigating some of your concerns?

Vern Toews: I've spoken to my ward representative and to date he has no safety measures or plans and concerns. And I would just like to add real quickly that if you do vote to reopen my street and the majority of you look to rescind your decision, I'm asking for one small consideration for the sake of our school children.

Amend this decision so that it takes place after the school year so that at least I can negotiate and the fellow residents can negotiate with the River East School Division to try to make some changes. I spoke to the bussing service representative for the River East School Division; he has had no contact from the city to date about changing the bus route status. Our kids are protected where they get picked up right now and now if you take away those barricades, they'll have to go against thousands of vehicles just to get to basic bus service and then I'm going to have to fight with my school division to change the bus route.

So if there's going to be a small consolation here, at least make the decision take place after the school year and not until sometime maybe closer to September for the love of Pete. Sorry, I'm willing to answer any other questions.

Mr. Speaker: Is that it? Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Is the basic reason that you think that people are demanding this opening, is it convenience, is it getting somewhere half a minute or a minute faster, is it as simple as that?

Vern Toews: It has to be, because McIvor, be it McIvor being closed does not close off access to Lagimodiere.

Ragsdale is the primary street right now that carries that traffic, including any emergency vehicles. Emergency vehicles if they would have come down our street, it's a narrow street so they're looking for something that's fast. I would say that going to Ragsdale which is just a two second step over, it's clear; they've got nice sidewalks on both sides. There's no areas to have to stop for pedestrian traffic and its clear access to Lagimodiere so it has to be convenience. I can only see that as being the major reasoning. If there's safety concerns with the other streets, they can have their own discussions, but this is direct impact on McIvor and I can only cite convenience as being the main measure.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Good morning Mr. Toews, first of all I have been listening to your concerns about the safety on McIvor and for the residents of McIvor. There was in fact one incident where I was talking to your wife on one line and my assistant took your call on the other line. I mean we've spent a lot of time dealing with these concerns and your issues. That said I mean, I have spoken with the folks at Public Works and due to asphalting facilities and such, they'd be looking at mid June as the time frame for, for the will of Council to have McIvor reopened, the time frame to have it reopened and have it asphalted over, the whole, would be mid June, so that's right at the end of the school year anyway. So, I do take that into consideration.

Vern Toews: May I ask, am I allowed due to procedure to ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: Well he put it to form of a, he's asking if you are aware.

Vern Toews: No, I was not aware. Again thank you. May I ask a question of him or am I not allowed to ask?

Mr. Speaker: No, not really, no the questions come from the Councillors but you finish yours. I'm sure Councillor Browaty will take that into account and he'll contact you. No further questions of the delegation? If not, Mr. Toews thank you. Next delegation is Christine Common-Singh in support of Item 4 of the report of the Standing Committee on Protection and Community services. Welcome, you have ten minutes.

Christine Common-Singh: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Your Worship, Members of Council, Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen, I am here on a small issue. Big, big city issue but a small financial issue and that's why I'm asking, the purpose of my appearance is to ask you all to support the Friends of Sherbrook Pool. I'm here in the capacity of an executive officer of that organization. We have requested a community incentive grant, a matching grant from the City of Winnipeg. We will match that grant through our own private funding initiatives.

The reason that we need this fund is to go out and hire a consultant with the necessary skills to do a very broad analysis of the inner city area that encompasses the recreational boundaries of Spence, West Broadway, the University of Winnipeg and some surrounding areas. We will be working with the University of Winnipeg. They're very interested in participating with us on this. We will be working with the St. Matthews Maryland Wellness Group, we'll be working with both the Spence and Broadway Associations and we'll be working with the Lions Manor people.

So, it's going to be a broad, a broad interpretive, analytical kind of a document we hope, which will serve the purposes of being able to apply to the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement for funds to finish up project on the Sherbrook Pool, which was started about fifteen years ago. The, this is the third time in my life as a 25 year citizen participant in the city of Winnipeg that I've come begging at the public trough.

The first time I did it was on behalf of the environment and we succeeded in bringing to this building a million dollars of the federal government's green plan money and we founded the Coalition to Save the Elms which is still in existence.

The second time was to address the issue of the loss of Sherbrook Pool. It was slated for demolition circa 1990. We got together because a lot of us who live in the area knew who use that pool, knew that the reasons for the proposal to get rid of the pool, it's first of all it's an aging pool, it was built as a make work project during the great depression and we understand that keeping up aging pools is no easy task for the City of Winnipeg, but we also knew the community that it serviced and the community that it serviced needs this recreational facility badly.

It did then and it does now even more because Spence is the fastest growing urban centre in Winnipeg of all our constituencies. It has grown 12% in population, since 19, since the year 2001. At that rate of growth we have to project into the future and say the demographic studies that we will do will show us that most of this population is quite young. You've got the largest population of children aged one to ten in the entire city in the Spence West Broadway area. It's the Stats Canada's own data.

So when we look at that we know were looking at an increasing population in an area which we knew was in decline for a long, long time and that led us to believe well maybe we don't need this little pool. Maybe we need to build a bigger you know recreational facilities, centralized for kids to use. We think that we're going to find a very different picture now. We think that we're going to need rather than less resources in this part of the inner city, we're going to need more.

As the University of Winnipeg expands, the need to demolish the roller arena is confirmed, thousands of our children go to, for recreational pursuits there, so we have to fill that void. Also if we close the Sherbrook Pool as the PUFFS report suggested to you all, we're going to take away one of the recreational you know areas where lots of kids come and we swim them free of charge because we have kids swim. I don't know if any of you are familiar with our programs. I sent out a lot of literature about it to you. We have kid swim which we fund. Children from the inner city are given the opportunity to come and swim for free.

We also have, take them on to the Sherbrook Sharks which is a competitive swimming club which competes and does very well. Then we also give them the opportunity to go on into youth guard which gives them necessary life skills to be able to find employment, hopefully even with the city of Winnipeg at one point in time.

It's that initiative, the, you know the, not the capital funding initiative, but the programming initiative that we put in place fifteen years ago, we've carried that faithfully. We want to expand on it. We want to carry it out in much greater detail over time with our partners. So, I'm asking you to support me in begging at the public trough for these funds, because I've always led a successful initiative, I have some very competent people working with me and I would ask you to look at the bigger city and its future.

I see very exciting things happening in Spence/Broadway and I would like you to give us the opportunity to be able to work with you into the future and to have some very exciting things happening with Dr. Axworthy and I use his name because Lloyd Axworthy's name of course is always a big catalyst to activity and I think that a partnership in this area can produce some very interesting results over time that will benefit all of us and probably reduce the naughty little kids that are running around stealing cars and looking, getting at joggers in different parts of the city.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any questions Councillors? Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes, you know the University of Winnipeg, have they made any concrete plans for their program involving Sherbrook Pool? Where are we at with that?

Christine Common-Singh: They are where we're at Councillor Smith. They want us to, as soon as we hire the consultant and I'll be asking for advice on a consultant that has the skills because

not many people do, but there are some very competent people in the City of Winnipeg. At that point we will be going to meet with them. They've asked as soon as we have the consultant in place to do the work, that we start meeting with our partners and that we lay out some, you know, some parameters of study that have to be undertaken by the consultant. That will be our job you know. But, primary objective is to get this consultant in place, to work with the city, to work, the province is interested, my M.L.A. is very interested, Rob Altmeyer and we can bring an awful lot of areas of government and the private sector into the, I've even had a nibble Councillor Smith, from the Richardson Foundation on this issue, so we may be getting some more funding. We do get from the Winnipeg Foundation already.

Councillor Smith: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, no further questions? Christine thank you as always.

Christine Common-Singh: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: The next delegation also in support, Tom Simms, Co-director, Community Education Development Association, in support of Executive Policy Committee regarding expansion of the School Officer Program. Mr. Simms you have ten minutes.

Tom Simms: Good morning. I'm here to speak in support of the Executive Policy Committee's recommendation regarding the School Resource Officer Program. I'd like to commend the Executive Policy Committee for recognizing the merits of the School Resource Officer Program and I'd also like to commend the Chief of Police who is on public record for being a strong supporter of the school resource officer program and so I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about the merits of the program because I think there is a consensus that it is an important program.

I'd also like to commend the Executive Policy Committee for looking at long-term view regarding this School Resource Officer Program because I think that's one of the challenges in the inner city right now to have a culture of short-term pilot projects and we need long-term commitments to look at long-term issues. This isn't a sprint, this is a marathon and I appreciate the spirit in which E.P.C. has thoughtfully looked at that issue.

Just briefly, I'd like to raise a couple of these long-term issues and maybe offer some food for thought on what we could be doing in the future together as partners to work on this issue. A little bit of context, nowhere in the Criminal Code of Canada is the term law enforcement officer. The term that's used is peace officer and we think there's a big difference between keeping the peace and enforcing the law. It isn't just a word. It is about how which need to look at, we work at safety issues in our community and I think the challenge is, is finding the balance. How do we find that balance between law enforcement and peace keeping or prevention and proactive policing. There's never going to be enough police officers in our community to be able to make a safe community. A safe community is about a whole bunch of things, police being one of them.

I guess one of the strategies that we see as a proactive crime prevention strategy is school resource officers. We know there's a growing concern about youth crime in our city. I haven't read the paper yet but I understand the auto theft unit is going to be doubled; the province is putting in some additional funds, that's a huge issue in our community and I think we need to have a wide range of partnerships between the three levels of government, school boards, the private sector and the voluntary sector to address this challenge of youth crime in our city. No one sector can address this issue on its own. We need to work together.

I've included in your package an interesting piece that Strini Reddy, who's now retired, but he's the former Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendent's, he wrote I thought an interesting piece on community and school partnerships. He says an alliance between the school and its community is one of the most important factors to improve the quality of

education and the quality of life for our children. Schools of today face complex and challenging tasks in an environment that is growing more demanding but less friendly towards education. The different sectors of our society must stop pretending that our schools by themselves have the capacity to successfully address the enormous challenges thrown at them. We must start lending the encouragement and tangible support that are necessary if our schools are to play their role in bringing about the kind of changes that are required in our society. The quality of education can only improve if we pay attention to the quality of life in our respective communities. Schools are no more a reflection of the communities of which they should be an integral part and as Ernest Boyer a famous educator quoted and I think this is the key part, you can't have islands of excellence and seas of indifference and I think this is why this partnership approach is so critical on this issue.

