COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

The Council met at 9:35 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 Swandel.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz; Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Nordman, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Smith, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. We have Pages. Nick Bruneau of Garden City Collegiate, resides in the Mynarski Ward. Welcome.

Marianne Cerilli; an instructor with Red River Community College together with her students from the Red River College in the Economic Development Program. Are you there Marianne? They're not here yet? Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank you. Just a brief comment. First of all, congratulating all of our Canadian Athletes performing in the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Whistler, etc. Specifically, obviously the ones from Manitoba. A big congratulations to Jon Montgomery who won gold medal from Russell, Manitoba, as well as the Athletes from the balance of Manitoba and Winnipeg who continue to strive to do their best to represent our Country and make us proud, and I think it's been exciting for all Canadians who have had the opportunity to participate in the impromptu singing of “Oh Canada” during certain events, again, a phenomenal job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Pagtakhan, just a minute.

MINUTES

Councillor Nordman moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2010, be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move suspension of the rules, relative to the delegations, with respect to February 17th EPC Report of Item number 5 to allow five further delegations on either side of the issue, please.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal?

Councillor Vandal: I want to put on public record that I have a long list of 16 people who would like to speak in opposition to Item 5 of Executive Committee, and of February 17th, so I’m not sure how you're going to manage this, to pull those five Speakers out of a list of 17. I wait for your guidance, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor. I've dealt with it just a while ago and we have a number of delegations that are here registered to speak today, and I would suggest to Councillor Vandal and Councillor Pagtakhan, pick five, pick five, because I’m sure they will be repetitive. Pick five to each side and giving five minutes with no questions. Councillor Clement first.

Councillor Clement: Councillor Lazarenko, I’ve got no problem with that, but, usually when we enhance the list like that there is no questions, it's just they come and they make their presentation, and then we move on because otherwise we’re going to be here all day listening and we’ve got a lot of things on this agenda besides that issue.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Mr. Speaker, we have, I don't know how many speakers, which side of the issue Councillor Pagtakhan's speakers are on. He just said five, but we have 16 people that want to speak and I would like this Council to allow those 16 people to speak. Is it really that terrible to sit for a whole day and hear an issue as important as this, Mr. Speaker? I really…I think that's what we should be doing. (applause).

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: (inaudlble) we've had people who have been very interested in an item and have shown up to speak. We've allowed all delegations that have come forward to speak and not, and not made it choose 5 or 6 or whatever, and so I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if we allowed all the additional delegations to speak that that would be more appropriate, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: I'm not sure if Councillor Pagtakhan has a motion on the floor.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Pagtakhan: …for five on each side of the issue Mr. Speaker.

Councillor Vandal: Okay, Mr. Speaker, I'm…I think, given the rapid nature of this issue, how it's come forward, I think people want to say something and I think if we give them five minutes each to say something, we'll be the richer for it. I would like to amend the Motion to Councillor Pagtakhan's and say that…

Mr. Speaker: He withdrew the motion.

Councillor Vandal: Pardon me?

Mr. Speaker: He withdrew it.

Councillor Vandal: He withdrew the motion?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Vandal: So I'll move that everyone who wants to speak to this issue be given a reasonable amount of time to state their point of view.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just perhaps in the interest of moving things along, I think it's important to remind the folks that are here to speak that if their arguments that they wish to make have already been heard, that the number of people who make the argument doesn't really impact on us, it's the merit of the argument that we need to hear, so if they've already heard their argument being made they don't necessarily have to speak if they so choose.

Mr. Speaker: Then that will be up to them. Council, that was your motion, Councillor Swandel, I mean Councillor Vandal? That's your motion? Councillors you've heard the Motion to hear all delegations regardless of how long it will take to hear all delegations. But I'm saying, at five minutes each and that's what we have in the past, five minutes with no questions. All in favour? Contrary? It's carried. First delegation. Just a minute, hold it, hold it.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, If we go through this every time we have a sensitive issue, I think it's important to remind the gallery that outbursts of applause or hollering from the gallery is not tolerated in the Chamber and if need be we'll just move everybody outside and have them come in on an individual basis to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel it's corrected. I just looked at them, I looked at that side, they all agree with me.

First delegation. John Courtney, Executive Director of Youth for Christ in support of Item 5 of the Report of Executive Policy Committee of February 17th, 2010. Mr. Courtney, you have 10 minutes.

John Courtney: I'm John Courtney, Executive Director of youth of Christ, YFC, representing the proposed new project; the Centre for youth Excellence. YFC has been operating programs for youth in the City for over 60 years. I've had the privilege of being the Executive Director for the past 33 years and have seen the program grow from a staff of four to

over 70, now serving 4,403 teenagers annually in 15 unique programs including an indoor skateboard park, a well equipped fitness gym, a year-round camping program, 6 community drop-in centres, professional youth and family counseling centre, an inner-City employment training centre, teen moms, indoor rock climbing facility, a modern dance studio, a variety of sports leagues including floor hockey, volleyball, basketball, football and soccer, and providing adult mentor coaches. We are one of the largest of YFC programs in North America.

In my 33 years I don't believe that we've ever stood before Council asking for operational money to do what we do yet most of our programs are offered with no fee or with a heavily subsidized fee structure making it accessible to all youth. It's not because we're rich--far from it. It's because Winnipeggers and Manitobans are incredibly generous people who care about youth. It's their strong support that enables us to sustain our on-going programs. Our operations are not dependent on or funded by government money. The support we're asking for today is not for operations but rather towards the capital project of building the centre. It is infrastructure and job creation funding to match Federal stimulus money with a 12 month time frame. YFC needs to put in over $4 million for this project from private donations plus we need to cover all of the operational costs, and that's a huge challenge and commitment for us. We've been working for years on this dream to increase our capacity to serve more youth. We have embraced an aggressive plan that would have us increase our service to teenagers from 4,403 to 10,000 annually by the year 2015. The Centre for youth Excellence is a centre piece of the plan. While it will take far more than just a building, we believe this new centre will play a significant role in moving us towards the achievement of our plan. Let me clarify who we serve. It's all youth. Regardless of economic, social, race or gender. We've never approached our work in a segregated fashion. All of our programs are open to all youth regardless of race, social status or creed. At present, we have no gyms of our own. The Centre for youth Excellence Facility includes two full gyms providing significant opportunities for additional floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, soccer and other indoor activities, doubling our capacity for skateboarding and dance. Presently, thousands of teenagers, hundreds of families and dozens of agencies and groups utilize YFC facilities and services. This new facility will help us move forward more than doubling what we're doing now. Each year, governments--Federal, Provincial, Municipal--invest millions of dollars addressing youth problems. While it's very difficult to identify what kind of cost saving is resulting from YFC's engagement with 4,403 youth, we do believe it's substantial. We have no idea how many youth who are presently being positively affected by one or more of our programs would be seriously into crime, drugs, destructive behaviour or locked up in one of our institutions were it not for the programs we offer. Helping an additional 5,597 teenagers by the year 2015 has significant additional financial benefits to the cost of fighting crime. Citizens, businesses and all levels of government are increasingly aware of the growing need to help young people develop into responsible, contributing adults. We're all concerned about the rate of car theft by youth. The growth in gang activity, the increasing number of high risk youth, the growth of youth-related crime, the plague of drug use among youth, the number of youth waiting for murder trials--I think it's approximately 60--the Manitoba youth Centre in Agassiz being at full capacity with young offenders, the lack of recreational facilities to non-athletes, the more than six adolescents who become pregnant in the Province every day, children raising children. A recent report from the suburbs has some surprising news about youth growing up in a culture of affluence. The pursuit and status of material wealth by high-earning families can also leave skid marks on the kids but in ways you might not have expected. A fluent suburban high school youth smoke more, drink more and use more hard drugs than typical high school youth do. That's why the answer to "who do we serve" is all youth.

A typical strategy to combat the challenges to target and reduce if not eliminate the risk and deficits that diminish the healthy development of teenagers. The strategy behind the proposed Centre for youth Excellence will include the above but will focus primarily on what makes kids prevail, not fail. Rather than focusing solely on the problems we cultivate, what we call the development assets that protect and empower youth. We are governed by a highly professional board of directors. We have Robert Reimer, Chairman, Partner, Advisory Services, Price, Waterhouse; Dr. Todd Sellick, President and Owner of Sellick and Associates; Mike Easton, President of Argus Industries, Kim Dyck, Executive Administrator, Jade Transport; Doug Buhler, President and Owner of Buhler Furniture; Victor Martin, owner of four Tim Horton's franchises, Ben Kelly, Director of Investment Banking National Bank; Dr. Larry Wilson, Director of First Nations Alliance; and Nolan Ploegman, Development Coordinator of Concord Projects. We have one current organizational challenge. We have enjoyed the use of an old warehouse located right behind the Centennial Concert Hall which has housed our skateboarding program called The Edge. For the past 15 years it's been the only permanent year round indoor skateboard park in the City. The future plans by the owner include the sale and demolition of the building for a future parking lot. We need to find a new and expanded home for The Edge and Winnipeg's skateboarders to ensure they have a place to go. The impact would be huge as we are presently working with close to a thousand skateboarders with a potential for 2,000 with a larger facility. The Winnipeg Skateboard Coalition has confirmed they have no plans to build and fund a new indoor skateboard park but rather they have been working towards trying to bring a heightened awareness of the need for one, hoping it would lead to some one, some organization or some level of government making it a reality. In my phone call this week, Jack Harper expressed support for this skate park project. As well, we've initiated conversation with Sports Manitoba and have agreed to meet to see how our programs can compliment one another and serve the youth of the City.

The timing is right. We have a tremendous opportunity to create effective and progressive new partnerships. YFC has taken a comprehensive, collaborative approach bringing together more than a dozen different programs under one roof that meet a variety of needs of multiple use subcultures. It's a positive, inspiring and hope-filled dream; it's a dream of bringing out the best in young people, celebrating their achievements. It attacks the health compromising of future jeopardizing behaviours that unnerve us all. It names and promotes all the good things that teenagers need to succeed. We did not try to pack the Council Chamber with hundreds of existing supporters from our over 5,000 donors but they certainly are behind us and cheering us on. Nor did we attempt to fill the Chambers with hundreds of teenagers who utilize our service, over 4,000, but I do want to table a number of select letters of support. I will not read them but simply refer to them and we've made them available to you there. Steve Ashton, from the Province; Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, strong support; Grand Chief Ron Evans' Mike Sutherland, President of the Winnipeg Police Association; Juergen Severloh, Family Support Centre of Winnipeg; Art DeFehr, Palliser; Tony Zerucha, Director of Parks and Recreation; Dr. Don Reimer, Chairman and CEO Reimer Express World Corp.; Larry Gregen, New Life Ministries; Judy Dueck, Larry Dyck, Harry Funk, and then Virginia Lehotsky, the wife of past Harry Lehotsky, all writing strong letters in support of our favour and cheering us on.

