EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 518
Councillor Gerbasi questioned if His Worship would confirm that the full amount of money from the sale of the Winnipeg Square Parkade would go back into the parking strategy and into investment in the downtown.

His Worship Mayor Katz confirmed that the intent was to take the proceeds from the sale of the Winnipeg Square Parkade to build parkades in the downtown and Exchange area, which would motivate significant private sector development and generate parking revenue.

Councillor Gerbasi asked if all of the money from the sale of the Winnipeg Square Parkade was going into construction of mixed-use parkades and other elements of the parking strategy.

Mayor Katz stated that he believed the money should be re-invested in other parkades, some of which have already been identified by CentreVenture to create development in the downtown with residential and commercial development along with parkades, including parkades similar, but larger, than the one under construction at 104 King Street.

Councillor Gerbasi inquired if all Members of Council would be allowed to be briefed on the parking strategy and have input into it. His Worship advised that there was a process to be followed and once the report was available, Council would have a decision to make and any member of Council should have access to the information.

In reference to an incident in Windsor Park where two sisters and a child were terrorized for three hours by a would be intruder before police finally arrived and three calls to 911 were made, Councillor Vandal asked if the Mayor could assist in getting to the bottom of the unacceptable incident to ensure that it never occurred again to any Winnipegger. His Worship confirmed that he would be more than happy to follow up with the Winnipeg Police Service to get an answer.

Councillor Swandel requested confirmation that anything done with any of the proceeds from the sale of the parkade would be rationalized in the Winnipeg Parking Authority business plan and in the consolidated statements of the City of Winnipeg so that any long-term debt attached to the parkade would be part of the rationalization prior to making a commitment to spend them elsewhere.

His Worship confirmed that a report would be coming forward to Council and Council would decide what to do with the proceeds.

In reference to the Building Canada Fund infrastructure priorities, Councillor Wyatt inquired if the Mayor had received a formal response from the Premier in terms of the priorities that Council voted on.

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His Worship confirmed that the Clerk did forward the information to the Province so the Province knows the motion that was passed but stated he had not received anything in writing saying they supported those issues.

Councillor Wyatt noted that it had been roughly 90 days since Council voted on the infrastructure priorities, so the Premier had not responded in 90 days, and inquired if there was any one specific project in the list that the Premier objected to.

His Worship stated that he had not heard of any projects that they would be against; noting that from his point of view they were all quality projects, throughout the entire City, and that was exactly what Building Canada Fund money should be used for. His Worship concluded that the only thing standing in the way of getting all the projects done was the Provincial Government; not the City or the Federal Government.

In noting that the Premier had not responded to the first letter, Councillor Wyatt inquired if another letter would be sent; to which His Worship replied that he would be delighted to do so.