I've also looked at giving you stats and I put these out before and I'm just going to go through them quickly. Some of the, the root causes of youth crime in our city, I think can be, you know there's no one sort of silver bullet but there's the alarming high school graduation rates in our community I think contributes to this issue. As youth get marginalized and don't have hope and don't have, see themselves having opportunities and we can see that in the downtown area of Winnipeg, one out of four kids are graduating from high school. In the north end of the city, one out of five kids are graduating from high school.

This is a real challenge for our community as a whole, and it's a driver of poverty in our community and we can see and I've presented this to the Protection Committee and the Executive Policy Committee but we can see there's a cost of doing nothing. One of the things we do see is the growing racialzation of poverty in our community and I appreciate that City Council is going to be re-examining you know its commitment to the 1.4 million dollars that was allocated in the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement for aboriginal development issues and we can see that eighty percent of the kids in the youth centre are aboriginal kids. We can see with these kind of graduation rates that these young people are having kids themselves and we see this generation, intergenerational issue of poverty in our community.

We also see that fifty percent of the inmates in Manitoba have less than a grade nine education, so this whole issue of education is critical. And I guess one of the things that we'd like to point out is that the School Resource Officer Program plays a critical role in this. The city, its core service function is policing and when we talk about partnerships and helping out and working together, this is a very concrete, tangible thing that the city can do to contribute to address this issue. And I guess one of the key things that I see about school resource officers and this is documented in the north end pilot project, is that it's a relationship-based approach to policing. And I think this is critical. And I looked at this as appealing to some common sense, too. If you have a revolving door of police officers coming into inner-city neighbourhoods, they don't get to know who the residents are, and what the issues are and who the networks are.

There is an impact there but it isn't as strong and this is where we need to find this balance around balancing these issues and I put to you the idea if you had a public school system run by substitute teachers, there'd be chaos, if you had you know teachers revolving through the classroom. If you only had a public health system where you only went to the emergency ward for care and you didn't have a family physician that could do that preventive proactive kind of work that you'd also have a lot of difficulties.

The longer term issues that I'd encourage the Council to look at is some of the approach to fund the school resource officer moving forward. I've provided some issues around this relationship-based approach policing which I think is important and I wanted to maybe just paint quickly, we had a number of principals and, came out to talk about the kind of education value, the preventive

value of the program. I don't think they highlighted as much as the police support value of the program. In the schools and I'm not going to talk about individual schools, but in general, there is huge challenges around gang recruitment and gang activity, drug dealing, weapon offences, physical assaults, drunk and disorderly conduct and the spill over of domestic disputes in the schools.

My wife's an inner-city principal, it's unbelievable the kind of, those kinds of issues that the schools are dealing with on a daily basis and I think the north end principals made a strong case before the School Resource Officer Pilot Project was started that they were calling the police all the time, all the time and other jurisdictions like Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina and Calgary saw that it was more efficient to deploy officers and more effective, in the School Resource Officer model than to have cruiser cars come for calls for service.

Inner city principals are not satisfied, who don't have school resource officer programs with the kind of response and service they're getting from the police. So I think it isn't just an education issue. There's a lot of policing work that goes on and if you talk to the school resource officers they will attest to that as well.

The last piece, so I wanted to say it's just not about education. The last piece I wanted to talk about quickly and I've left you with some charts is how we're we deploying our existing resources, the, I given you a chart that we stand as the city with the most police per capita of the big cities in Canada and I've also given you a chart of the equivalent school resource officer programs that are being used in other cities.

One example, the city of Regina 362 police officers, ten school resource officers funded out of the police budget. That would be equivalent of 36 school resource officers in the city of Winnipeg. It's also interesting to note that the province has allocated the police additional 46 officers over the last two years hoping that school resource officers would be part of that package. Brandon Police Service was allocated four additional police officers over the past two years. Two of them have been assigned to be school resource officers. So I think we need to look at some of these long term issues moving forward, how we fund the School Resource Officer Program and we look forward to working with you on those things.

So we appreciate sort of the immediate issue we're looking at, we look forward to working with the city on some of these longer term issues especially I think many people have questions about how are we allocating our police resources. Maybe it's great but the question is, we don't know, so I think that would be really important work to do as we move forward in doing this kind of work. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Any questions of the delegation? Mr. Simms thank you for your presentation. The next delegation also on the same subject is Barbara Coombs. Is Ms. Coombs here? You have five minutes.

Barbara Coombs: Thank you. Good morning Your Worship, Councillors. My name is Barbara Coombs; I'm Chairperson of Parents for an Aware Community. We are a volunteer group of parents from the schools in the south district of the Winnipeg School Division. Our boundaries encompass River Heights, Crescentwood and Fort Rouge.

Crime prevention programming is currently in place in three of the four Winnipeg School Division districts and used to be in place in the south district as well. My group's goal is to re-establish a positive, closer relationship between our city police and our young adults in high school, utilizing crime prevention service. We are seeking funding to deploy one city police officer dedicated to serving our four high schools and their feeder schools.

This multi-school resource officer would serve Churchill, College Churchill, Grant Park and Kelvin High schools. We request he or she be based in Churchill High School and the position commence September, 2007. We have had an exciting month. On March 12 the

Winnipeg School Division pushed for crime prevention programming within all its districts by approving our proposal and (in audible). On March 14th, the city's Executive Policy Committee recognized the benefits and appropriateness of school resource officers on a division wide basis by approving the motion before you today.

We sincerely thank our trustees for their support and the E.P.C. for their acknowledgments and foresight. The E.P.C.'s motion is also consistent with one of the proposed budget's top priorities, reduction in crime. As our proposal involves funding from the division, the city and the province, we are here today seeking your support to improve our current situation.

Almost three years ago, the two community police officers in our district were reassigned without the consultation of the trustees or the superintendent's. Our C.P.O. service was long established and to be blunt, if the service had not been cut I probably would not be here today. Over the last three years we have absolutely noticed an increase in parent's questions around safety issues. We sense our administrators concerns that they are now dealing with safety and discipline problems which used to be dealt with by city police officers and we are concluding that there is a connection between these concerns and the cut in service which occurred.

Our students can be vulnerable. If they have disposable income, they become targets. If they are seeking income, students can be lured. Safety issues with our kids arise all weekday long, over the weekend, on the cell phones, at the mall, the community centres, the party. These issues follow our young people into the school or schools and our schools are connected. C.P.O.'s handle these emerging issues through regular visits where they could counsel students and parents, act as resources, educators and role models. They knew the hot spots in our district and follow the students when they graduated from the feeder schools into the high schools.

The general category of safety concerns we're addressing are drug related, bullying, internet and cell phone safety. Threat of gangs, violence at home and in school and last November some of these concerns were made public in the drug bust (in audible) on Jubilee Avenue. Jubilee Avenue is the southern most boundary of our district.

For the past three years, our non emergency calls have been handled by District Six's point of response officers, when response certainly has its place, but it is reactive and not proactive, the service is not meeting our needs.

Our proposal for one S.R.O. has gained 100 percent support from our high school and junior high schools and 80 percent over all support from the parent councils in our district. We have the support of our trustees, our Area City Councillors and the Winnipeg Police Services, but we realize that we need to continue our efforts in gaining parent council support and numerous names on our online petition and unlike C.E.D.A.'s proposal; we still have to secure provincial funding because no portion of our district is covered under neighbourhoods alive.

We have been in contact with area M.L.A.'s and the Justice Department, we have requested meetings with Ministers of Justice and Intergovernmental Affairs and we will be contacting the opposition parties.

So to summarize our position, our goal is to re-establish proactive relationship building police programming for our high school students similar to the C.P.O. service which was cut three years ago. To phrase it concisely, we are seeking an equitable distribution of police, city police crime prevention programming for our district. We do request this officer be in place by this September and hope that negotiations will not exceed that date.

As a final note we would like to sincerely thank City Councillors Brenda Leipsic and Jenny Gerbasi for their strong support and guidance and Tom Simms from C.E.D.A. for his advise. We thank you for your time and attention today.

Mr. Speaker: Any questions of the delegation? None? Thank you for your presentation. The final delegation is Geraldine Grayeyes-von Ramin in support of Item 1 of the report of Executive Policy Committee dated February 28. Is she coming? Okay.

Geraldine Grayeyes-von Ramin: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You have ten minutes.

Geraldine Grayeyes-von Ramin: Very good.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Proceed.

Geraldine Grayeyes-von Ramin: And also my representative on City Council, thank you. And Mr. Mayor, Your Worship, City Council. My name is Geraldine Grayeyes-von Ramin. I'm a treaty status Indian woman, tax paying citizen of Winnipeg and I've been a resident since the early 1970's. I need to make, I feel it's necessary to make Council familiar with some of my background, so to provide an opportunity to see that there is legitimacy behind the views that I express today. I have a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Manitoba, graduating from the, on the Dean's honour list. I've been, I was employed by the University of Manitoba Native Studies as a teaching assistant also research and I was employed by the City of Winnipeg as a social worker for over ten years.

Subsequent to that period I was employed by the province of Manitoba as policy analyst with Native Affairs and Northern Development. Also I work for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs as a coordinator for the women's committee. I also have an extensive record of public service in areas such as Police Commissioner for the Manitoba government, child welfare, family and community issues, justice and also, community safety, family development, just to name a few.

Why am I here in support of this decision. In policy, I do support this because I think it's time that our City Council take the opportunity to evaluate step, the first part of the Manitoba Aboriginal Pathways and to make some solid and improved plans for the proposed stage two. The mandate of some of the current aboriginal organizations or service, political organizations or services have perhaps fallen short of the, of the overall needs of our community.

For example, there has been a practise of exclusion, for treaty status Indian people, and this I comment on through actual first hand experience and through observation. The, following from that, the benefits of these programs, from the Manitoba, the Municipal Aboriginal Pathways, has not been shared equally among all aboriginal persons in the city of Winnipeg. The same would apply to disabled persons, our seniors, and of course, women.

I did present to the Executive Policy Committee in the previous administration when it came to the issue, when it came to the plans for the urban strategy and at that time, I raised the need to include women as a specific note, as a specific component within that strategy and unfortunately some of the persons who had, some of the Council who had impact on that decision process chose to overlook the need for women to be identified as a specific group, for again fit from that initiative.