Organizationally this project will require and put demands on us greater than then we have ever known. We have the massive challenge of raising over $4 million of private money. We have loan guarantees but we always operate with no debt policy. I believe many will choose to join us and see this project funded because they care deeply about the youth of the community. The foundation of charitable work is volunteerism. While we are a volunteer-intensive organization with over 300 active volunteers giving an average of four hours a week, we're going to need almost double this number but this is part of our vision, strategy and commitment. We know some of the discussion around this project request has been directed towards our faith-based issue. When it comes to spiritual matters, who owns the oversight of youth regardless of culture, regarding spiritual matters? We take the position that firstly parents and guardians do. We respect their role of authority. That's why we require parental consent for every youth enrolled in our programs with the full knowledge that we are a Christian-faith based organization. Secondly, youth themselves. We work with teenagers who have a mind of their own. You can't force them to believe what they don't choose to believe and we respect their choices to believe or not believe and regardless of that choice, they are welcome to engage in any and all our programs. Lastly, I want to say the journey this past week has made me aware of a number of organizations that feel underfunded and question why us not them. We have operated for the past 37 years without any government funding for operations, the only known exception being summer student employment grants of Green Team available to all of us. We all know the challenges of living with more opportunities than there are resources. I know you as Councillors live there constantly. We're asking for your support for this one time Capital Project that will benefit thousands of youth in our City for decades to come. We're hoping for a positive decision today as it's my understanding that the Federal funding of over three point million is conditional on your approval here today. If there is any delay, that funding will be lost to this project and will not proceed. Thank you for this opportunity to present our vision and project.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Courtney, just stay there because the next delegation is Alf Skowron, who will have five minutes to speak on the same subject so there may be some questions.

Delegation Alf Skowron. Former member of Council, Alf Skowron.

Alf Skowron: Good morning, Mr. Mayor, fellow Councillors. I would like to start by indicating that I was responsible for this organization coming to the premises they're in now. About 1974, the City decided to close the Firehall in which this organization exists. As you can appreciate, there was a furor in the community of closing a Firehall. We had another one just about five blocks away on the corner of Maple and Sutherland which is now a Firehall Museum, and we were to build one, which was built on the corner of Watt and Nairn Avenue, and the City came to the conclusion that they needed to build that one because it was an expansion especially of businesses east of the bridge, and therefore, it was the requirement and opinion of the City and the Fire Department that they would have to build one, and they did. Now comes the next furor, and that was that the Firehall, the Fire Department approached us about the Firehall being a museum. Again, the people in the area were very upset and said no way. There is not adequate parking either on the street or on the premises, and therefore they said no. I listened to them. Fine. There was no museum built. Then there was the Boxing Club that came into existence for a short while. That wasn't much of a problem because there were very few people attending in terms of watching the boxing. It was mostly participation.

The next aspect is the Youth for Christ. When John approached me, and that would have been in the early 80's, I took a look at the whole area in terms of the recreation that we did have, the Community Clubs that we had, active ones, and what the need was, that this organization was to provide that wasn't being provided for by the community centres. I said "Okay, John, it's a go. Go see the City about whatever your problems are in terms of a lease or purchase of the Firehall." He did that. I believe he leased the Firehall, and so from that point on, to '89 when I left Council, I can tell you that I had nothing but people coming to me and telling me how they were happy with what they got into the area. I can't speak for what transpired since '89 because there is a new Councillor there, but I can tell you that the last time I saw

John, unfortunately he wouldn't mention it because he is that kind of a person. He was very sick. He had the big “C”, and I was just mortified. Here is a person who started out in my area, providing a service of programs and what was going to happen. As it turned out, he conquered it, as you saw him here today, and I want to tell you, I was more than happy to see him again.

So in telling you these brief notes that I had, it's only to indicate to you that we as Councillors, and you will have remained now to this day, it's your job to look at the aspects of the whole. Now, what they're proposing is practically a City-wide; it will be a City-wide. Since they provided on a local basis at the Firehall on Talbot Avenue and it was successful, why wouldn't it be successful there? That place has been empty for many, many, many years. All there was was hotels there and buildings that were derelict right to the railway track. So I’m saying to you, Councillors, especially if you gotta remember that if there are projects that come within your jurisdiction, you should see to it that you try to get the best for your area but don't go and knock others who are trying to get something in their area. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Skowron. Any questions of the first two delegations that you’ve heard? No questions? Yes, Mr. Mayor, do you have a question?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Courtney, if I may. First of all, thank you for being here today and I’m of the opinion there’s probably not a citizen in Winnipeg who would be against the youth Centre of Excellence with all the amenities you're going to have for our young people. I think this whole Council knows that we need as much recreational facilities for our children as opposed to the alternatives that are out there. And I can tell you that any of the calls that I’ve gotten from anybody who may not be supportive of this, one category is obviously funding for their own organization. That's a separate entity. Everybody needs more funding and they all want more funding, but the one area I do want to ask you, and you addressed it and hopefully you can give us potentially a bit more detail, is it's probably a word that hasn't been used on the floor of Council, prosthestizing, preaching, trying to convert. Can you share with us? You've been there for a long time, and I know people made reference to me about, go on the website, you can see it for yourself. I’d like to talk to the person who basically is there on a day-to-day basis, watches the people who basically provide the programming, the dance instructors, the people in charge of ball hockey, the rock climbing, we know many of the facilities etc. etc. Can you actually share with us what goes on there, and if some of the comments that have been made are accurate or inaccurate, it would be extremely helpful?

John Courtney: I would like part of that answer to come from someone who I think is one of our; who is going to speak in favour of our proposal, one of the Aboriginal youth in our program, and so I would like him to address that personally. We have never hidden the fact that we are a Christian-faith based organization. It's in our name, we haven't changed our name. So that is an important aspect of who we are. We do it very respectfully. We do it with full disclosure to parents, permission of their being involved in the program but it's a never manipulation or pressure thing. It's an invitation. It’s an encouragement to say if you haven't pursued a faith journey we think you should consider that, and if they don't want to pursue that they don't have to pursue that and I think we do it very respectfully, very sensitively and, we certainly do it with the parents' permission in terms of their involvement in our program.

Prosthestizing is one of those words that is attached to almost the radical side of religion, and do we think that it's a good thing for a young person to embrace Christian faith? Of course we do. We're a Christian-youth organization. Do we reject any services from kids who don't want to take that journey and take that walk? Absolutely not. And I would say that a win for us, if a kid is involved in our floor hockey league, never ever pursues the faith journey, never shows any interest or doesn't accept any invitations to pursue that and he’s involved and he is off the street and he is getting constructive recreational opportunities, and it keeps him out of gangs and all of that stuff, for us, that’s a win. That is a win. They’re all wins. Everyone of those things are wins. When there is changed behaviour, those are wins for us. So prosthestizing is not the only win for us in the sense that if a person wants to embrace faith and get connected in church community, we think that's good thing. So that's something that we encourage. But, there are tons of wins for us every day when kids make good choices, better choices, to stay away from the destructive stuff. Those are all wins for us and we celebrate those and we embrace those and if that's all we do for kids, we're doing something very significant.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions, Mr. Mayor? Councillor Swandel you have a question.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Courtney you extended an invitation to all Councillors and I believe to some organizations that were in opposition to this proposal, to come and tour your facilities and see exactly what went on. Can you give us a sense of how many people accepted that invitation and came and saw exactly what it is that you're providing to the community?

John Courtney: I believe we had the Mayor and five Councillors accept that invitation to come and see what we do and to speak with us and ask us whatever questions they had.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel. Councillor Smith your first question.

Councillor Smith: Yes, Mr. Courtney, I was there yesterday and I met with you. I toured the facility and you explained how many people were…how many youth were recruited. How many last year were recruited to follow Jesus?

John Courtney: I would have…my figures would say…would have said to you out of four thousand, four hundred and something kids, there would have been approximately 200 that said we would like some support and help and would be interested in pursuing Christian-faith journey.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi, your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I just wanted to clarify I tried to arrange to have the Youth for Christ people come here and meet with me because I didn't have time in the two day period to get down there, so maybe I'll ask my question now about…I'm wondering, one of the things you mentioned in your talk was the issue of teen pregnancy and that is a big concern to you, teen pregnancy, and I wondering, Youth for Christ offers counseling and other things. Do they offer the abstinence only type of model or do they offer options such as birth control when these issues arise with youth that come to their facility?

John Courtney: Our Team Moms Program is for girls who already have babies or they are pregnant; sorry, they already have babies. They're teen moms. They're raising children.

Councillor Gerbasi: What about the issue of teen pregnancy, you know, and prevention of that. When that issue is coming up, what is your approach to that? Or do you just…that's just not an issue to touch or is that an issue you touch on with an abstinence only type of approach?

John Courtney: It's a non-issue in the sense that our involvement is after the fact. So we provide the support, etc. et cetera. We're not in the discussion of abortion or non-abortion with those girls. When those girls come to us; when they come into our program, they're coming in with their babies.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question.

Councillor Gerbasi: So you're saying that teens aren't sexually active or thinking about it; and so you don't have an issue to deal with?

(inaudible speaking in the background)

I'm just trying…Okay well…

Mr. Speaker: Okay go ahead. Can you respond to that? If not we'll go to the next…Councillor Vandal your first question.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you, Mr. Courtney. Relative to all the youth that come to the facilities, they need parental permission.

John Courtney: Yes.

Councillor Vandal: They sign something?

John Courtney: They sign a waiver form.

Councillor Vandal: And relative to approaching young people to make Jesus a part of their lives, is that something that every young person is approached with or half the young people or a quarter, or three-quarters?

John Courtney: Well, it's certainly not in every activity and moment they're with us in terms of engaged but we hope that somewhere in that process for sure they have the opportunity to hear our story of saying there is a God that loves you, who wants to do life with you and we would encourage you to investigate that.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question.

Councillor Vandal: So maybe you can…I did visit your website yesterday and there was, in terms of Youth for Christ Canada, there was a special mention about the young Aboriginal population being potential benefactor of your services. Could you speak a little bit about that?

John Courtney: First of all that's not our website, that's a national website. We're incorporated separately, our own identity. We're an association because there are many organizations that have this name so we have some things in common to protect the name. I would…I'm sorry now, I just missed the question, sorry it just left me.

Councillor Vandal: The question was on the Youth for Christ Canada website which apparently you are not affiliated with…

John Courtney: We're affiliated with but it's not our web site.

Councillor Vandal: Okay, but maybe someone else could ask that question about relationship. My question was, on that website there was a special mention about the young Aboriginal population.

John Courtney: Right, and I would just say that when we have been through our strategic plan to say what do we need to do in the future to help more young people, we became aware that the Aboriginal youth community was increasing significantly and so then we asked ourselves the question, you know, should we be doing more in that area of need? And so our organization is not targeting any specific group. We're saying that there's a need there that seems to be greater or great, and we asked ourselves, should we be doing more about that so we've been asking those questions. What would be some things that we could do to add value to that group? And we are convinced from the research that we've done that the recreational response is the best response for that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Your time has expired. The next delegation will speak in opposition. Tammy Christensen and Diane Roussin in opposition. Are you going to have Diane with you? Okay good. Proceed. You have 10 minutes.

Tammy Christensen: Thank you. On February 17th, 2010, the Executive Policy passed a motion to provide a grant in the amount of $225,000 per year to 15 years in support of the Youth for Christ Centre of Excellence. We are here today to urge Council to reject this motion. As a service provider working with inner City youth, our organization strongly agrees that we need to increase recreational opportunities for inner City youth in Winnipeg. However we strongly oppose public funding for the Youth for Christ Recreation Centre. It is our hope that once Council members hear our concerns, they will vote against providing public funds for this project.

First it is import for Council to understand there is a strong network of organizations working in collaboration to understand the special needs of inner City youth and to respond with culturally appropriate services. We would also like to point out that we do not reject the important work of faith-based organizations are doing in our community. We have great respect and work in collaboration with many faith-based groups, however, we are concerned the organizations like Youth for Christ, because they have over objective to Christianized youth through their missions in the inner City. Such organizations tend to work in isolation with other groups and have a lack of respect for the values that they do not share. While we recognize that Youth for Christ has a right to work in the inner City, we strongly believe that it is not appropriate to provide public funding to a fundamentalist Christian organization when other programs are starving for support. The idea of providing public funds for the Youth for Christ project is a particular concern when the process by which the multi-million dollar commitment has been made is not known. Existing organizations providing culturally relevant opportunities for youth have followed deep process seeking support for their programs and are being told there is no money. How is it that Council can suddenly free up $225,000 annually for 15 years when inner City organizations have been told the cupboards are bare and they will have to find support for their programs elsewhere?

Council should also be aware that a group of the Coalition of Community Based Organizations recently met with a consultant on behalf of the government who was seeking their feedback on the idea of building a 24-hour youth facility in the north end. He was advised that any funds available should be used to adequately support the existing services that are currently underfunded. While we don't know for sure if the government at that time was considering the Youth for Christ proposal, the community organizations were clear; we need to be involved in the process and we need support for the programs that already exist. For example, speaking on behalf of Ndinawe, which is a well established and well respected youth centre on Selkirk Avenue, which provides Arts and Recreational opportunities to inner City youth, continues to scramble for funds on project based funding. They currently receive $50,000 from the City which supports two part-time recreation workers. The centre has been seeking additional funding to support the full time recreation co-coordinator but they have been unfortunately informed that there is no money available. We have been unable to secure any increases to adequately pay our staff and we cannot commit to employment beyond next year because the City will not commit to funding beyond that timeframe. It should be noted that the positions at Ndinawe provide

employment opportunities for inner City residents and that this in turn ensures that youth participating have a much needed local role models that they can relate to.

Another example of an important inner City recreation program for youth is the Positive Athletic Cultural Experiences or PACE Program. PACE provides meaningful athletic cultural and recreational experiences for at-risk youth between the ages of 6 to 17 that builds on their capacity to become role models, leaders and valuable contributors of the community. It is a program administered by the Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre and works in close calibration with community partners consisting of Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre, Weston Community Centre. PACE has a proven track record and history of success yet it struggles to continue because of lack of funding. The City has yet to commit funds to support this important after-school and weekend program. Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre also struggles to find funding for their Our Future, Our youth program. This culturally based program aims to provide leadership issues facing Aboriginal youth and to provide in collaboration with individuals and organizations effective, comprehensive services for Aboriginal youth and helping them find their full potential. These are a few examples of important programs designed and operated by community-based organization with long history and experience in the inner City. There are many others. These are the types of programs that should be supported and we take a great exception to the idea of providing millions of dollars in funding to a Christian evangelical organization lead by individuals, no connection to the many organizations doing the important work in the inner City. Given the high percentage of Aboriginal children living in the inner City, it is also important for Council to understand why community-based organizations are offended by the idea of funding a Christian organization that sees Aboriginal youth community as a prime area for development. While we have a long way yet to go, we believe we have learned a lot from past mistakes. Those mistakes include the belief that bringing Christian values to communities can solve problems. Certainly the failed experiment of residential schools provides an important lesson. Even our Prime Minister has recently acknowledged that the residential school system was based on the assumption that Aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal. Indeed, some though that it was infamously said to kill the Indian in the child. Today we recognize this policy of assimilation was wrong and has caused great harm.

While the Youth for Christ approach may be much more subtle approach than used in residential schools, it is, in essence, based on the same model. Christianity is viewed as superior and missionaries from outside the community will teach people a better way. Existing organization working with youth in the inner City, Aboriginal as well as many non-Aboriginal, have been working for years to reverse the great harm caused by an assimilationist policy that attempts to Christianize a people of a strong culture and spirituality of their own. The fact that the City of Winnipeg is in agreement to take $225,000 a year for 15 years to fund a fundamentalist Christian project out of a budget that is supposedly so strained that it cannot support existing or culturally appropriate initiatives is extremely troubling for those who have first hand the damage that well meaning Christians have caused. For us, the mission of Youth for Christ to impact every youth person…every young person in Canada with the person working teachings of Jesus Christ and disciplining them into the Church is frightening and counter the efforts of Aboriginal community-based organizations who are working diligently to reserve the damaging effects of failed attempts to Christianize and assimilate Aboriginal people into a culture that was not theirs.

Aboriginal youth represent the majority of youths in the neighbourhoods near the proposed Christian Centre. There are several organizations that have developed significant expertise while working with this population through culturally appropriate programs. We are underfunded and our staff are overworked. If there is $225,000 annually to spare, we would gladly put it to use. We would also like to remind City Council that the City of Winnipeg has put in place an Aboriginal Youth Strategy that includes a commitment to ensure that City services are culturally relevant and accessible to Aboriginal youth. We believe that this responsibility must extend to all services that receive public funding. An organization with an explicit mission to bring the teachings of Christ to Aboriginals' community is not culturally relevant. Providing public funding to millions of dollars to a Christian organization whose aim is to boldly move into areas they do not exist both geographically and culturally is wrong-headed at best. We strongly recommend and respect the Aboriginal people and respect of diversity and respect the many excellent community-based organizations that are currently underfunded by governments, that the City of Winnipeg decline public funding for the Youth for Christ Centre of excellence. (applause).

Diane Roussin: I just want to quickly add that again, very concerned about the process and there hasn't been a lot of time. We were reading about this in the newspaper on Thursday. We've been scrambling since and I think that there would have been even a longer list of presenters had we more time, but just to let you know that the following organizations have also written us support letters. Rossbrook House, Wabonong Nakaygum Okimawin, Point Douglas Citizens on Watch, Teen Stop Jeunesse, New Directions for youth, North End Community Helpers Network as well as the following individuals that have lent their name to oppose this motion. Mary Scott, Wanda Roberts, Carolyn Garlick, Darlene Cline, Rainy Gaywash, Kaylyne McGiffin, Warren Goulet, Lynda Taylor, and Lynn Pervis. And again just to underscore a couple of points that Tammy made. We try as two Aboriginal 100% Board of Directors Aboriginal People, almost a hundred percent Aboriginal staff. Most of our families and children that we work with youth are Aboriginal and,

you know, we are struggling for funding all the time. And so, you know, we would have really liked to have been part of this process. We would have really liked to have had opportunity to access some of these City dollars. We also really feel that youth need to be a part of this and youth need to lead this. We consult with youth all the time. We have strategies, we have documents, you know, we pull youth together. They've told us what they want and we try to honour that as much as possible and we just simply don't have the funds to do all the things that the youth want us to do. So thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Next delegation. Also, would you two stay here. Hold it, folks. Just a minute, it's not finished. The next delegation Sharon Taylor also to speak in opposition and then we'll take questions from the floor of Council. Go ahead, you have five minutes.

Sharon Taylor: This is the first time I have spoken publicly. As an organization mostly family plays, our founding founders were from a faith-based organization and they continue to still support us. They are the Sisters of the Misacort. And today I'm hoping to speak about what they have taught me about justice, inclusion and process. And I also want to emphasize as a Canadian and a Winnipegger, it's about democracy, and I am proud to be a Canadian and a Winnipegger. But what I have seen here recently is it is that we were told that if we presented that we would probably lose our funding or never receive funding and that scares me when we live in a democratic society, as a non-profit organization, because we serve many people. And I believe the City Council has a choice to listen to us today or minimize our questions of your process. If process was transparent and followed, why are so many of us concerned? Why are those most concerned the very people, academics, organizations, who are serving young people and their families for years, concerned? Government expects us to work collaboratively, ensure that we're not duplicating services and have a comprehensive view; that we follow the research on what works and formalize our knowledge and produce evaluations and be able to show the impacts. And also, be accountable to the public, our funders and the people that we serve and the public in general. We have networks of youth serving agencies, recreation, sports, leisure, Provincial and Federal funding policies and programs to support youth, all developed comprehensively through consultations, mapping, etc. Yet, here we have a very public decision that lacks transparency and accountability. To simply state that any agency had the same opportunity to apply for funding minimizes our questions to you about accountability. As civil leaders, where is your responsibility for comprehensive views and visions to strengthen opportunities for our young people to ensure inclusion and diversity? You ask us to come together to create vision and plans and work together to build upon each others mandates and services. Yet, it is not evident that you hold yourself to the standards that is demanded of us. Your decision to support Youth for Christ needs to be re-thought, re-visited within the broader community context and the Youth for Christ and City Hall should ask, how does this decision respect the mandates and build upon the continuum of services of youth service agencies already in existence? If there is a gap in services, who is best positioned to address that gap, agencies that already have a rapport and a relationship with the client group, or a new agency that also requires new infrastructure? We have none of this. I have not seen any of this in the process. I believe very strongly that government is here to hear us and represent us and represent all people.

On the question of inclusion, I am presently doing my thesis on the gay and lesbian transgendered, homeless youth. All the research and all the literature that I have read states that there is over-representation of homeless youth that are gay and lesbian, and that's from a national task force across Canada, and I'm recently doing it in Winnipeg. The news that, where are they in this process? How will they be received for the youth of Christ? So it's just a question that I would like to know, and I hope that the news that was on the news this morning is not true, because I heard it was a done deal and I hope that's not true because I believe in democracy and I believe in hearing all people, and all their voices and to take action for the highest at-risk youth, so I thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, questions? Councillors, questions of the delegation? Mr. Mayor you have the first question.

Mayor Katz: It's addressed to Sharon Taylor. Thank you very much. Sharon, you said something that upset me extremely and I tried writing it down quickly. You said "we were told if we presented we would lose our funding." We live in a democracy and I thank God we do. I am very upset to hear that and I'm wondering if you might share where this came from? Because that is totally inappropriate and that's something that will not be tolerated and I would very much appreciate it if you would be so kind as to share that.

Sharon Taylor: It was recently in an article about what happened in Brandon, when people were challenging and saying that about the youth and youth of Christ, and many were worried, very worried because many of the people that are supporting the youth of Christ are large corporations and we can't compete with them. And many of them are taking a view, and in Brandon it was documented I think in the "Globe and Mail", and the Free Press; were the two ones that stated that we had to have grave concerns about our funding by presenting today.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Just for clarification, you are not referring to any member of Council or any employee of the City of Winnipeg?

Sharon Taylor: No.

Mayor Katz: Thank you very much Sharon.

Sharon Taylor: You're welcome.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you for presenting today, all of you. My question is for you, Sharon. You mentioned the gay and lesbian community of youth and I'm wondering, what are your concerns about that in terms of this organization or do you have concerns that they will be somehow treated inequitiablely?

Sharon Taylor: From my experience and the literature that I'm reading, is that many services around Christian organizations or other religious organizations have not been sensitive to the needs of the gay and lesbian community as far as youth, and it's well documented. There's lots of research that presently states this, and there was a task force that also talks about the lack of sensitivity especially from religious organizations.