I know these to give Winnipeg has been also involved in the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative for aboriginal people. One of the projects which I would like to address here is the project Meganan. The city was involved in providing land and also was in partnership with the other two levels of government. This project has proceeded to the absolute detriment of our plans as Aboriginal people, as treaty status Indian people, to benefit from being residents and citizens of the city of Winnipeg.

If one were to follow the natural trajectory of the current activities and the proposed activities, you would see that history would be repeating itself. We moved to Winnipeg in hopes of getting off Main Street, not to be put back there. That's no future for us as individuals and as families

and as persons who have hope for developing for our current families and for the future. There's always the same old saw that we look forward to the future for our seven generations and this certainly isn't an aspect that expresses this kind of hope.

As I said previously, some of our organizations are political and service organizations do in fact operate with absence of the treaty status persons in their policy and program planning and in benefit. So I really do think it's time that City Council take a look at these programs, at these political organizations and at the programs and services that have evolved from their activities. We need good and full assessment. We need oversight. We need accountability and we need that now.

Prior to proceeding any further, this City Council has an opportunity to make changes there in the urban aboriginal community so that there will be movement from a closed, undemocratic system, which has excluded treaty Indian persons, the disabled and women from having their voice. We need to also benefit from the, from government financing and from the benefit of these programs.

I'd like to support also the, Mr. Simms, I do believe, his viewpoint and the previous speaker, when we look at some solid practical concrete demonstrations of what can help our aboriginal persons. We have a disgusting graduation rate. I was last week delivering a workshop for elementary and junior high students and it was so obvious that these students are so discouraged. They come from families which are, you know non-judgmental here, but families which have little hope, especially for things like ownership, home ownership. Home ownership is very much connected to family stability and to community stability and safe and healthy communities.

I think those are my major concerns there in a nutshell. They could be broadened out but I don't want to name specific organizations or services, but I do believe there is a fairly high understanding of what I'm addressing here. So thank you Council and I hope you will consider my views as you proceed into the next steps.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillors, any questions of the delegation? If not, thank you for your presentation. Councillors we get into, next on the agenda is Executive Policy Committee report of February 20, what's your question Councillor Vandal?

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, before you continue I'd like to acknowledge and welcome former Councillor Donald Benham.

Mr. Speaker: We did that already,

Councillor Vandal: You did that?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, we did, but if you want to do it a second time.

Councillor Vandal: I was sleeping. My apologies.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors, E.P.C. Committee report of February 28, 2007. Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the Executive Policy Committee report for February 28, 2007 and move adoption of consent Agenda Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, yes, Number 1. Number 2, everyone is in favour, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Item No. 1, Mr. Mayor.

Item 1 - Municipal Aboriginal Pathways - Next Steps File CR-4.1

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would very much like to hear what Councillor Vandal, what his comments are and then I would certainly respond.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today in favour of the

Executive Policy Committee motion to concur and the motion that was brought forward by myself, seconded by the Mayor and I just want to make a few comments about the importance of this motion and looking at the MAP strategy that was adopted back in 2003, I can say that I am very proud that it was endorsed unanimously by Council at that time. I believe it's one of the only policies that, one of the only aboriginal policies that any major Canadian city has adopted and it's something that's very positive.

However, as the delegation before us was saying, it's important that we look at and evaluate what exactly it is that we've achieved in this document and I know anecdotally that there's been some very positive initiatives that have come forward, the WASAC initiative, it was an excellent recreational program, the Internship Program at the Planning Department which was ongoing for several years, but I think we need a comprehensive report from the Chief Executive Officer on where we are at in all the five pathways or policy areas, whether it's economic development, education, safety, education and outreach or quality of life. So that's the first part of the report that comes forward. It's very important to know where we're at, but equally important is going forward for the next term of Council, I think we need to put together a next step document that focuses on young people.

Young First Nation and Métis citizens and we all know about the demographics on the largest demographic increase in the City of Winnipeg is young people, First Nation and Métis and I think that provides challenges but it also provides opportunities. We need to be ahead of the game, we need to be proactive and we need to be looking at everything we do and ask ourselves through the lens, can we do things better to provide better services.

And I'm really talking about recreation here for young First Nation and Métis people and I think the key consideration here is partnership with other levels of government, federal, provincial and with Métis and First Nation governments to make sure that we can think outside the box to provide better service and to certainly get ahead of the game in terms of advocating for our citizens.

I also hope that, I know there's no time line to this but I have faith in the Mayor and the C.A.O. that this is going to be coming forward within a few months. I hope it doesn't come forward next year and I think it's got to be made a priority and I look forward to the Next Steps document. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just briefly, when this document, I agree with what Councillor Vandal's comments completely, but this document was described, called Next Steps but it was also really first steps because there's obviously a next step to go to and I'm glad to see us continuing to work on this issue in that way. The one point I wanted to make was that it was very encouraging that the document was adopted unanimously. It's been continued to be supported by the current Mayor even though it was a document passed by the previous Council and it's been supported by this Council in most ways.

The one area where I'm a little bit disappointed and I did raise this over the last year in Council and I believe the Mayor heard me on it, is the issue of consultation. One of the big areas of this document is it's not just intended to be, it wasn't established just by Councillors going off into some quiet little room and coming up with a policy, there was significant public consultation in developing the document and not just with the leaders of the aboriginal organizations but with the women in the community centres doing the work and those kind of people, the grass roots of the community. That was the approach in developing the document which I think, which is why it was such a good document and why the steps we took were so practical and doable.

So I would hope that in moving forward, part of the approach would be to respect the part of the document that talks about

consultation and it talked about ongoing consultation and I don't think that we really followed through on that part of it. So, I just wanted to reemphasize that point and I think that if we're going to have a meaningful policy and build on it, it has to be done in consultation with the community in a meaningful way. So I support the E.P.C. motion and thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further speakers? On item 1, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Report of March 7, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 7, 2007

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the Report of E.P.C. for March 7, 2007 and move adoption of consent Agenda Item 1 to 5.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi, which one, three. Councillor Vandal, five, no others and on the rest of the items, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Item 1 Mr. Mayor.

Item 3 - Federal Government Tax Incentives - Rehabilitation of Historic Places File GG-1

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Yes, I believe it was Councillor Gerbasi, I'd love to hear her comments and then I would be glad to respond if I'm given the opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you very much. I just wanted to briefly comment on this. This was a recommendation that came from the Historic Buildings Committee of which I'm the Chair and unfortunately the federal budget was passed yesterday and this motion speaks to the federal budget and including incentives for historic places and historic buildings.

Now there's also a component of this recommendation that forwards this recommendation to the F.C.M. and since we have the Acting President in our midst, I'm hoping that this Council's recommendation, a positive recommendation even though the budget already passed, is still relevant because this is clearly going to be an ongoing issue.

We used to have, the federal government used to have a commercial properties incentive fund which was basically a federal historic tax credit program and we received a million dollars for the Royal Bank Building right beside City Hall for that, we received a lot of funding from that in the City of Winnipeg. Winnipeg is a city that has a lot of historic buildings and it's what makes our city special and I think this Council is fully in agreement with that but we have to be really active on this if we want to continue that.

We need the support from other levels of government to give incentives to the private owners of these buildings because they end up leaving huge amounts of private money from the small amount of public money and we all know that those incentives work which is why this Council has, is one of the first cities to have our own historic tax credit programs. But we need the federal government to continue its involvement and unfortunately, that was one of the cuts that was made by the new federal government and it was not reinstated to my knowledge in this budget.

So I think our, I hope our representative from the F.C.M. will bring this forward, I hope our Mayor will bring it forward because Winnipeg needs support to maintain and keep making our heritage sites beautiful. If we lose them they're gone forever and we have a less interesting city and I think Council's recognized the value of that, but its unfortunate these kind of issues tend to fall off the table when you're dealing with a big federal budget, this is one of the ones that did and so I would urge Council to still pass this even though it says the 2007 budget, I hope that the Mayor will continue to bring it forward for next years'

budget and in the future. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers, on Item 3, all in favour, Mr. Mayor you want to close?

Mayor Katz: No, Mr. Speaker, I just want to let Councillor Gerbasi know that I know myself and I believe the majority of Council is supportive of this and I can assure her that I will continue to work towards this goal.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. On Item 3, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Item 5 madam clerk.

Item 5 - Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision - Review Process File EP-1.1 (PW)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I very much would like to hear from Councillor Vandal.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I've been involved as a politician through one Plan Winnipeg, I actually was the political Chairperson back in 2002 I think and or 2001, earlier than that, and I've been privy to much debate over previous Plan Winnipeg prior to that and I know one of, a huge criticism to varying degrees on the utility of Plan Winnipeg on this Council, I know that, but a huge criticisms of Plan Winnipeg is that you were unable to know how you were doing against the adopted plan, in the past.

And Plan Winnipeg was a guideline for some people, for some politicians. It was a foundation for others and prior to this plan, you were unable to really know how, how it is we're doing against the policies that were adopted, they were words on a piece of paper. Which is why, in the last plan, Councillor Gerbasi was a representative on the plan and three other Councillors who I believe are no longer here. We advocated very strongly for some indicators at the front of every chapter.

So if you open this Plan Winnipeg and you go to chapter one which is downtown first, the indicators are more people working and living downtown. Indicator two, is fewer vacant properties unless under developed land in the downtown. The idea being that in four or five years from now which is today, we would be able to look at these indicators and measure against the base lines which were taken five years ago and see if we've actually made progress. Those were some of the downtown indicators relative to development, transportation, transit ridership and bicycle usage is increasing. Do we know that? I think we do.

The amount of infill development is rising. The maintenance of residential streets is improving, relative to public safety, violent crimes are decreasing. The amount of graffiti is diminishing. The amount of indoor environmental tobacco smoke is decreasing. Back when we adopted this policy, we actually quit smoke indoors and that was an issue that we wanted to deal with.

The point I'm trying to make here is that I hope that somewhere in the administration that we are collecting the data on the indicators so that we can bring them forward to this Council and again do a devaluation on plans that are adopted by this Council and really that's the main message I want to send today.