Mr. Speaker: That's it? Councillor Swandel your first question.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you. Just for the folks from the Ndinawe. I just wonder if you can tell us how much time you spent at the facilities of Youth for Christ? I know the facility on Talbot and The Edge Skateboarding Park and what your experience was when you went there. What did you see and how is it that you formed the opinions that you have here today?

Sharon Taylor: We have not spent any time in any facilities for Youth for Christ. We weren't even aware of their existence until the announcement in the newspaper last week. What research we've done is based on the web sites. In conversation that we've had past staff who have worked with Youth for Christ and our concern is just based…you know, this is part of our concern, is part of the process. We weren't consulted, nobody came and talked to us. Like, we would have appreciated that, to learn a little bit more about what they do and how they do it, so yeah, we are going based on information we've received primarily from web sites and media reports.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, I appreciate that. I think none of us were really consulted. This came because of a failure of some other funding to come on board, so it really came to us, sort of $6 million walking through the door and saying, we'll lose $6 million if we don't have this money, so there wasn't a lot of consultation for anybody and you'll hear more of that as we go through the day.

I just wondered if you can tell us what your experience was like when you applied to the Mayor's Aboriginal Youth Strategy and the funding that's there for programs, specifically for Aboriginal youth in the inner City and whether or not it was well received and whether or not you have gained any funding there?

Tammy Christensen: Well, our concern is that we do receive City funding and we've looked to expand our resources particularly around recreational programming and we've basically been told that there is no money. We went from a two-year contribution agreement to now a one-year contribution agreement. We haven't been able to provide any increases to our staff. So, our concern is again, we don't know where this money is coming from and how will this impact our organization down the line?

Diane Roussin: I would also like to answer your question from the Ma Mawi Chi Itata's respective about the Aboriginal Youth Strategy. We have applied and we have received about just over $120,000 a year for that strategy. Again, very different process, very open, you know, we were…people came to us, talked to us, City employees helped us through the whole application process. We get just over $120,000 a year. It's annual. We have to apply every year and as you know, your Aboriginal Youth Strategy is something you will approve every year, so we're not guaranteed 15 years of it and certainly, you know, $225,000 for 15 years, we'd certainly like to get that under the youth Strategy.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: I guess just to follow up to that, this is actually a one time allocation. It's just being stretched over; it's the repayment of borrowing. This is the Capital Program, are you familiar with…let me finish the question...

Diane Roussin: I know that your motion…

Councillor Swandel: …that this is a Capital Program. The reason that we did it the way we did is because we're actually trying to, without actually saying it, is tax increment finance out of the increased taxes. It was an argument… we're in question Councillor Wyatt. We're trying to use the increased taxes that we're generating in the area to fund the, this Capital Project. It's really…it's $2.6 million of capital money. So are you aware? A question. I don't know the difficulty Mr. Speaker my colleagues are having here in understanding this term, are you aware? But I'm just trying to get this question.

Mr. Speaker: Ask the question. Do you have an answer?

Diane Roussin: Yes, I do. So certainly we have way more questions of this process than we do answers. All I can do is go by what is in your motions and what's on your website because no one has come to talk to us about this and all I see on your website is that your EPC motions says that this is coming out of your Operating Budget. So when you say it's Capital that's very confusing to me because it says in your motion it's Operating. So again, way more questions than we have answers.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Vandal your first question.

Councillor Vandal: To Diane, so you receive approximately $100,000 a year from the City of Winnipeg? Do you meet with a program officer for that money?

Diane Roussin: Yeah there's a couple of City staff that came to us and talked to us about the Aboriginal Youth Strategy. I also sit on a the Aboriginal Partnership Committee of which the Aboriginal Youth Strategy came to that Committee and so we've been able to get the word out there to all the organizations about that fund.

Councillor Vandal: Are there very specific performance measurements that you have to achieve?

Diane Roussin: Of course, oh yeah.

Councillor Vandal: There are?

Diane Roussin: Yes.

Councillor Vandal: Could you give me just one; a couple of quick examples of what they are?

Diane Roussin: Um…

Councillor Vandal: Sorry to put you on the spot like this.

Diane Roussin: Well, I mean, I know that part of the funding that we have for instance goes towards our communications intern. So we would put a Work Plan together; we would put our…we do the problem logic model process so we have to spell out what our outcomes are we have to be able to demonstrate those and measure them and keep track of them and all that.

Councillor Vandal: (inaudible) how the money flows.

Diane Roussin: Absolutely, of course. All of our funding is like that. Most funders want that. Yeah.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Swandel you want a second time?

Councillor Swandel: Have you made any application….

Mr. Speaker: First question?

Councillor Swandel: …for a Capital Project for Ma Mawi?

Diane Roussin: To the City of Winnipeg? I wasn't aware that you had a process. So again way more questions than answers and so you know, I think…and it's not just Ma Mawi. I think that we are coalitioned with a lot of organizations who are all trying to figure out where did this money come from and how can we have access to it or how can we the opportunity to apply to it.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question.

Councillor Swandel: My question was, have you made any applications for Capital Programs to the City of Winnipeg?

Diane Roussin: No.

Councillor Swandel: No, and if you did, the measure of that program, I assume you would agree, would be the completion of the facility? If you were to make it Capital.

Diane Roussin: Well Capital is Capital. I think the community would like to have the opportunity to even have the discussion about what kind of facility we need. And we do…we are having some of those discussions. We know that there isn't enough youth programming and we know that we could probably use facilities but again, how we do that process is very consultative with youth, it's very consultative with community and it's very consultative with other organizations and so often, most of our funding requires the partnership. We don't even have the luxury of not partnering. And so again that's the process that we'd like see put in place.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you; no further questions? Thank you:

According to the list of delegations, the next delegation of a different topic is Mr. Don Woodstock in opposition to Item 3 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure and Renewal. Then we'll commence with the rest of the delegation that the motion was presented to hear all delegations. Mr. Woodstock, you have 10 minutes.

Don Woodstock: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Speaker, His Worship the Mayor, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen of the gallery. Good to see you all out this morning. We must have more of this kind of debate. (inaudible) Bigger garbage bin or bigger recycling bin, which should we have? (Laughing) yes. You think that's an easy question. It's not as easy as it may look.

One of the hot topics last week, and I'm sure many of you may have heard and seen, is looking at ways and means we can give our citizen a chance or opportunity to increase their garbage input into the landfill. While I agree with the notion that every man has the right to decide, I won't sing, whether or not to recycle, I am sure we all agree that without the consciousness and the willingness of most of our citizens to recycle as much as we possibly can, our City will remain at the bottom of the lot among cities who are moving towards a more sustainable future. And I took the liberty last night at four o'clock in the morning to send all the Councils and everybody a copy of my speech here so you can follow with me as I go.

I am confident that we haven't yet truly examined the effects of last week's action and we still have some tweaking to do on this subject. Council in my view have done their very best with the situation at hand, but it's a different angle, His Worship the Mayor and Council, that I'm going to ask you just to consider

Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce has been embarking on this concept of the sale of our beautiful City to the world as a green sustainable City in an attempt to attract business, something that we all needed. It's badly needed around here. What will the headline read with this vote to allow our citizens up to 360 litres of garbage to be placed in the dump? It may be viewed by others that we clearly have no interest in promoting recycling as a way of life to ensure our children's children will have a more sustainable future. In the early…in the late 60s, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau embraced multiculturalism which paved the way for me to stand here today--a little country boy from Jamaica and so many others around the world--so that we can hold our heads up high and say without fear of contradiction, this is my Winnipeg, this is my country, too. I am sure there are other noted politicians that, over the years, have stepped out on a limb and despite criticisms and the loss of votes, on the moments…this is one of those moments…I'm certainly sure we can all agree when we have the no smoking ban or the floodway. We have countless (inaudible). I think we need to take advantage of this moment to put our City on the part to reduce on the recycling path and reduce the amount of garbage that we send to our land fills. Besides, think about this, who needs to dispose more than 240 litres of garbage in the landfill each week? Bear in mind one fact: more than 60% of what we buy and consume is recyclables. So I don't understand. Winnipeg Police with all this hard working men and women, needs our help cracking down on criminals using neighbourhoods as cover for grow-ups and meth labs. One of the indicators of this is excessive weekly garbage disposal which means that they could be doing something (inaudible) "hanky panky" or just straight illegal. If you generate more than 240 litres of garbage each week then the Police Department should be talking to you. They should

be checking what you're disposing. Maybe you have a butcher shop in your basement or something. Come on, man. For those who need to throw away more than 240 litres of garbage my solution is simple. You should be paying. Not $33; you should be paying $140 or more. I wonder how is it that we don't have a motion on the floor? We do have a motion on the floor to increase 240 litres the recycle bin. Well, guess what, if 240 litres of recycling bin is enough, then 240 litres of garbage bin is enough. We should all by now know that there are huge economic and environmental benefits to recycling. Let's face it. Here in Winnipeg we got cheap land when compared to the rest of Canada. Cheap hydro, okay, and very, very cheap labour force which is a perfect model for a recycling plant, one that would sell the products right here; the finished products right here in Manitoba. You know what? Here is what I see. I get it. I get it. In Jamaica you know what we say? Yes I always see. I am a (inaudible) star. Okay? Here is how it is to (inaudible) Council. Council is made up of various political factions--right, centre, left and somewhere in between, but could it be that the Provincial Government is trying to find a way to prevent the City of Winnipeg from looking green and to be among the top cities in Canada that recycles because this image goes against their core principles and belief. Should we not have a green sustainable agenda without any political backlash, whether you are from the Conservative, Liberal, Green, N.D.P. Party? I believe the time has come for us to rise above all, any and all hidden agendas, and think of how we can add to our consumption habits in order to bring up both a healthy, clean and sustainable environment for our children's children with great economic benefits.

Recently, and I'll take the opportunity of tabling this. Recently, we made the front page of the David Suzuki Newsletter, Finding Solution, of the progress we have made into the name change from Garbage Day to Recycling Day, and we're reminded of the importance of the fruit fly in their Grass Root Community News. And I think it's an honour for us to be called a fruit fly. (inaudible) bloom and nature conservation has a web page to support their efforts to keep Winnipeg beautiful. I didn't ask for that. They saw what we were doing along this train and they decided to put it up and you have it. I'll send it to everybody so you can click on it and open it, and you will see lovely music and so the City of Winnipeg is promoted in a positive way. We have the attention of the Marine Conservation of the U.K. and other international groups. Your Worship, Mr. Speaker, Councillors, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and its citizens of this wonderful City of ours and in the international community await your answers. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Woodstock. Any questions? No questions, thank you. Councillor Clement has to smile, everything is okay. The…to continue on with the delegations, we have…to continue on with the opposition, we have a total of 17 that will speak in opposition. Five minutes each with no questions. The first one is Lucille Bruce or Anita Armstrong. Are they present? They're not here.

The next one is Kate Sjoberg, Spence Neighbourhood Association. Are you present? Okay. Calvin Pompana. You name is…okay Kate. And first Lucille Bruce are not here. Dan. Do you know which delegations you've named here to appear as a delegation, can you ask some of them to come down to the back here? Your name is?

Lucille Bruce: Lucille Bruce.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Can you proceed? You have five minutes.

Lucille Bruce: Thank you so much. I'm here representing Native Women's Transition Centre. I'm the Executive Director of Native Women's Transition Centre. I want to give you a little bit of a briefing of who we are and our philosophy and our value base that we work from. Native Women's Transition Centre was established in 1979. We're one of the oldest Urban Aboriginal Service Organizations in the City of Winnipeg. When we were created it was a time when there were very few services in the City of Winnipeg addressing the needs of the Aboriginal population that were moving and quite a number of people moving from reserve communities and Métis communities to Winnipeg, and at that time, it was recognized by grass root Aboriginal women leaders, along with the United Church of Canada, that there was a gap in servicing the needs of Aboriginal women and families. They were coming to Winnipeg; meeting with all kinds of barriers and challenges, very often ending up on the street, being exploited. And also, ending up meeting resistance from systems and being involved with systems.

Our philosophy was based on the fact that we wanted to provide a service that was culturally relevant, that would promote Aboriginal identity and Aboriginal self determination. The United Church of Canada actually provided us with our place to be able to operate this safe house and that was the partnership that was established. I'm speaking about our history of having been established because I think it has relevancy in this decision here today. The philosophies that we carry as an Agency and working with our community; is that we must own and operate our own services. We are the ones that know how to best deliver services and these services must be culturally relevant to be able to meet the needs of our community. We must also work at building capacity from our Aboriginal community to provide these services. We work very much, Native Women's Transition Centre, in partnership and in collaboration with our sister agencies in the community, to develop that continuum of services, and it is with that philosophy, that history of being established, that philosophy, that value base, and that approach that Native Women's Transition Centre is here today to speak in

opposition of this motion. Native Women's Transition Centre, we are one of many urban Aboriginal agencies in the inner City who work with extremely marginalized families including youth and children. There are so many well established, credible and experienced organizations and resource centres in the North End who provide culturally relevant support and services to youth that are constantly struggling to secure ongoing, sustainable funding. These organizations deserve a fair chance of securing funding, and more importantly, the Aboriginal community should have been consulted regarding this proposed initiative given that Youth for Christ is also targeting Aboriginal youth as a population that they will be serving.

Furthermore, Native Women's Transition Centre is concerned about the historical imposition of Christian ideals on Aboriginal people and the devastation created in the removal of our identities, cultures and spiritual values. Our youth have been disconnected from their culture and spiritual beliefs because of those past experiences of being colonized; and through the residential school systems. Therefore, the City of Winnipeg needs to look, reconsider this motion and look at funding Aboriginal organizations that promote culturally relevant programming, helping Aboriginal youth reclaim their cultural heritage and promote self determination in helping Aboriginal youth achieve their full potential. We also recommend that there be a fair and open and competitive process for receiving grants of such magnitude. And at that, I'd like to thank you for hearing me.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the names now, folks, please. Folks, I just want to remind you that our tape recording is going on continually as we conduct our meeting and one person speaks and you start applauding, it distorts the tape all together that the Clerk may have to copy that to put into Hansard is distorted to the point that they will not be able to get the names. I'm going to be calling in five groups now. The first name is Kate; I believe you are here. Calvin Pompana, Kathy Mallet, Damon Johnston and Darlene Hall. Would you please come to the back of the Speaker and sit on that bench and when your name is called, it will take a long time before you start coming in from the gallery to come down here. Kate, you have five minutes.

Kate Sjoberg: Thanks. It's good to be here today. I'm from the Spence Neighbourhood Association and we work in the area that includes the University of Winnipeg but goes to Victor Street and between Notre Dame and Portage and work in the areas of housing, rental and working to make the rental housing expense more safe and more livable. We work in public space development and we have good partnerships with the City on doing that work. We do some community economic development work. We're incubating a social enterprise right now. But we also do plenty of work with youth and we do it mainly out of the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre where we work with over a hundred kids every day, with from everything from after school programming to work experience programming to homework club. We do work with at-risk youth who are in danger of joining gangs or are already engaged in gangs, and we do it from a community development perspective, which means that we have a Youth Committee that oversees all of the work that we do with youth. We engage parents, we engage youth in directing the programming that happens, and it's a model that's been very successful and it's meant that the Magnus Eliason Rec Centre, as a City-owned facility, is incredibly well used. It's packed most of the day.

We're engaged with the Coalition of Community Based Youth Serving Agencies which has developed a set of 20 best practices which help to guide youth programming and ensure that youth programming happening out of groups that are engaged in this Collation is of the highest quality. We also make sure that we connect with experts when there is an issue that we want to work on with our youth, that we don't have the expertise in. So on the issue of pregnancy and sexual activity, we connect with Klinic and make sure that our kids are going through workshops with them. When it's getting engaged in Aboriginal spirituality, which continues to be a call in our community, we connect with Ma Mawi, we connect with Ndinawe and other organizations. We work with Earcom and Needs Centre to make sure that we're doing the most work possible to bring kids together from different cultures, to do basketball programming; to play basketball to play sports together, and all of this work has been directed by the community.

The good news is that there is plenty of organizations with strong reputations working in our City. There's neighbourhood development corporations like us that represent community on a geographic…from a geographic standpoint. There's also organizations that represent community from a cultural standpoint, and they already exist in the inner City where this institution is proposed to be built.

All of us struggle for dollars, and I think there's hypocrisy happening in terms of the City spending money on a new facility and yet drawing back from existing City facilities. We've seen a draw back from services at the "M.E.R.C." I've presented to Committee before expressing concern about the lack of infrastructure improvements in things like swings not being repaired, over many months at a time at the "M.E.R.C." We need more investment from the City in the infrastructure that already exists that are serving our communities, and yet we've seen a step back from that.

We've heard Winnipeggers call for better opportunities for inner City youth to be become strong community members. That's true all across this City, and we've also seen the benefit of community working together with funders to build

sustainable projects that meet the needs of multiple stakeholders. For example, this method has ensured that the Magnus Eliason Centre which was only built a short time ago is so well used. In the Youth for Christ case there's been no consultation with community. You asked, I forget who asked, whether or not folks had been to the facility, had never engaged with Youth for Christ before. We haven't been invited to partner with them before, and yet we have partnered with a wealth of other organizations in the inner City. So they haven't been engaging with the community in an effective way. And in terms of the location of the site, we've already heard concerns from folks in the community about the walkability of the neighbourhood. Folks in our neighbourhood walk. They don't drive, they don't have money for bus tickets, and if folks are going to access this Centre, which I assume is meant for folks that live in the inner City, it's going to be tough for them to get there, and I haven't heard anything about how that's going to happen.

I want to make a couple more points. I guess just that we've heard from the Aboriginal Community again and again and again, that an anti-colonial approach is the only way to engage with youth from the inner City, and this is completely the opposite. It's a group coming in who doesn't…hasn't consulted with the community, hasn't asked what the community wants, and we haven't seen that and so I'd like this process to be a lot more open and a lot more collaborative.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Next delegation is Calvin Pompana and Ms. Fontaine. You have five minutes.

Nahanni Fontaine: Good morning. My name is Nahanni Fontaine. I'm the Director of Justice for the Southern Chiefs' Organization. (inaudible) for allowing me a couple of minutes to present to you on this most surprising development.

First let me begin by saying Southern Chiefs' Organization, or S.C.O., knows, respects and affirms individuals' right to practice that religion they feel to be true. S.C.O. respectfully acknowledges Youth for Christ's right to exist and walk on the path they so choose. Having said that, we too as the first peoples of this land, have the right to exist and walk on our own spiritual path, free from the constant need of being saved. Canadians currently live within a residential school post-apology era. The Government of Canada, all Canadians including everyone in this room, apologized for the horrendous residential school policy that, in partnership with the Church, saw religion used as an abusive and violating mechanism in which to assimilate Aboriginal children into Euro-Canadian mainstream. Canada apologized for and acknowledged the legacy of the residential school system and the myriad of inter-generational damage it has bestowed upon our nations, communities, families and individuals. As a result of this apology, Aboriginal peoples were assured that these sort of strategic and infringing policies and practices would never occur again, and despite this assurance, we're gathered here today debating the construction of a Youth for Christ Recreational Facility which is entirely founded on Christian world views and practices. The Youth for Christ vision is to and I quote "reach young people everywhere, working together with local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus". Youth for Christ is seeking to develop their project on A. Indigenous land; B. Land that community has been attempting to buy or use for many years; C. Land that is predominantly occupied by Aboriginal peoples. Let me be perfectly clear. Should the City of Winnipeg, in partnership with the Federal Government, award over $3 million, and we understand it's more than that, to the Youth for Christ project? This Council will be doing nothing short of reinstituting and state sanctifying another more contemporary, altered form of the Residential School experience, mentality and practice all under the guise of helping at-risk Aboriginal youth. We know that all best practice evidence has demonstrated cultural reclamation and indigenous holistic approaches as the only effective and meaningful way of working with and empowering Aboriginal families and youth. To suggest that the same institution, who on the one hand is implicit in the total destruction of Aboriginal people's culture, traditions, lands, economies and language, can on the other hand, be the ones to offer change and healing is absolutely ridiculous and insulting. The success and experience of those Aboriginal individuals and their corresponding agencies in this very room is a living, breathing, tangible illustration of the knowledge our community intrinsically has and lives in servicing our own youth. These same organizations have been in the trenches for many, many years and struggle year to year to find sustainable funding and yet, despite this major financial hiccup, continue to provide equitable, respectful and genuine change in our community. Finally let's be honest here for the record. There has been no transparency with respect to the Youth for Christ project. Indeed up until last week no one even knew it existed, let alone that it was in the final stages of acquiring a huge sum of dollars from the City of Winnipeg. Youth for Christ are seeking to use taxpayers' dollars to uphold their religious beliefs. Where was or is the community engagement and consultation on this highly questionable exercise? As Mayor Sam Katz earlier stated we live in a democracy and so as such, surely no one on this City Council can truthfully say that this is a good way in which to govern. Who you know or who you're connected to is the antithesis to responsible governing, accountability, and transparency and the antithesis to democracy.

Calvin Pompana is next.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. You had…both of you had five minutes. You should have shared it with…you had five minutes. Yes but your time it up. I'll give you a couple of minutes.

Calvin Pompana: Okay for sure. Good morning, my name is Calvin Pompana and I've been working on the Phil Fontaine drop-in centre, this has been going on the second year. I've got 20 letters of support from various people in the community, starting with the Police Chief, starting with Mr. McIntosh when he was then the Minister of Housing, the Downtown BIZ. You know, it's endless. I've got 20 names of people that have supported this. I've gone to the business community, Manitoba Business Community has assisted me in getting…not me but the project, some money to develop a business plan, and that's going to be ready for the City Administration Officer who indicated to me once this business plan was done, that he would look at it. And we also met with you, Mayor, on the 15th of January over at the S.C.O.'s office. We talked about this. You said you were going to respond. I got the correspondence here. We took the minutes of that meeting. We haven't heard a peep out of you. With all due respect, you know, Sam I know you. I know you, okay. And I respect you. But please respect us also. And anyways, you know, this.. (applause). This initiative here, you know, brings back memories. I was so honoured to sit in another place of democracy, known as the House in Ottawa, and I stood, sat up on the second shelf and as I heard the people coming up here making apologies for what the Government of Canada in concert with the Churches, destroyed our Native people. The biggest injustice you can do to people is to take their children and they did it for about 87 years and now we have another group coming in under the disguise of helping youth of all nations, all over this world, telling us that they're going to help our children. Anyway, I think my time is up. Thank you very much Mr. Chair. Good morning! (applause).