I'm one who thinks that Plan Winnipeg is incredibly important. It's our vision document, it's our master document. I'm also not sure if I could ask the Mayor to clarify what is meant by partnership opportunities with the provincial government relative to Plan Winnipeg. As I see it, we are the leaders of our city and I think we should be championing this document and championing the process and bringing the province our version of the plan in a friendly sort of way so that they can endorse the plan but I'm not sure what is meant by partnership opportunities. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I too believe that Plan Winnipeg is an incredibly important document and the issue I wanted to raise was the issue

of public input and consultation because in order for a plan to be effective and meaningful there really has to be meaningful public consultation and I know sometimes, you know, Council grows weary of listening to delegations or whether, but it's our city plan and we have to set in place I believe in this process and I hope that that's what will happen is a truly broad based consultation not just with you know chosen, you know hand picked people, but something that truly represents the grass roots of every community in Winnipeg because this is a very, very important document.

And I think it's, I've been a little concerned over the last few years that there's a sort of cynicism about our Plan Winnipeg driven by the politicians unfortunately around this table who some sort of go oh yeah, it's a plan, and of course we can amend it, and of course we don't have to always do everything it says in its guidelines, but there does get to a point where people become cynical about it if there isn't sort of a support for it or a belief in it. And there's been comments made that concern me. I think we need to believe in our own plan or why have one and the public picks up on that. The public picks up on this Council's own attitude towards its plan.

So now that we have the opportunity to review this plan, I truly hope that we will give all citizens a chance to be heard. We'll set a really good process in place that includes all Members of Council as well as a broad base of the community. And I think we have to get behind our plan and believe it, that doesn't, believe in it, that doesn't mean we can't amend it when we need to and when it makes sense but I really, and I also share Dan's question about the process and I'd like clarification on what kind of process will be put in place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. In my role as Chair of Planning Property and Development we have been having some informal discussions around Plan Winnipeg. I can tell you that we're sort of already out of the gate. You'll notice that in the capital budget this year there was 800,000 dollars towards the origin destination study, we have completed the ecologically significant natural land strategy. We have just started the process of doing the employment land strategy.

So there's quite a bit of data being gathered right now that will service in going forward and getting to the point of public consultation. Councillor Vandal spoke specifically of the phrase partnerships with the province and the motion that came out of E.P.C. The province is always involved with us in Plan Winnipeg, has always been involved with this in Plan Winnipeg in a variety of different ways. They are also involved with our, with neighboring municipalities and municipalities throughout the province in these types of planning initiatives so there are some common grounds where we can certainly be working together in partnership and in bringing some common language and some other resources to the table.

So this really is just sort of a sendoff of getting the process in motion and ensuring that we are meeting our obligations under the Charter and that we are working closely with our partners at the province in doing what we can to bring some continuity with their planning direction and planning processes that they use with other municipalities. So that's what I'd like it say on that matter.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Vote on Item 5, all in favour, oh, Mr. Mayor do you want to close? I thought maybe there was no need, go ahead Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Maybe there is no need Mr. Speaker. It's always nice to have the opportunity. First of all I want to thank the Councillors for their comments. I think we all know the value of Plan Winnipeg. We also know that it is a living document and that's why we have the opportunity to change because sometimes the world changes.

To address some key issues that Councillor Vandal mentioned earlier, he used the term indicators; I guess I would

use the term goals. I think they're very similar. I do believe it's important to have those, there's no question about it. As you were listing off some of the indicators/goals, I was nodding my head where things have increased and I think you were probably doing the same.

Also when it comes to the specific question of partnership with the province, which was asked, there are financial partnerships, there are service shared projects as well as to give you an example right now we are working with the province and the capital region both working together. So, those are some of the examples that I can give you specifically and I should also let you know that the review has started as of December of '06; I think we all know it's a long process and I can assure you there will be consultation. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor, on the vote of Item No. 5. All in favour, contrary? Carried. Report of March the 14th, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 14, 2007

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the report of E.P.C. for March 14, 2007 and move adoption of consent Agenda Items 1 to 6.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Oh you wanted to speak to which one? What number? Number 2, madam clerk.

Item 2 - Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce - Chamber Way Project
File S-7

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I very much like to hear from Councillor Fielding at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Sure, thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of the initiative for Chamber Way, the 50,000 dollars that are dedicated towards the image route. I very much believe this project fits with the spirit of the Route Enhancements and Streetscaping program that we have in place. The Winnipeg Chamber or Commerce has taken a leadership role here in approving and transforming Route 90 creating a scenic corridor that highlights the functions of Winnipeg and the aspects whether it be the business and cultural integrity of our city.

The Chamber Way Project is an initiative that runs straight through the heart of my ward and the area is strategically important not just to St. James but to Winnipeg, its an area that local residents use extensively for transportation and people use for in and out of the city, to get in and out of the city quite extensively. The route from the Richardson International Airport to the city downtown provides an important first impression for city visitors and I think it's a very important initiative; of course the City Summit findings as well as the 2007 capital budget identified the airport to downtown as priority image route.

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce is working hard to further sponsor, get sponsorship and commitments from the business community for this initiative and I've been a big proponent of this since last year when I first heard of it. I know Councillor Swandel's been a big supporter of this as well. Throughout the election campaign I did spend a lot of time, days and nights talking to people in the local area and there is a big public support for this. I remember burmashaving one day 8:00 on a frigid October morning and had three cars slow down on Ness Avenue to ask me specific questions of this, so I think it's an initiative that local people are looking for.

Streetscaping and beautification is obviously been a major part of our operating budget and I believe this project would make the local area a better place and quality of life for our citizens. Reading through the city's report in Chamber Way, I do understand there is some logistical hiccups and steps that we need to go

through as a city to ensure this happens but I think its important that we get the Chamber of Commerce the flexibility and a little bit of money to make sure this project works out. Of course for this project to come to fruition we need to ensure that there's levels of funding from all three different levels and I understand they have made an application through the world infrastructure initiative funding program.

So that makes that for all these reasons I do very much support this project and look I look forward to it coming to fruition in helping them out in anyway I can from a community setting to make it a reality. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor, I will not miss you this time.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, you have my permission to miss me this time. I think it's all been said. I think we can just call the vote unless, I'm sorry.

Councillor Gerbasi: I think Councillor Smith had his hand up first.

Mr. Speaker: Did you have your hand up before Councillor Smith? Councillor Smith go ahead.

Councillor Smith: I can't see improving an area where it is not the shortest route. You know it seems to me, that this is, the taxis are not going to go that way, because it's a longer route. So I'm not supportive of this and I want a recorded vote on this.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Yes, just briefly, I guess I didn't completely do my homework but I looked at this just now and I realize that we're already approving funding from the Image Route Enhancement Streetscaping Program of 50,000 for this program and that may be fine, I haven't had, you know I don't have anything against this specific project necessarily, but there's several other proposals that have come in from the Corydon BIZ and from other areas, this funding was originally envisioned for older BIZ zone areas, it's now being suggested that most of it's being used for suburban projects.

I understand we have to divvy up this small pot, fine, but all the five or six proposals that are in should be looked at, at once, go to the administration, be properly vetted through the administration before we approve in advance one project out of a number of a projects that applied for the same pot of money. So, I would like to see us wait until all the projects get properly vetted through the administration.

So I'm just, I didn't have a chance to you know really look at this until I just noticed this now. I thought we were just approving the MRIF application. I didn't realize we were designating money from this small fund that has a number of demands on it for one project over all the others and I'd like more work to be done on this before I'd support it. I'd certainly support it if the proper documentation was here. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is in fact a, the identification of a funding source to help get some of the detailed design and engineering information. If you look at this actual funding component in the capital budget, the number one priority for the spending of this money is the airport to downtown area, so that's why the money coming forward or being moved at this time.

All the matters that come forward or any submissions that are made that might be considered for this funding of course are looked at by the administration and we look at where they're at in the different stages and what can be done, but this was clearly identified in the budget as the number one priority and this, you know the administration had raised some questions about some of the detailed design and engineering requirements when this was first brought forward, so it's part of a sensible decision making process, we thought it important to invest

a bit of money in looking at the detailed design and some of the engineering issues before we give our blessing to the MRIF application.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further speakers. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I would now take the opportunity to speak. Thank you very much. I certainly do appreciate the concerns that Councillor Smith and Councillor Gerbasi have raised. This is not a new issue, Mr. Speaker; this has got phenomenal public attention. This has been on the front page of our newspapers. This was raised several years ago and I think anybody who makes that drive would realize the importance of image and it's certainly is being championed by the Chamber of Commerce.

Just to reiterate what Councillor Swandel has said, is that this pot of money is there specifically for those reasons. This is 50,000 dollars and approximately 200,000 dollars that's been set aside. There is room for other projects but the key thing is, the administration has looked at this Mr. Speaker and this is their number one priority. So I certainly hope because if this work isn't done, we won't have the answer to whether or not the project is or is not feasible and I think this would be a very wise and astute move, I certainly hope Council supports this. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. A recorded vote has been called for by Councillor Smith. All in favour of Item 2, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

Nays

Councillors Smith.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1.

Mr. Speaker: It's carried. Report of March 21, I believe this is a big one. Mr. Mayor would you like to introduce that.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 21, 2007**

Mayor Katz: Yes first of all Mr. Speaker, I'd like to apologize to Council; the last thing we want to do is have walk on items. Sometimes I'm sure you can appreciate it's beyond our control and so therefore I would like to move that the rules be suspended and that Council consider the report of Executive Policy Committee of March 21, 2007 and there are four items on this agenda that took place this morning.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Clause by clause. Councillor Wyatt is number 1.

Item 1 - 2007 Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy File FL-3

Councillor Gerbasi: Point or order Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: What's your point of order?

Councillor Wyatt: Is this motion from Councillor Pagtakhan and Smith connected to this report or is it a stand alone motion?

Mr. Speaker: That's a stand alone motion.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think at this particular point in time I'm just going to let Councillor Wyatt have his say, make his comments and then I will address them right after that.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt you have the floor.

Councillor Wyatt: Councillors, Your Worship, thank you Mr. Speaker. This report is a perennial debate which we annually discuss here every year, for the new Councillors, this a requirement under provincial legislation that we have to have this before us because we're the ones who collect the taxes for the school divisions and hand the money over to them, so we under law are required to have this before us and therefore required to actually vote for it, even though technically you could vote against it, legally you can't, they say or we can't defeat it. It has to go forward.