Mr. Speaker: The next one. Your name is?

Kathy Mallet: Kathy.

Mr. Speaker: Kathy, you've got five minutes Kathy.

Kathy Mallet: Good morning. Good morning, Mayor and City Councillors and people in the…community people in the audience. My name is Kathy Mallet and I am currently the Director of the Community Education Development Association which is located on Selkirk Avenue. As I was coming here this morning from my office, I was coming down Logan Avenue and I noticed quite a few Evangelistic Churches being raised up here in the inner City, and it seems to me that it sends a message to me that the Christian Community really are looking for the children, our souls of our children, still today. This is 2010, and the fact that this kind of activity is going on, it's a shame. And I say shame on everybody here that are supporting this motion this morning. We at C.E.D.A. are trying our very best to help our students in completing their education, their Grade 12 education in the inner City, in the North End. There are tremendous amounts of barriers that our young people are facing today and we don't really, we don't really need a Christian-based recreation programming to come into our inner City to come and see if they can save our children's souls. We don't need that. We need an agency that will help our children complete High School, to make their way through the school system, and to become productive citizens here, so that 20 years down the road, young people can come here and stand in front of you and talk to you about their experience of living and working in the inner City. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Damon Johnston, five minutes.

Damon Johnston: Mr. Speaker, Mayor Katz, Members of Council, I think most of you know me quite well. I've been around the City for a little while. I worked for the City for a little while and if I was still working for the City, I would have put my job on the line to put an end to this particular initiative. I'm here today to tell you; to give very second sober thoughts to this action. We will look at a Charter Challenge. The Prime Minister apologized for government funding of a church, of the churches to subjugate our people, our children. This is a church. You go on their website and they are international in scope, they have huge resources at their disposal. If they want to practice their Christianity, if they want to convert anyone to their church, then let them do so in a church. Where is their church? This will be their church. This is a recruiting centre for our children, plain and simple, under the guise of offering other programs. I'll read it right from their website "So when upper elementary children come into our drop-in centres and gym blast programs, attend our lunch programs, and camps, we at YFC want to remember the very special place that these children have in our father's eyes." This is not 1876, and I'm educated now, I'm a First Nations person and you will not get away with this, let me assure you. As a leader in this community, we've been looking for something to galvanize our community and this will do it like nothing else, and just because it's Mr. Courtney and I respect Christianity, but I don't like this at all. I don't like hidden agendas and this is a hidden agenda. As someone pointed out, this is a subtle attempt to guise something as something else. Now we are at the corner of Main and Higgins. There are many, many options that we can, from this point on, take, exercise to make this a very uncomfortable proposition, and I don't mean any kind of violence. We can protest, we can picket, we can do whatever we necessary feel, to put an end to this. If this church wants to do that, then let them fund it themselves. There should be no public money going into this project; not for a minute. I've made a huge contribution to this City in the last 25 years as have many of my colleagues who have spoken today, and we are working very hard to change the socio-economic circumstance of our citizens in this City. Far too often we are overlooked because we are considered a minority, but we are not a minority in this Province. We are a significant

community and we're growing daily and I can assure you that the message is getting stronger. I don't know why the Grand Chief chose to support this but he is not unanswerable to our community either. I will be speaking very soon to the Council of Elders at the Thunderbird House to get their opinion of this particular initiative. They're going to be across the street from the Thunderbird House, which is our spiritual; the first spiritual house of the Aboriginal People, the First Nations in this City. I'm quite angry and I think you can sense that and I apologize for that because I have no disrespect for anyone. I'm 62 years of age. I've served this country in the Royal Canadian Navy. So my comment about a Charter challenge, the basis of that was the Prime Minister's apology and that no government would again provide funding to any church to try to Christianize our children, our youth or our adults or our elders. So that's my message to you and I hope you will hear it. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Next delegation. I guess I can't stop you, can I? The next delegation Herrera; Della Herrera; you have five minutes.

Della Herrera: Thank you. We, the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg oppose City Council's motion to fund the Youth for Christ proposal as we feel it is not appropriate for our community. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The next five, Dale Degagné, Ruth Brechman, Marileen Bartlett and the Aboriginal Community Campus and Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba. That's one, two, three, the next five. Dale, go ahead. You have five minutes.

Dale Degagné: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mayor, Councillors. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the proposal that is before you, the motion that's before you. I come here as an Aboriginal man, a Métis. I respect and follow some of the traditional ways of our Elders, of our people, our ancestors, and like many of our people I walk with both feet. I'm also a Christian. I belong to an Evangelical Christian Church as a matter of fact and had an interesting conversation yesterday with my Pastor.

A lot of people have talked about the question of process this morning. I don't have to say much more about it. We know that this project, I believe, came to Council through CentreVenture which is not the way that most of our stuff comes to Council when we're working in the community and applying for funds. So it's sort of as though somebody got a different route into Council, into the City, as though there was a jumping of the cue. I'm sure that if equal opportunity was given to some of our Aboriginal organizations that they also could make a proposal to CentreVenture that would be accepted and then the financing worked out and ending up here.

The statement has been made that Youth for Christ is not targeting Aboriginal kids per se, and yet if you look at the news release on the website for Youth for Christ, the website that isn't affiliated with the Winnipeg group but does have the Winnipeg news release on, there is a whole section that deals with Aboriginal kids. Now granted it looks like a piece of boiler plate you could put Philippino, you could put Brazilian, you could put Trinidadian on top of it, but they haven't. They put Aboriginal kids. And it's interesting that in Section 4 of that, they talk about what they would like to do in future, enhance complimentarily of new and existing programs, leverage and maximize effectiveness of available resources, minimize duplication and overlap. Whenever possible actively and meaningfully involve Aboriginal youth in project design, development and delivery and engage in the support and involvement of the experienced Aboriginal service providers and Aboriginal leaders. I submit to this Council that the time for doing that was before this proposal came to you, because in both the Christian tradition and the Secular traditions, there is a whole body of work on Community Development and I'll site John Perkins for my Christian brothers here who is well known for his work and the rest of you may be interested in McKnight stuff out of Chicago, and none of that do we have any evidence has been followed whatsoever. That should cause concern for Council.

Now there are areas of agreement. As Aboriginal people, we like to do things in circles and here we are in a circle. Somebody had foresight when they designed this Chamber. We do things in circles, we dialogue, we communicate and from the Bible it says in Isaiah, "Come let us reason together" and that's what I'm going to ask this Council to do because I think that you have a fiduciary responsibility to see that your funds that you approve whether they come from somewhere else or not are in keeping with the values of Council and keeping with the objectives of this City and of its Community and at the time that you are seeking re-election, somebody may stand up and say, can you give us a value audit on how that money has been spent? How has it supported existing organizations? I understand people didn't know that they could go to the Youth for Christ Centre and have a tour but how many of you have been to the Indian Métis Friendship Centre lately and are aware of the very real financial issues that they face day-in, day-out; and the cut backs that have been made to their drop-in program because they haven't had the funds that they need. Talk has been made about people not getting pay increases who work in this area. People who are looking after our kids, not to be paid minimum wage when they're doing a whole lot more, and looking after our kids is a lot more than recreation. Our Elders, and I recognize Elder Pompana this morning, our Elders have taught us that the Creator gives us children so that they can teach us but they cannot teach us if they haven't had the nurturing and the upbringing and the sense of

identity of who they are, and unfortunately for many of our kids they don't have any of that because of the horrendous history that started in the residential schools and a lot of which we now replicate, unfortunately. Is that a warning?

Mr. Speaker: Yeah, go ahead, go ahead, you have 30 seconds.

Dale Degagné: Okay thank you, I'll try to wind it up. We are dealing with historical issues, issues of identity, issues of genuine healing. On the Youth for Christ website I didn't find the word "healing" anywhere. I didn't find the word "trauma" anywhere except in reference to the two counselors that work for their counseling centre. There was no recognition anywhere of the history and the context of our people. This is not about Christianity vs. the Aboriginal people, but it is about working collaboratively, working respectfully and honouring our traditions and culture. And there are many, many people in our community who have been able to honour our traditions and culture and still be darn good Christians. So please lady and gentlemen, I invite you not to, ladies and gentlemen, I invite you not to get caught into seeing this as, you know, the Christians, nobody wants the Christians or as Vic Toews says, you know, you either want gang or you want Christians, that's not the case. But it is the case of working collaboratively in a good way for our kids. And both our traditions recognize the sacrality of children. As I say, the Creator gives us the children so we might learn from them so they might teach us. Jesus said inasmuch as you look after these kids and welcome them, you welcome me also. So either way our children have to be the top most priority. Please make your decision accordingly in respect to the needs of the community. Thank You.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The next person is Ruth. Ms. Brechman, you have five minutes.

Ruth Brechman: It's great to live in a country like Canada where we are free to express our opinions and to come to an establishment like this and hear the opinions of others. And thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. I might say though that freedom of speech is rather useless when you don't have freedom of information, and we certainly lacked information on this issue. I'm also proud to live in a country where we are offered freedom of religion. We can believe what we want to as individuals and as groups. We can raise money to build our own churches where we follow ethical procedures based on our theology. We can reach out for new members in many ways including proselytizing on street corners or knocking on doors, but when one group expects or receives large grants from the public purse, we're in trouble. We have violated that very precious principle of the separation of Church and State and this does not lead to a harmonious or equitable society, and it's for this reason that I'm strongly opposed to the Government of Canada or to this Council granting millions of dollars to the Youth for Christ proposal. This is a group of missionary minded people out to convert young people to their particular brand of Christianity, and to its related moral positions. This is clearly a mixing of religion and politics. We know that Youth for Christ has strong ties with the moral majority in the United States and we know what the right wing politics of this group are and would be. They are generally anti-gay, anti-choice, anti-family life and sex education, anti-evolution, anti-stem cell research and the list goes on. I certainly don't want my tax dollars to go towards building a centre which, although it may offer good recreational facilities, may also be offering counseling programs for youth that I would find very troubling. The place for such proselytizing and moral instructions is in the churches and in the homes, not in publicly funded programs. I urge Council to vote against this proposal and to revisit the whole question of recreational programming for youth. Six million dollars would go a long way towards expanding existing facilities. We know now that Federal stimulus money is available. Let's make sure that non-profit organizations know how to access it. Most of us are aware of the need for better recreational facilities for youth, especially in the inner City. I think we've been too willing to accept the mantra of Council that the cupboard is bare, no funds available to support existing groups or to halt the closing of facilities. If Council can become more aggressive and creative in this matter, we all should offer our support and understanding as citizens.

Now, as I sat up there and listened to some of the speakers and since my five minutes are not quite up, I want to share with you an anecdote and sometimes a personal story can be more impressive than a prepared script. When my daughter was 16, which is, I shouldn't say how many years ago, but 30 years ago she became involved in a group called Young Life. It turned out to be a branch and affiliate of Youth for Christ with very strong organization coming from the States. Well she and many of her friends out in Westwood joined this group, including her boyfriend and she attended several of the sessions. It started out with guitar playing in people's basements and that was fun and that was a good experience but then it moved into a group leader, a young leader getting the group involved in more religious talk and becoming witnesses for Christ, and Shannon I guess, now I shouldn't have used her name, I'm sorry…she had I guess expressed some reservations about some of these things and at the next meeting, the group leader said now I'm feeling bad vibes here. I'm feeling negative vibes here. And someone in this group is holding us back with those negative thoughts. Well, I guess all of the buddies looked at my daughter and she burst into tears feeling the pressure and ran home, came running home and told us about this terrible thing that had happened and peer group pressure was absolutely horribly strong in that situation. And this was a very traumatic thing for a young 16-year-old person. And when she heard about this issue and she said mom, you gotta go down and talk to them about that because this was what was going on. It was supposed to be fun thing; it ended up being a real problem. So please think about that.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Next delegation is Marileen Bartlett. You have five minutes.