And that is the requirement placed on us by provincial legislation whether we like it our not. So it's somewhat undemocratic and it's a concern being raised every year. The school taxes, Mr. Speaker, if there was, we had our discussion yesterday about our operating budget and it's very clear, since 1990 to 2005, which is the latest statistics I have and the inflation rate hasn't changed that much so it wouldn't be that much out of line today, from 1990 to 2005, the inflation rate was, has increased, inflation has increased 39.9%, so 40%. In that period of time our taxes, Mr. Speaker, have gone up a total of 16.1% in that period of time, basically 24% below the rate of inflation. That's the reality of, with regards to our revenues.

In that same period of time Mr. Speaker, on the education taxes, the education taxes went from, keep in mind this is with regards to also calculating the education support levy that's being phased out by the province on residential and farms, is basically an increase of 106%, Mr. Speaker, above the rate of inflation, 106% above the rate of inflation when you factor inflation in that same period of time.

That's outrageous and once again we have before us a report which clearly demonstrates that taxes are going to be going up on average across the city above the rate of inflation. And once again, we are reminded of the fact that the taxes with regards to school taxes now make up more than 50% of our property tax bill and are rising. They are going to read this year 53.5% according to this report and once again there is silence on Broadway.

So the question has to be, Mr. Speaker, how long are we going to put up with this. I the other day last Thursday, I was talking to a senior citizen in my community whose wife passed away not too long ago, who lost her pension, a lot of her pension who lives on a thousand dollars a month and is being hit by our sewer and water rates but now also higher school taxes and is basically, with his income, virtually two months of his income are being consumed by property tax just to stay in his house. There's something wrong with that picture Mr. Speaker and it's not just the seniors.

There's people of other fixed income, disability, folks on disability payments, folks, working families who are struggling to make ends meet and want to have an education system that's equitable and fair. But we have a system that goes back to the last century, Mr. Speaker that we're, that we're basically shackled with and there doesn't seem to be anything with regards to recent developments to address this.

Now in 2004, the Minister had appointed a working group prior to that, in July of 2004, a report was issued called Working Toward a New Finance Structure for the Public Education of Manitoba and a number of recommendations were made, including a recommendation to increase provincial funding support from 57% of divisional operating expenditures to 80% and an initial overall decrease in property taxation revenues in support of public education from 51% to 37%. Well of course we now know it's above 51%, so on average in the city of Winnipeg.

And a number of recommendations, practical recommendations were tied to that, Mr. Speaker, with regards to how to implement those recommendations to the province and nothing was done. Now we've had previous governments of previous political stripes. We have a New Democratic government in power now, it doesn't matter it seems which party is in

power, there doesn't seem to be any action on this file.

And the reality though, is when it comes to the citizens in our city, the folks who are paying the taxes, it's those who are at the bottom are getting squeezed more and more and more in an inequitable system which is, which charges somebody who lives in a house with a family of four and two income earners, the same as the neighbour next door virtually, a senior living by themselves. Completely, it does not make sense.

And yet Mr. Speaker, we're required here today just to throw our hands up and to say yes, we have to pass this and I have for four years in a row, Councillors, for the new Councillors here, I have voted against this and this'll be my fifth year voting against this even though I'm on E.P.C. I'm going to be consistent, I'm going to vote against this and I would encourage you do the same.

Now we've been told that we would, you know we can't do that, that we would go to jail potentially and have, the reality is Mr. Speaker, maybe we have to, I don't know if it would come to that but if we all voted against this today, I think it would send a message you know to the province. It would send a message to Broadway that there is a problem. You know we may have to convene a meeting within a few days to vote on it again before the end of March, but you what we would send a message and what's wrong with sending a message and just maybe waking them up over there on Broadway.

You know and saying hey this is important and not just the government in power, but also the opposition parties, too, waking them up, because I don't think they've woken up to this reality as well. You know we hear about it, because we're the ones who send the bills out and it's our constituents and we have our house in order as I said yesterday and a lot of us said yesterday, we have worked hard to address the issues thanks to the work of the Mayor and to Councillors who have been on Council for a number of years, who've work hard in this Council, we have done a tremendous job as a City Council to address our own property tax issue yet the reality is, the homeowner gets the entire bill in the mail and is expected to pay the entire bill period and that's the bottom line and we're involved because we have to send the bills out and collect the money for the school division.

Well, this has gone on long enough Mr. Speaker. The time has come now to draw a line in the sand and to say we are not going to take it any more. We've had enough. We've had enough. We are not going to take it and I'm mad as HE double hockey sticks and we are not going to take it any more, simple as that Mr. Speaker, because the citizens of this city expect leadership from us, expect leadership from the province and the leadership right now is not happening. So what are we going to do, continue to have this debate year end, year out, year after year. No.

Let's say no to this today, let's say no, let's vote not, it's not sustainable, Mr. Speaker. It's stainable to the provincial government because they collect the money, it's sustainable to the school divisions because they collect the money, they think it's wonderful, but it's not sustainable to the rate payers out there Mr. Speaker, the average people who are working day in and day out, the seniors, it's not sustainable. It's wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel move extension of two minutes, all in favour, contrary? Carried.

Councillor Wyatt: And its statistics from our own Corporate Finance Department outlining the outrageous increase above the rate of inflation tells you that the machine is broken. Those are my words Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor I'd like you to let us know what you; you don't smoke or drink what we can provide you with when you go into the big house. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding everything Councillor Wyatt said, I think we all know what our obligation is here, but I did want

to get one item on the record in this regard and that is, when you pay your school taxes on your property tax bill you're paying them with after tax dollars and one message I'd like to be heard on Broadway is that at the very least, that the amount that you pay on your tax bill for school taxes should be a deduction on provincial income tax.

I think after listening to some of the information we got earlier on, on this, that in order to have school boards and school trustees you have to have a way to fund them and you know it's going to be difficult to move school taxes off the tax bill and we all can certainly agree that it would, it would serve us well to have them off the tax bill, but the mechanism of getting to that point is probably not going to be an easy task.

But I did want to ensure that the fact that the taxes on the property bill are after tax dollars and that there should be some sort of a tax credit for that, from the province to offset that double taxation. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Any further speakers? If not, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say every time at this year I've heard Councillor Wyatt's words and I know how passionate he is and I have no doubt in my mind if push came to shove, he would go to jail for something he believes in and I remember last year myself and I believe some other Councillors offered to post bail if it would be necessary, but the realities are this.

I don't disagree with one word he said. I mean you know what's right is right. This is an issue. It's obviously not something that's going to resolve overnight. There are groups you know, who are lobbying for this and hopefully it's something that'll happen over three or four or five years. The problem is quite simple Mr. Speaker, if you look at the Public School Act, it's specifically states that at the times and in the manner prescribed in the regulations, each municipality within a school division shall remit to the school board of the School Division the amounts proportioned to the municipality and set out in the statement sent to it under section 187.

And then when it talks about enforcing payment of school monies which is the important one, in the case of default in paying over school monies, the crown in right of Manitoba may enforce the responsibility of the municipality or local government district either by stopping a like amount of any public monies payable to the local municipality or local government district. I think this is just letting us know it's a battle that we cannot win. It doesn't mean it's not important to make a statement and there are many ways to make a statement and I think Councillor Wyatt is on his way to making that statement. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Recorded votes, Councillor Wyatt. A recorded vote has been called for, Item No. 1, all in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

Nays

Councillors Smith, Wyatt.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 2.

Mr. Speaker: It's carried. On Item No. 2, madam clerk.

Item 2 - Alternate Funding Source for Acquisition of 50.4 Acres of CPR Marconi Rail Right-of-Way – Nairn Avenue to Glenway Avenue File FI-2(33)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor, questions been called on item 2, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Item No. 3, madam clerk.

**Item 3 - Reserves Administration Audit
File FA-2**

Mr. Speaker: Anyone? Questions been called. All in favour, Councillor Thomas on No. 3.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, thank you. I just wanted to say that a lot of time we spend in this chamber is debating on issues in which we have disagreements about finer points of it, but I think it's appropriate on some occasions to stand up and give ourselves a little pat on the back.

These reserves, the administration has had an audit on them, says the reserves are appropriate level, that how we're investing them is well, the stabilization reserves for unanticipated fluctuation, are full, over and over again it tells us what a good job that this Council has been doing and that our administration has been advising on and that our staff have been implementing, and I think that we, that we just brush on, brush off that stuff and move on to issues where we spend a lot of time talking about things of which we want debate.

But I think it's important to, when this stuff happens and we've been planning these reserves and implementing reserves for a long period of time, that we should pat ourselves on the back for the work done and also there is some recommendations on how to do things in the future and what has been implemented so far and what management response is and I think it's important to just bring that to everyone's attention. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I'll thank Councillor Thomas for those comments and I would also move the clause, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Item No. 3, all in favour, contrary? Carried.

**Item 4 - Aquatics Revenue Audit
File FA-2**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'll move the clause.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Motion.

**EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS**

Mr. Speaker: We have one motion Councillors and this is Councillor Pagtakhan as automatic referral. Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move suspension of rules to deal with this item today because we just passed the Item No. 1 of E.P.C. on the education levy and I think it's appropriate that we deal with this today.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors, all in favour, opposed? It's carried. Read the motion.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Okay, move the motion be adopted, all in favour, contrary.

Councillor Gerbasi: Oh, the motion to debate it.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, just the motion, to be adopted.

Councillor Gerbasi: Not the motion, not voting on the motion.

Mr. Speaker: No. No, this is just to discuss it now and this Council can be doing. Councillor Pagtakhan, introduce, Councillors, Councillor Pagtakhan introduce your motion.

**Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan
Seconded by Councillor Smith**

WHEREAS School taxes now represent 53.5% of all property taxes collected in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Education falls directly under Provincial jurisdiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg Council call upon the

Manitoba Provincial Government to remove the Mill Rate for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy from the City of Winnipeg's Municipal Property Tax Bill;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Education be funded in the future from the Province's General Revenue.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I just want, the motion is fairly self-explanatory. It just says whereas the school taxes now represent over half of our municipal tax bill and whereas the education is the responsibility of the province of Manitoba, the motion is reading therefore be resolved that the city of Winnipeg Council call upon the province of Manitoba to remove the mill rate for the education support levy and the special levy from the city of Winnipeg municipal property tax bill and that they look for in the future, another way to fund education through the general revenue.

I think that's really important, I supported a E.P.C. report of February 21st, or sorry March 24th, today will be, just voted on the education levy, I think that's, I know that the consequences of not voting for that, you might not go to jail but certainly the city would be on the hook for nearly half a million dollars, 500 million dollars basically. So I think it's important that we deal with this and we send a message to the province and I'm moving the motion.

Mr. Speaker: We have three, two more speakers. Councillor Gerbasi followed by Councillor Thomas. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. You know for the last, this is my ninth year on Council, so maybe I'm getting tired, but every year we have this debate and I think we all agree with it to a certain point, on many of the points that have been raised, but this motion goes, I think it goes too far.

The document that Councillor Wyatt just handed out had a committee which included you know pretty good working group and they said 80% level. Whereas this motion goes all the way and just completely eliminates it from the property tax. I also think, excuse me, I also think that it's, I agree that it's frustrating to have to collect levies for another level of government that we don't have control over. It's frustrating that we deal with unhappy constituents and I agreed that the property taxes is not the most progressive form of tax, I agree with some of the comments Councillor Wyatt made on that, but the one piece of information, the one issue that always gets sort of left off in this debate is the kids and the school and how can we fund our schools properly and that's probably one of the most important things and it should be in.

I also think we need to put in perspective. You know, every year there's usually a dramatic speeches railing against those irresponsible school trustees who raise our taxes just you know selfishly and irresponsibly you know and frankly you know they aren't here to defend themselves and personally I think we should thank our school trustees for taking on an incredibly challenging job that pays almost nothing and provides very little rewards. I can tell you I wouldn't want that job. They have less flexibility than any level of government to do anything else than what they do and they are tasked with the crucial and demanding job of figuring out how to provide an adequate school system for our children with limited resources and I'm grateful they're doing it.

The other target we generally do in this annual debate is we go after the province and we stand up and bash them for not completely eliminating the school taxes which this motion does, but rarely are they given credit. You know Councillor Wyatt said that absolutely nothing's been done. Well we know they reduced the education levy. We know they've got this report they're at least working on reducing it, the 80%, so I think it's not really fair to say nothing's been done.

Of course it's not fast enough and it's not enough, but put yourself in their position, it's not that easy of a problem, so, rarely, I also am tired of hearing that 100% of it should be paid by income tax. We do have a school board system, It's not that simple as Councillor Swandel very clearly

pointed out, and I agree with everything he said, that you have to look at other mechanisms, I think that was a great suggestion of an income tax, some kind of equalization for people paying it out of property taxes or something, but the problem with completely eliminating it, is that you will have an under funded school system, mark my words.

Jurisdictions like Alberta have no school tax, don't have the same kind of system we have, and you know what they have, they have an under funded public education system because the education gets lost in all the other priorities without a dedicated level of government like school boards focusing on our kids which I think is important and I think we all think is important.

You go to California or Alberta where tax cuts and backwards laws are in place and they don't have good public education systems and there's a reason why we have this system with school boards and that we give them some autonomy and some control over education, they have to have a source of revenue. If we completely take it away, you know it'll be to the detriment of the school system.

I'd also like to say as a parent and eventual grandparent, I'm glad we have a school board system and that the trustees focus so hard on making our schools the way they are. I know my experience in Winnipeg Division One you know the schools are amazing. The kids are cared about and they're given amazing opportunities, French immersion, alternative, all these different alternatives, things within our schools. That's there because those school trustees that worked hard to make that happen. The police in schools program we're about to get, in the school divisions are supporting that.

So I'm just putting out a word of caution. I agree with some of the comments of Councillor Wyatt, definitely Councillor Swandel, we need to reduce it, we need to compensate for it and make it more equitable, but this motion I can't support because it's just, it's really simplistic and it completely disregards the school board level of government and their ability to function and I think it's not fair to bash those people who carry the burden of making our schools the places they are and I think we should maybe this year send the school trustees a thank you card, just for a change. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. If this had stopped at first be it resolved, I might have considered supporting it, but one of the reasons that I continue to have a problem and continue to support it because we have to, when it comes to dealing with the taxing of the school boards is because I don't think we should be approving how the school board spend its money.

I think they are elected officials. We don't approve how the province spends their money, we don't approve how the federal government spends their money and I think it's insulting and paternalistic to the school boards that we are in a position of approving how they spend their money because it goes on our tax bill.

And I think they should have their own tax bill. Now whether they do it from property taxes or however the provincial government gives them the way to do it, I don't think we should be in the middle of it. And I don't like that and I would really like us to be out of that.

But I cannot go with the second resolve that suggests that we tell the province to take the money out of general revenue. I'm not going to tell the province that for the same reason I'm not going to tell the school board that. I like them off our property tax bill, but how they do it and where they get the money from and how they work with the school division should be between them and the school division.

So this motion I can't support because the same reason I'm not going, I don't like telling the school division what to do, I'm not going to tell the province what to do. Let's not get into that battle. You know we have enough work figuring out what we're doing with our money and that we get a

lot of individuals and groups come down and telling us what we should be doing with our money. And I think that's enough to be on our plate. I'm not about to tell the province and I'm not about to tell the school board how they should be spending their money. I think it's between them and the people who've elected them to do their job.

I also think that the school board has a very tough time. We talk about the fact that we don't have a lot of money here to do things that our revenues are certainly a lot smaller than the larger footprint of the province and the huge footprint of the federal government. All they have is property taxes. Well I happen to be in Executive Policy Committee when the delegation was there speaking and I ran after them to tell them that I don't think they should be touting what happened in Alberta as a way to go because I have relatives who live in Alberta and yeah, they don't have property taxes so every student that goes to a public school pays a school fee and I have some relatives who are within the middle income range but one parent is working and they've got three kids and they have to spend upwards of four hundred dollars for each of the kids and guess what, that's probably more than the property taxes that they would have paid if it would have gone on property taxes, but then only a small portion gets there and the whole society isn't contributing to it and I'm very uncomfortable with that because it means it becomes more and more the responsibility of the individual parents rather than the society as a whole to make sure that we have an educated society and I think if we, if our schools are suffering because the children don't have enough books and enough papers and enough resources or there's forty in a classroom rather than twenty five, if they don't have enough aids for kids with special needs because the parents cannot afford high school fees, then what have we done.

So I don't want to get into that milieu either and I say we've got enough to worry about here. So I'm not comfortable with supporting this motion and I wish the movers would have talked to me about it beforehand because I would have said take that last part out and I'll think about it. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Does anybody else want to speak? I've spoken.

Mr. Speaker: No, you're the only one.

Councillor Wyatt: Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you. I'm going to be supporting the motion. I think, I'd like to thank Councillor Pagtakhan and Councillor Smith for moving the motion and seconding it. I think you know this is the time where you know we talk turkey. You know, we're either in favour of seeing the property taxes, education taxes removed off the property or not and it was rightly pointed out by previous speakers that the recommendation that came out of the July 2004 task force working group appointed by the Minister involving actually representatives of the city, I believe it was Mr. Weselowski, from the city, recommending that at the end of the day the funding model should be a 80/20 split and giving options.

But Mr. Speaker, that was almost three years ago now and nothing's been done, a matter of fact, when the report was issued publicly at that time, the Premier said, read my lips I'm not going to raise taxes to make up for this shortfall in funding on education. So in other words, we're basically saying, thank you guys for year and a half, two years worth of work but we're not doing anything and that died.

So this report is dead and we heard that today from the delegations at E.P.C. who've been lobbying actively on this matter when they go to meet with the Ministers, this, excellent job done by the working group and good recommendations, solid, but dead.

So you know at the end of the day, there's no alternative but to say, look we've had enough, the taxes, the school taxes are out of control, the time has come to start to phase them off the property, period. We've tried the other

route. We as a city participated in this. We tried the other route and it went nowhere, it died.

So we as a city like all the other municipalities in this province who are sick, who are tired Mr. Speaker, of these school taxes. It's not just here in Winnipeg but it's across this province who want to see this issue addressed and addressed immediately. Us, if we as a Council moved and supported this resolution, I realize that it's not coming from E.P.C., its members who are not on E.P.C., I realize that it's coming here today because of the discussion we're having, but there's no better time than the present Mr. Speaker.

This would send a very clear message, it would straighten our, it would make it very clear what our position is as a Council and I think it would motivate the provincial government and the opposition parties to start working on this and to start making this happen because otherwise what's going to happen, we're going to be debating this again a year from now, guaranteed, guaranteed.

This is a motion that says right, enough is enough. This is a motion that says, we've debated this enough. Let's get on with sending the message, this sends the message and as rightly pointed out by the mover of the motion, we have every right to make this motion, this is Council business, it doesn't contravene provincial legislation. This allows us to vote in favour of this motion.

Let's vote in favour of it, let's vote in favour of it, what, and ask the province to start working on this. Put this issue back on the front burner because as far as Broadway's concerned now, this is not a priority. This is not a priority. They've buried this report. So let's make it a priority again Councillors, let's send the message that this has to be done and let's address it today. Let's not prevaricate any longer.

We've debated this enough, we've debated this for four years and for four years Mr. Speaker, I've been told wait, wait, wait we're working on this, we're working on this. Well you now what, we've worked on it enough, it's clear what we need to do and if this is our negotiating position Mr. Speaker and we're saying we want to have all the taxes off the property and it ends up the province comes back with and restores a 80/20 split to what it was years ago, we would have made huge progress and that's a great thing.

So why not have a position where we can actually go in there and something to negotiate with and to say, look Council stands united together on this matter or as united as possible, maybe not as united as yesterday but as united as possible, with regards to this motion and this is the Council position by the majority of Councillors.

I encourage Councillors to support this motion. I think it's, it was well done. It's in sync; you know we could mince words things to death. You know, how many you know, how many fairies can dance on the head of a needle, who cares, you know Mr. Speaker. Who cares. You know this is here, this is here, lets just, you know it's in front of us. Let's not, you know, you know try and say well I don't like that sentence, I don't like this paragraph.

Well its here, it's pretty straightforward. What's so hard to understand, let's vote for this Mr. Speaker, let's make it happen and yes I think it's a great idea, call the question. I'll call the question. I don't know if I can do that after I spoke, but anyway, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith. Councillor Smith, you're next.