Marileen Bartlett: Yes, thank you. Good morning Mayor Sam Katz and Councillors. Well first off as Executive Director of C.A.H.R.D., I have to say, I oppose the motion from the Executive to provide this Grant. Besides the many reasons that have already been given for not supporting this motion from Diane, Ruth and Tammy Christensen and others, I'm against it as a community person who has been involved in community development in this area for 18 years actually with us purchasing the Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg and the work that we've done around that. And some of the other initiatives that we have tried to do with the City of Winnipeg, with CentreVenture, with various government departments, Federal and Provincial, and one of the things about that corner lot that we've all agreed on, is that we wanted it to be something that would reflect our culture, our heritage and a promise to our people that we are developing and we are moving forward, and myself as well as many others don't believe that this Youth for Christ is the entity that can do that for us. Another thing is one of the main messages that we have heard from CentreVenture, when we're talking about the development of the lands in this area, and specifically that land, because we were involved in trying to actually building the Median Credit Union on that land at one point, was that we had to develop something that had a tax base. Now, I'm not sure, but I don't believe that churches need to pay taxes. and when we were trying to work with CentreVenture, we didn't feel that we got the support that we needed to be able to develop the Median Credit Union on that piece of land and in fact the Median did buy a building on Selkirk Avenue so that's a very big positive to that area of the community, but it was one of the things that we were looking at to do on this land.

Another area that I'm kind of concerned about is how does this development fit into the secondary plan for the City of Winnipeg? Because I know when we're trying to develop things there's quite a big process that we have to go through to make sure what we're doing fits into that plan so I see that as one of the questions that haven't been answered yet in terms of this development. And I guess I have to support the other organizations in talking about the struggle that we have in the Aboriginal Community, actually right in this area of the community, to develop the programs that we've already started. For example, the Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg, we've been here for 18 years, we've contributed a lot of money in this area to taxes and just having approximately 180 Aboriginal people earning a living in the Aboriginal Centre, and the money that they spend and the taxes they pay. But one of the issues that we have just in the Aboriginal Centre for example, is the fact that it's a Heritage Building recognized by three levels of Government and we have been struggling for 18 years to find the resources to upgrade the building so that we're not burning about $80,000 of dollars every year in energy that isn't required if we would be able to fix our furnace and fix our windows. So those are just…that's just a small example of some of the issues we have in the area.

And then I guess finally this issue about Youth for Christ development in this area, is that it reminds me somewhat of how our families have been treated by the Child and Family Services in the past and in some cases, in the future. Very often instead of supporting families that are in difficulty and often that difficulty is caused by poverty, they take the children from the families and give them to, whether it's Foster Parents or whatever, so therefore they take the children away and give them shiny toys and that's kind of what I'm looking at when we look about all the things they're saying they're going to build for our youth in this building that we can't afford to give to our youth so where do you think they're going to go? So I guess my message would be is not to support the motion and think very seriously about the implications this has for our youth. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The next delegation is Zystyna Guimont. I have to say it again. If you will not applaud I will say it. Okay. Zystyna Guimont, you have five minutes.

Zystyna Guimont: Alright. My name is Zystyna Guimont and I'm from the Aboriginal Community Centre of Winnipeg. I'm also the Chair of my Student Council and for the past couple of days, in talking with the students, we have come to oppose the Youth for Christ on Main. And I quote because the money could be spent expanding the Aboriginal Centre, more programs into the Centre, quote "Christianizing Aboriginal youth did not work in Residential Schools and what makes people think that it will work now?" Another quote, "I think most of our Aboriginal youth have struggles living in the inner City and gangs is a big part of it, and to choose between gangs and education, not gangs and God." Another quote was, "Non-Aboriginal people cannot relate to Aboriginals because they are not on the same wave length, and in a lot of cases they do not understand where, what they went through growing up in their life." I also believe that to have a Sweat Lodge on one side of the street and a church on the other side can confuse a lot of Aboriginal youth on what path they want to follow in life. A lot of youth today are second and third generation Residential School survivors and it can be really difficult to choose a positive path in life if they are confused on what they should believe in. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, next is the Abdikheir Ahmed, Immigration and Refugee Community. Go ahead you have five minutes.

Abdikheir Ahmed: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Your Worship the Mayor and Councillors, my name is Abdikheir Ahmed and I represent the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba, an organization that provides

transitional housing and programs to new Canadians, both immigrants and refugees, and the only one of its kind in the whole of Canada.

I am here this morning to oppose the commitment or granting of any public funds to Youth for Christ Canada and these are my reasons: First of all, I appreciate that there are no facilities that kids can use for recreational purposes in the inner City in downtown Winnipeg. I walk with immigrant youth whose passion is to play soccer throughout their time, and for six months of winter they either sit around or engage in criminal activities. So the development of facilities, or recreational facilities in the inner City is something that we need a great deal. That's what I'm here to say. However, any facility that is developed by an organization that has only one eye and that one eye is one faith, is not going to solve the whole communities. As newcomers, we come to this country because of the diversity and because of the integration that this country offers us, and how much welcome and acceptance there exists and where we can practice all our faiths, you know, beliefs and all that we want to do, we can do whatever we want in this country and we're happy about that. However, in our programs we have people who are running away from religious persecution, just based on main religion, sometimes based on certain sects. And coming to this country, they have that (inaudible) to do what they want. We ran programs for Canadian youth from 20 different countries around the world representing all the major religions of the world ranging from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism and many believers in traditional faith. Some of the participants have come out to our program, have deep faith in their religions but some of them have also run away from persecution because of their deep faith. I'm sorry to say that many of the parents of the youth that attend our programs will not send their kids to an organization that indoctrinates their children to be disciples of one faith. I'm here to say that. I am a product of a Residential School type program in Kenya where I went to a Christian school despite being a deeply Muslim from a deeply Muslim family where I have to say the Lord's Prayer every morning and went to Chapel and say the Grace every lunch time. This is what I believe about what Youth for Christ. What I believe is that every snack that will be offered it will be started with a Grace. Every time will (inaudible) the name of Jesus Christ. What I feel is that everything that will be done, will be done in the name of one faith and I'm sorry, with the strong faith background of Youth for Christ, many of the new Canadian youth will not use this facility (inaudible) it is going to be a likely waste of resource. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Next delegation, there are six left so I'll call the six as Shauna MacKinnon, Sonia Prevost-Debekker, Ashuuk Lavalle, Beatrice Mosionier, and Carlos Sosa and Cyril Keeper, Roxanne Dorvault. And you are?

Shauna MacKinnon: Shauna MacKinnon.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, you have five minutes both of you.

Shauna MacKinnon: I'm coming from this from a bit of a different angle. I work with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba and we have been conducting research on inner City issues for more than ten years. For the past five years we worked in collaboration with community based organizations to conduct research in Winnipeg's inner City for an annual State of the Inner City Report. We've now published five consecutive reports and we are in the process of working on a sixth. Our research highlighting the unique positive, culturally based and transformative programs serving youth and adults in our community is also published in international peer reviewed academic journals, and I mention this to you so that you'll be aware and take pride in the fact that the important work that many of the community organizations that you've heard from today is becoming well known across the country as well as internationally.

Speakers today have spoken about the historical context of colonization and the damage that it has caused. Our research shows how our community is intervening to undo past damages and also how they are doing things differently for future generations given what we now know about the misguided policies of the past. I think most people would agree that while we have made some first steps with recent public apologies of Church and State leaders for the terrible treatment of Aboriginal people, we have a very long way yet to go in terms of any systemic change. I think the fact that we're still having this kind of debate here today attests to that, but in spite of this there is some very good news and that is that there is some amazing work being done at the community level and you've heard from a lot of the organizations about some of that work today. Many of these organizations are integrating programming aimed at reversing the damaging effects of colonization and our research highlights these innovative programs. Today I would just like to take the last few minutes to read to you some excerpts from stories that have been told to us through the qualitative components of our research. I hope this will help you to understand why public funding for this organization that's aimed at disciplining Aboriginal youth into the Christian faith is not appropriate. These are the words of people participating in programs in our community. Programs like Ma Mawi, Ndinawe, Rossbrook House, Native Women's Transition Centre and many others. The first quotes that I'm going to read comes from a respondent in one of our research projects who was introduced to her culture at a community-based organization and was inspired to get her children engaged. She said to us, "I'm going to get my kids into the pow wow group through Ma Mawi. My son wants to learn the drumming and the singing. My daughter wants to learn the dancing. I'm going to put my children onto the spiritual healing path so that they can be successful in the future." Another respondent commented on the importance of learning about her past.

"A lot of people don't even know the Residential School example she said. That's why we have so many problems with kids and the violence. We're just stuck in the violence and broken homes. People need to be more aware of who they are and where they come from. As a kid, I wasn't aware of who I was or where I came from. I have now started to become aware of my background and culture." Another said "The C.B.O., the Community Based Organization, was good because they respected our culture and you learned about Native People. I never knew anything about it. I loved learning about it. I want to go back to the organization and be a volunteer to help my people. If I had those things when I was small I would have participating to learn more about tradition. We didn't have those things when I was a kid. It's part of the healing process, giving back tradition instead of taking it away." Yet another person told us "I'm seeing for the first time in my life, for 40 years I've been stripped of something that was rightfully mine from the beginning. I'm just learning now. It is very exciting. Our community was sleeping at one point, is the way I'd like to describe it, and we're waking up to strength. Everyday it's more strength. Now that we have all these programs going on, we're so empowered and we're growing and it's nice to see. It's healthy and people are taking more pride and it just makes me feel so good to be part of this community." One Aboriginal Woman told us she was stripped of her culture when she was taken from her family and adopted to a well intentioned Christian non-Aboriginal family in the U.S. She returned as a teenager when the adoption broke down. She said "I'm starting to know my culture and my identity. Without this I am not complete or whole." And finally in a recent interview a young ex-gang member participating in an Aboriginal inner City training employment program simply said this to me: "This program has changed my life. Without it I would be dead." These are just a few examples of people who are healing as a result of their participation in programs that understand what they have lost due to our misguided efforts to Christianize and assimilate. We have come a long way but we have a very long way to go. History shows us that solutions to the challenges effectively caused by outside interference will not come from outside organizations and especially will not come from those with ambitions to disciple youth to Christ. We know the great damage that this has created. We know that there is a more appropriate path we are seeing it, evidence of it. We need to support the organizations who develop considerable expertise. They do so much with so little. Proponents and supporters of providing a significant amount of money to the Youth for Christ project may have the best of intentions but history is clear. Best intentions don't always lead to good decisions and they definitely don't always led to good outcomes and I, like the many others presenting here today urge Councillors to Vote against the motion to support funding for this Centre.

Mr. Speaker: You have a few words to say?