Councillor Smith: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to make it very plain and clear that in seconding this motion I am not attacking the school boards. I'm not saying that, I'm not using this as a forum to show our frustration with what the school board is doing.

I think it's more equitable, it's fairer to have it from general revenue from the province. Everyone in the province pays. You now, you have your M.L.A.'s that you can go to. The school boards, let me tell you this, how many people call their school board members, not many. If

they're interested in something, they don't phone their school board members. You know, so, you know I think that Councillor Wyatt made it very plain.

If we have a resolution like this passed, it's something that will make it clear to the province how we feel that this is wrong to have it on homes and that in effect, they may in effect come back to this and go for an 80/20. You know, it seems to me that we have to make a statement. I don't want to be debating this every year. It doesn't make any sense. We should take a strong position. There's a lot of senior people, seniors in homes that can't afford increases. It's not equitable the way it is. It's not a very progressive having on land, tax on property. This is a fairer way of doing it and that's why I seconded the motion and I definitely did not do it to attack the school boards.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement.

Councillor Clement: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to speak until I heard one of the other series of comments. I've spoken on this issue, Mr. Speaker, a number of times in this chamber. As a matter of fact, if we pass this today, I believe what we're doing is reiterating what we've already said in the past on more than one occasion. I'm almost positive that we sent a resolution to the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities who we are a member of, and I believe that they approved it at one of their meetings a couple of years ago and it was sent in a more complete way.

We happened to be the largest municipality in the province but we're not the only one and so it was done in that fashion and I know that, that happened. But it doesn't hurt to reiterate this. I have never stood in this chamber and railed on this issue and talked about school trustees at the same time, never once. I've heard other people make comment about it, but I haven't done that so I don't like the broad brush approach to that kind of comment. I have a bit of a problem with that.

I think it's true though that for whatever reason, the structure is what it is. People don't tend to know who their school trustees are. I know when I knock on doors during an election campaign, other than they see some signs all of a sudden, most people don't know who their current trustees are. That's wrong I guess, but I don't think it's up to us to solve that issue. It just happens to be the reality in the short-term.

But I think that what this is really saying is it's stating what this Council believes and I'm prepared to support it on that basis, because I think that the, one of the main problems with this, we all know it's wrong I mean. I just watched a federal budget a couple of days ago. I didn't see a lot for seniors frankly other than the fact that they can buy RRSP's for a couple more years now. There wasn't a lot there for seniors and Russ is right, I talked to people, I can't believe others in this chamber don't either, I positive you do, they're all okay trying to stay in their houses as long as they're both alive. One goes and they're down to one pension or one and part of and they have a heck of a time and they're not indexed for the most part and so they've got taxes rising, they can't help it if they live in an area where the general quadrant assessments are going up in some cases so they get hit that way in some cases even though they've lived in their homes for many years. They certainly get increases because of school taxes going up and I've never once seen school taxes frozen in my area and there's a valid enough reasons for that, they have people pursuing them to try and change things, they've only got one source of funding and that is to raise taxes.

So the system isn't very well structured today I don't think. I might have agreed with Lillian that maybe we didn't need the last sentence in the motion because I guess it's up to them where they would take the money from whether it comes from income tax, general revenues or some other such mechanism like Councillor Swandel was talking about Mr. Speaker, but I think that it's time that we do make a statement and hopefully the media will pick up on it a little bit.

I'm actually a bit of the mind for quite a while that Winnipeg City Council, when

there are impending elections, should have a position on some matters. I'm not suggesting we have to have a document that's got twenty five or thirty things that we'd like to changed, but there's always one or two key ones and this is certainly one of those.

We've got a provincial election looming and we've got an existing government who isn't dealing with this and we've got a couple of opposition parties that aren't dealing with it either. So, and what's going to make them do it, because, Mr. Smith from Charleswood or Mr. Jones from Transcona phones their M.L.A. or talks to their candidate, I don't think so.

The residents of this city elect us to lead for them and to be involved in this. They don't understand all of the intricacies of all of the things that we deal with because they don't have all the background information that we get. That's why they put us here to do this job. So, why do we do it and you pass a motion like this, it sends a direct missive if you like at the various levels and parties at the provincial government level that this is a key issue and the bottom line is, what is it HE double hockey sticks Russ, is your position, because I haven't got a clue what any of them have as their position. It would be nice to know before they get there because they're going to create their own platforms and we're not going to have one again and I don't know why we don't think about that a little bit.

I think that there's two or three issues that we could throw at them. This would be one of them, there's obviously things like infrastructure that they've made great strides in recent times to help us out with at both levels, but I think that they're not long term enough, as an example, we should maybe be pursuing something like that and take a position on that.

There may be other things that other people want to talk about as well, but anyway, enough of that, bottom line, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to support the motion simply because of my comments and thinking it out a little bit. I don't like this 80/20 thing by the way because that's just going back to the bottom line again and telling them what to do and the, it might be interesting, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Education to start directing the education in this province instead of abdicating that role to all of the school boards.

Maybe they should be taking a little bit more direct role in it and if you take the area of special needs as an example. If it's important to be dealt with at the level that the trustees are at, then it's important that it be dealt with at the Ministers level and that issue should be plucked out and funded in a proper way as opposed to just a blanket percentage as an example.

I don't get into the school things very much but I think about them like every other taxpayer and we're all taxpayers too. So I don't have any problem with this motion. I think it sends a message that we believe that the provincial government should deal with this issue in some fashion. We're not saying it has to be changed tomorrow, at least deal with it in some fashion, Mr. Speaker. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors there are a few more speakers. Its five minutes to 12:00. Do you want to continue or do we adjourn and reconvene at 1:30? Go for lunch? Can someone move that'll it be twelve o'clock? You got two more, there may be more. Okay, then we'll continue. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I can't support the motion because I believe the motion is not well thought out and I can tell you it's easy before you start thinking this thing out to stand up and say, yes we all agree that school taxes shouldn't be on the property tax bill and I can tell you as a relatively new Councillor as I started receiving the phone calls saying, you people claim you put taxes down but my tax bill went up, that was sort of my initial position when somebody asked me about getting school taxes off the property tax bill, I said by all means because I didn't like getting into this argument or debate and having to give the explanation of well you know we've held the line on taxes or we've lowered taxes and the school divisions have put the taxes up.

In fact while the City of Winnipeg was lowering taxes, 2% over a number of years from a total of 10% in my particular area, property taxes went up by just over 30%. So you know, staggering numbers. But then you know, I was reminded by a friend who is a school trustee, that easy for you to hold the line on taxes because maybe you can tweak something with snow clearing or maybe you can go to a reserve or maybe you can cut the grass one less time. But we have a legislative responsibility of what we have to deliver on, so I got a little quieter after that, I understood that.

I believe that there needs to be school boards and that I think it was Councillor Steeves at E.P.C. this morning spoke to the need for school boards to have a voice for local or a regional voice. I don't know if we need eight school boards representing the city of Winnipeg or we collecting taxes on behalf of eight school boards, but I think you need to have a local and a regional voice and it needs to have some type of autonomy.

And if you take the school taxes totally off the property tax bill and you shift them over to be funded from general revenue, you're really taking away from the ability, you're absolutely taking away the opportunity for a local body that can stand alone, have some control over a budget no matter how large or small, I heard Councillor Clement speak to his dislike for the 20/80 scenario, I happen to think that there needs to be perhaps a base set that's not done by mill rate, but perhaps some other way, either by a frontage levy but it's a standard number and the school boards then, increase that number or decrease that number by their presentations to the province of Manitoba who by legislation is responsible for the provision of education to the citizens of our country.

So you know I mentioned earlier on that there are other ways of dealing with this and I get back to my original statement of this not being well thought out, that if you think of the double taxation issue that's just one area that should just jump to the front right away and that's not something that we're talking about here today. I remind you of the importance of having some, a local voice and a local presence that is strong because it has autonomy created by having some control over its own budget. And with that I will stand down, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will keep my comments here very brief as I have a heavy item still coming up. Regarding the second clause here, the notion that a province fund the entirety of education, I think it's important that we make this point very clear.

In recent years, the province has made a big announcement, I get very annoyed every year; I get this email from the, the press release from the province stating that historic levels of money are flowing to our education system here in the province. My concern is, they're paying a lower, smaller portion of the total cost of education consistently.

In fact property owners are being borne with a higher portion of the cost of education going forward. We're moving further and further away from the notion that general revenues of this province pay for education. So, again as Councillor Gerbasi has mentioned, property taxes are not necessarily the most, are in fact somewhat regressive tax and I will be supporting this motion today. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers. Councillor Pagtakhan will close, closing; you're not, your moving that we deal with it now. Okay, all in favour, a recorded vote been called for. All in favour of the motion please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Smith, Vandal, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Gerbasi, Leipsic, Swandel and Thomas.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 9, Nays 5.

Mr. Speaker: It's carried. Okay. I was debating whether I should maybe, whether I should do it or not, but I did it. Now we're dealing with the By-laws. Now, Councillors, Councillors do you want to call it twelve o'clock now? Cause, just got the By-laws and that's it, on this clause. Okay, let's adjourn now until 1:30. Stand adjourned until 1:30, we'll start with By-laws.

Reconvened meeting of Winnipeg City Council of March 21, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: E.P.C. Consideration of Bylaws. The first reading only, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'll move that By-law No. 46/2007 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'll move that the following By-laws be read a first time, By-laws No. 45/2007 and 83/2007.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 45/2007 and 83/2007.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'll move that By-laws No. 45/2007 and 83/2007 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 45/2007 and 83/2007.

Mayor Katz: I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 45/2007 and 83/2007 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. We have a By-law Mr. Mayor to deal with dated March 21.

Mayor Katz: Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker, I move that the rules be suspended and the following By-laws be read a first time, By-law No. 86/2007, a By-law of the City of Winnipeg to fix and impose taxes to raise the amounts required in the year 2007 by certain school divisions for school purposes and By-law No. 87/2007, a By-law of the City of Winnipeg to fix and impose taxes to raise the amounts required in the year 2007.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No.86/2007and 87/2007.

Mayor Katz: I move that By-laws No. 86/2007 and 87/2007 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 86/2007 and 87/2007.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 86/2007 and 87/2007 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Question period. Questions? Councillor Vandal.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Several days ago, the federal government announced the budget with unprecedented levels of spending. I'm wondering if you can share with us any potential funding with, on the Canadian Museum of Human Rights or any news forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank Councillor Vandal for that question. I wish I had some positive news or something specific, but, there was nothing in the budget specifically that alluded to the Museum of Human Rights. I can tell him that there has been some very positive dialogue over the last month and we're still hoping to make this become a reality in the near future but other than that, I have no more information to share.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further question, Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Can you share with us any funding announcements relative to issues that affect the City of Winnipeg and the federal budget?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: I don't know of anything specific. Obviously there is more money that will be coming equalization and that'll all be going through the province and I'm sure we'll be having further dialogue with the province on some important matters to the City of Winnipeg. If Councillor Vandal is looking at any specific project, I would hope that he would just ask me and I will try and enlighten him but I don't know of anything in general at this particular point in time.

Mr. Speaker: Your final supplementary Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Is there anything specific to infrastructure that will somehow trickle down to the city streets?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: There's most definitely something very specific, it's called gas tax and in the budget there was another five year commitment which I think as everybody knows is very important to the City of Winnipeg. As you know, there's an extension that'll keep the revenue flowing so we can now continue to work with Infrastructure and Public Works to address our infrastructure deficits. I'm sure that everybody before Council knows that it is one of the number one issues; but at least we do have a longer term commitment as far as infrastructure is concerned. I can tell Councillor Vandal and all other Councillors that I had met with Minister Baird and we did talk about some environmental issues. I didn't see anything specific in there but I think there might be some opportunity, as well we talked about a national transit strategy as well but I didn't see anything specific in the budget.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? If not, Standing Policy Committee Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, Councillor Clement.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED MARCH 6, 2007

Councillor Clement: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce the minutes of the meeting on March 6, 2007 and move clauses 1 and 2 as consent.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Motions, none. Consideration of By-laws, Councillor Clement.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Clement: I would like to move By-law No. 85/2007 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 85/2007.

Councillor Clement: I would move that By-law No. 85/2007 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 85/2007.

Councillor Clement: I would move that the rule be suspended and By-law No. 85/2007 be read a third time and that the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Question period, none. Standing Policy Committee on Finance, no report. Finance motions, none. Consideration of By-laws, none. Question period, none. That was a fast one. Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, no report. Motions if any, none. Consideration of By-laws, none. Question period, none. We're really moving on, which one are you on? Downtown Development, I'd asked, okay go ahead Councillor Vandal.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Vandal: I have a question relative to the building next door the Union Bank Tower. I remember years ago we approved some kind of heritage tax credits for the building, at minimum five years ago, and I'm wondering if the Chairperson of Downtown Development can give me an update. I don't expect them to have it now but perhaps through a memo or email later as to what the status is of that redevelopment, and when we will be hopefully seeing that building utilized. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question under advisement and get back to the person who's asked the question. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. No further questions. Oh, Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: I'm very pleased with regard to the development that's happening along Waterfront Drive, but I've also been concerned because of the street works that we did on Waterfront Drive and the construction has compromised a lot of the street and sidewalk works, and the sidewalks continue to be blocked and pedestrians are walking on the road. Does the Councillor have any idea when that'll be open and cleaned up?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: No. The construction, that's a normal hazard but it's a good hazard to have in the sense that there's a lot of activity happening on Waterfront, but I'll attempt to find out from our Public Works Department when those blockages or blocking of the sidewalk, signage will be removed to allow for normal pedestrian traffic, but, and get back to the Councillor. Thank you for the question.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further questions. Now, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Councillor Swandel.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2007

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda Items 1 to 17.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gerbasi: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to be recorded in opposition to number one please.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, will be recorded, in opposition. Motions if any, none. Consideration of By-laws, Councillor Swandel.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the following By-laws be read a first time, By-laws No. 72/2007, 73/2007, 74/2007, 75/2007, 76/2007, 77/2007, 78/2007, 79/2007, 80/2007, 81/2007 and 82/2007.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 72/2007 to 82/2007 both inclusive.

Councillor Swandel: I'd like to move that By-laws No. 72/2007 to 82/2007 both inclusive be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 72/2007 to 82/2007 both inclusive.

Councillor Swandel: I would move that the rules by suspended and By-laws No. 72/2007 to 82/2007 both inclusive be read a third time and that same be passed in ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Question period, none? Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, report of March 5, 2007, Councillor Steeves.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED MARCH 5, 2007

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker, regarding the report of March 5, 2007, I'll introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda items 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Item 1 - School Resource Officers - Winnipeg School Division File GF-2

Councillor Steeves: I think Mr. Speaker I will be introducing Item number 1 and just for people's edification the reason its being done this way, the Clerk can correct me if I'm wrong, is that there was an original motion that came out of Standing Policy Committee with regard to school resource officers. That motion, although the general intent was kept, the motion was modified at Executive Policy Committee and changed and voted on and then unanimously brought forward to Council.

So I think, I think it's a case of good unanimity here on the Council floor, I don't think we have a lot of problem. I might just make a couple of brief comments and stand down if people don't have any comments, we can move forward. You heard Mr. Simms make some comments on the issue.

Essentially, the program would be a potential expansion of our existing program in the inner-city school division, Winnipeg School Division, and it does a couple of specific things that I think are very, very important. A, it asks the other levels of government to commit to the program at the same level they've committed to the previous program, so an expansion of that and it asks them to do so on a ten year basis and I think everybody here understands that the reason we crafted it that way, is that we really think it's important that if we're going to buy in by all levels of government that we have by in for a extended period of time.

Our police service and I hope our Council is very, very clear on this. While we support the program, we want to be a part of it, we are going to be moving our complement number up by the amount probably of people that are involved in this program, so, by doing so we are taking life-long responsibility or career-long responsibility for these extra officers and want to ensure that our partners are in for the long haul and that's I don't think, not a dramatic departure from what you've seen in other cities.

So, I'll stand down with that, people can make comments and I'll respond to it at the end but I think it's probably a program that's going to enjoy very strong support of this Council.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, I'll just comment briefly, Mr. Speaker. I did just want to put a couple of comments on the record. First of all, I'd like to thank E.P.C. and all Members of Council for supporting this initiative. It has been a long haul to get to this point for the community people that have worked really hard on this and I want to give special thanks to C.E.D.A. and to the parents for an aware community, the south Winnipeg group of

mostly women who worked very, very hard, to bring in an initiative that seemed like quite a long shot to them. You know, the woman, Barbara Coombs who was here has just been doing nothing else for the last three months, I think.

So I just wanted to acknowledge the work of those volunteers. This was a grass roots initiative that came from the community. This wasn't driven by some idea in the head of some politician. It was an idea that came from the community. They said this is something we need and we want and Council listened to that, I'm happy about that.

Of course I'd also like to acknowledge Councillor Leipsic and Councillor Smith and the other members of the Standing Committee as well who supported this as it came forward. It's been a really successful program in the north end. The school division is on board with it. It makes sense to make it a division-wide program if they're going to be supporting it and we really aren't asking ourselves to do very much, we're just giving in kind some support.

So I don't see why anyone wouldn't support it but I don't think we can't under emphasize the importance of focusing on crime prevention within our youth, you know, this is where we can, this is probably one of the most important things we can do and I do feel concerned sometimes that with the shift in focus to enforcement, we can't lose sight of the importance of prevention. It's always been a balance and we really have to do both because in the long-term that's going to be what reduces crime is those two aspects together. We can't sort of weaken ourselves on the crime prevention aspect. So I'm really pleased to see Council supporting this and that's all I wanted to say. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Leipsic.

Councillor Leipsic: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to reiterate, basically, I won't keep everybody here. The same remarks Councillor Gerbasi had, well we both worked very hard for the last few months Councillors on this with the group of parents that were leading this, and quite frankly, it's just been a real pleasure to see democracy in action and I appreciate that everybody has taken this.

Maybe we didn't go the usual route but we got the thing done and that's the important part and we're not going to be reactive to crime in River Heights, Fort Garry or Fort Rouge. We're being proactive and I can tell you since E.P.C. a week ago, I've had more emails, phone calls plus other incidents happening in the area, where people are endorsing this decision. It was a good one and it was the right thing to do so I thank you all.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just really quickly, I wanted to thank the residents of the Centennial Community Improvement Association as well as C.E.D.A., all the parents that came out to support this and the principals of all the high schools, Children of the Earth, St. Johns, Hugh John McDonald, Gordon Bell that came out to support this great initiative and I want to thank the Standing Policy Committee, Mr. Mayor and all members of E.P.C. and on this Council floor for supporting this great motion. It'll be like Councillor Steeves said, enjoyed widely strong support.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves, no more, I don't see no more, any more speakers. Do you want to close? Call the question, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Councillor Steeves you have Item No. 3 has been laid over.

Item 3 - Governance of Assiniboine Park File PR-7.1

Councillor Steeves: Yep, just briefly, Mr. Speaker, I think everyone's aware of this with respect to Item No. 3 the Assiniboine Park Governance Model. Good work's been done, we heard from Irene Mary at E.P.C. and a couple other people, I think we're moving in the right direction. We still have a little work to do, I think, so we're recommending the layover up to ninety days to have a Council seminar which I believe has already been scheduled and hopefully folks can get out to that one, we

can just iron out the last few wrinkles and move ahead on something that we can all believe in.

Mr. Speaker: You've heard that all, all in favour, contrary? Carried. Motions, none. P.C.S. Consideration of By-laws Councillor Steeves.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to move By-law No. 42/2007 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 42/2007.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would move that By-law No. 42/2007 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 42/2007.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-law No. 42/2007 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. Question period, any questions, none. Alternate Service Delivery Committee, report of March 12, 2007. Councillor Swandel.

REPORT OF THE ALTERNATE SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE DATED MARCH 12, 2007

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 to 5.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour, contrary? Carried. I believe this is just about it, Councillors. We're going into the spring break and everyone have a joyous, joyous celebration for that one week and be careful how you drive if you go anywhere, and we'll see you later on. So Councillor Gerbasi moves adjournment. All in favour, contrary? Carried. Roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

Council Adjourned at 1:53 P.M.