Sonia Prevost-Debekker: I would just like to add on a couple of words as much has already been stated. I'm speaking, Sonia Prevost-Debekker, as a School Trustee in the Division Ward 3 and as a resident of the ward and as a former E.D. of Ndinawe.

As you know, the School Division is the largest employer in that area and certainly we would have, when host, have the opportunity because we have public funding to host the largest number of after school and youth programs and we have not been consulted. As a resident and a former E.D, I can speak in collaboration and in solidarity with my former and my current Executive Directors in the community. We believe, I believe, that there are inherent strengths in this community. We do not need to be rescued. We and certainly, as all best practice tells us, best outcomes are created by building on the strengths and the already existent capacity of the individuals that live there and work there and provide programming there. So I would urge you to consider…and one more issue. I have certainly an issue with location. The proposed site is not a residential location. There's not a lot of youth hanging out in this area, and at the expense of Talbot, right, which has many, many youth hanging out in that area. It is a residential location. So I am…I think it's a very misguided decision to do this without collaborative consultation and as such, I would urge that a friendly amendment be brought forward by one of the City Councillors to consider not making a decision without doing expedient and thorough, quick and thorough consultation over the next number of weeks to really stop and think about whether or not this is the right thing to do. We all want the best outcomes for our kids and time I think a little time to think and a friendly amendment to help that is in order. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Ashuuk? Not here. Beatrice. You have five minutes.

Beatrice Mosionier: One of the first things that really puzzles me is the workings of CentreVenture and how it provides scat funding to organizations such as Youth for Christ and then the City can just come up with funds to pay a loan on their behalf. The other thing that I feel is that we're not against another Christian entity, but we have experienced and we're not going to forget the Residential School System and the Foster Care System and this whole process, the way it's happened, even with us being able to speak here, reminds me of systemic racism which has been going on for a long time. So those are my concerns and thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Carlos Sosa, and Cyril Keeper you have five minutes the both of you.

Carlos Sosa: Members of the public, the media, Your Worship the Mayor and City Councillors. I hereby state my opposition to the Youth for Christ funding because of the motives of the organization. I should also state that many years ago, as some of you can remember when we were all in school, we had the Lord's Prayer. What happened? We got rid of the Lord's Prayer, the school system got rid of the Lord's Prayer because they believed the separation of State and Church. I do support funding for existing programs and for more safe places for youth, but what is being proposed here is not the best idea. What is of concern to me is the way the process has been conducted. It appears to me that there has been a lack of public consultations with members of the Community, and organizations that provide services in this particular community. What needs to be done is there needs to be a community economic development approach, where the community decides what they want and not an outside organization that has no connection to the residents of the area, and it appears that this is simply not been done in this case. Three years ago, some of you remember me speaking in favour of keeping Kelvin Community Centre open, for which a lot of you voted to close the Centre despite the fact that the community wanted it to remain open. You might wonder why I'm here opposing a drop-in centre for youth. Well, I should say I'm not opposing drop-in centres for youth, but what I'm opposing is how this was done. Instead of announcing a decision two days, or a week before this Council meeting, you should have more public consultations, the City should, and give the public ample time to be consulted on this issue. In Winnipeg we have a publicly run community centre system, including drop-in centres for youth that fall under this category. It seems like this is an excuse for the system, for the City I should say, to get out of the service of providing safe places for youth and instead to allow a private, non-profit organization to come in which may not be able to connect with the youth of the area because of its beliefs, as opposed to organizations which already operates in the areas and understands the needs of the youth in the area. The project needs to be scrapped, put back on the drawing board, so that there could be a call for proposals from community organizations that have existed in the community, and understand the needs and concerns of the youth. We need to consult with organizations such as schools, parent Councils and youth resource centres and Aboriginal organizations just to name a few. The decision that you make today will set a precedent which will impact on further decisions down the road. I ask that you vote against this decision and instead support what the community wants and not what an outside organization wants, with no connection to the area. I should also state that we need to respect the talents and the strengths of the residents of the area, and your decision today will affect the youth of the City for years to come. So, I do conclude my speech and share the rest of my time with Cyril Keeper, who I respect.

Cyril Keeper: Thank you very much, (inaudible). Being able to speak here is the essence of democracy, so I want to thank the Council and the Chair for the opportunity to speak. Many of you may know me. My name is Cyril Keeper. I used to sit on this Council but you may not know that my name in the 1850s was translated from the Cree, (inaudible), which meant "he who takes care of" and they translated that to "Keeper". They did that, my ancestor did that voluntary and at the same time he Christianized, became a Protestant and a Anglican. I'm a Catholic because my mother was Catholic. So, I have lived through the experience, now this is...you know, now I'm a little older, so I've lived through the time when I was taught by society, I would contend, to be ashamed of being Aboriginal. And I remember as a teenager, in my 20s, deliberately researching what it is that there was to be ashamed about being at that time called Indian and, of course, there was nothing to be ashamed. There was a great deal there to be proud of. So, when Nahanni Fontaine comes before this body and raises fundamental questions about the place of Aboriginal people in this society, about the place of First Nations in this society and her reflection on this proposal as meaning to her the same thing as Residential Schools, I suggest to you that this is reason for pause, to take a really good look at the decision that you're making and whether or not you need more time to examine it. Now there is also the question of recreational policy. If we look at this as a recreational facility, I would say it's far better for children to have facilities that they can walk to, rather than to have large facilities that they have to be bussed to or driven to. So that's just a question of policy. Now the last thing that I want to say is what I started with. I think this is a question of democracy. You have had significant delegations here today and you have had Aboriginal people raising very fundamental questions about who we are and how we fit into this community. So I think that this ought not to be viewed as a done deal. When I was speaking to people who are in the line to speak, this is what the general sentiment is. Why speak or if you speak, it's just to raise the issue. Here is the question of democracy, you've heard very fundamental questioning of this proposal and I suggest to you it's time to take a pause and take a real serious examination of this in the interests of the democracy of our community here. Thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The last delegation in opposition is Roxanne Dorvault. Roxanne you have five minutes.

Roxanne Dorvault: Thank you. All right. First I'd like to say good morning to everyone. My name is Roxanne Dorvault and I'm speaking here today as an Aboriginal Woman, as a tax paying inner City resident and as a front line youth worker. I am personally opposed to this motion for many reasons that include the lack of process, the lack of support for current youth serving agencies and because of the history of Aboriginal peoples. As a community activist and a community development worker with eight years' experience working with inner City youth, I have to ask, where was the process of community consultation? The process by which community residents, community organizations, and more importantly, the youth themselves, are included. Consultation with youth and families and community partners is the cornerstone of the work we do in our communities. Our process is about inclusion and transparency. Where is the

transparency or inclusion in this process? Many years ago I was here in my former role as the Chair of the Burrows Central Residents Council to fight the closure of Boyd Park Community Centre. We were successful to keep the centre open but as a resource centre. Why do I bring this up? Because we need local options for recreation, supported by local community organizations and local residents. This concept allows for community capacity building within our communities and opportunities for local role models. As a front line inner City youth worker, I know first hand that there are community boundaries that youth will not cross to access services. Why? Because safety is a huge concern for youth that cannot readily afford the bus fare required to travel outside of their community to access services that belong in their community. I am also concerned about the current challenges facing youth-serving agencies that struggle year by year for sustainability. Why are we not supporting the agencies that already possess the expertise and have developed strong relationships with youth, their families and each other. As an Aboriginal woman I am saddened by the fact that it seems you're about to repeat historical wrongs on Aboriginal peoples. I'm referring to the Residential Schools and the assimilation of our Aboriginal children.

In closing, I will leave you with four questions to ponder. If the idea has such merit, why was it walked on to the Agenda with short notice rather than following regular process? Why aren't public resources of the City being improved rather than giving money to one organization? Why are we not supporting the current youth serving organizations that struggle year by year, organizations that follow a consultative approach and respect process? And finally, I ask, has the history of the wrongs against Aboriginal people been forgotten? I urge you to not let history repeat itself. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillors, we have now speaking in favour, we have a total of six, each for five minutes. Councillor Pagtakhan?

Councillor Pagtakhan: I move that we go beyond twelve o'clock to hear the next delegations.

Mr. Speaker: That will take…the one thing you see if those in favour speaking, all that are here, will be able to hear what they have to say, otherwise they are going to go…okay the motion is on the floor to sit beyond twelve o'clock to hear the rest of the delegation which will take about another 25 minutes. All in favour? Opposed? A recorded vote. All in favour sitting beyond 12:00? Will you please stand.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Nordman, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Mr. Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko.

Nays

Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Gerbasi, Smith, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, and Councillor Wyatt.

Deputy City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 6 Nays 8.

Mr. Speaker: Lost. We will be reconvening at 1:30 this afternoon.

**Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
February 24, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.**

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Clerk, we have a quorum? Thank you. Councillors, we'll start our meeting. Councillors, speaking as a delegation in favour, Mr. Ross McGowan. You have five minutes.

Ross McGowan: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My name is Ross McGowan. I am the President and C.E.O. of CentreVenture Development Corporation. CentreVenture, as you know, has made North Main a priority for revitalization, and over the past couple of years we have witnessed renewed interest in this once forgotten area of our City. We strive for a balance of development in our work that represents the many interests and stakeholders in the community. This has been and will continue to be a guiding principle of CentreVenture. Such projects as the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the United Way, the Union Tower, are intended as catalysts for further community investment such as the proposed Centre for Youth Excellence at Higgins and Main. Yes, Higgins and Main. Who would have thought that we'd be here arguing over Higgins and Main a few years ago. Stabilizing the area and providing a framework for further private and public investment is of paramount importance to sustainable economic and social development in the North Main area. To this end, the proposed Centre for Youth Excellence meets this objective and fills a major void on North Main. In addition, the Centre would provide much needed recreation opportunities and

support services for the youth of the adjoining neighbourhoods, the Centennial, Point Douglas, Lord Selkirk and Elmwood.

From a community development perspective, recreation is universally touted as one of the most effective deterrents and alternatives to drugs, gangs, violence and prostitution, and it is to these conditions that we direct our attention, resources and commitment. From our perspective this project is about choice, about opportunity, support, self-esteem, inclusion and ultimately about self-sufficiency, and we applaud the Youth for Christ group and the other organizations that are here today for identifying and filling a need in this unserviced area of Winnipeg.

Youth for Christ first approached CentreVenture several months ago with an idea for a Centre of Youth Excellence and like many organizations, including some of those who are here today, had a good idea but not enough funding to carry out the project. Youth for Christ, however, came to the table with significant private financial support and in excess of $5 million towards an $11.6 million dollar facility. Over the intervening period, a more detailed business plan was prepared by YFC which confirmed the viability of the project. As was previously stated, but it is important to note, that in 25 years of existence of YFC, they have never applied for or received operational grants and its programs and the proposed Centre for Excellence follows this strong traditions of self-reliance. In short YFC is a well managed, operationally stable organization, an important element of our review. Application was subsequently made by YFC to the Federal Stimulus Program where the Business Plan was further vetted to confirm viability and eligibility for Capital funding, not for Operating funds. From CV's perspective, Federal funding for downtown is most welcomed and very difficult to get. In fact if the Centre for Youth Excellence does not proceed, the Federal Stimulus Funding will be lost. Approval has been confirmed, subject to the City of Winnipeg and/or CentreVenture providing $2.6 million of financial support which represents roughly 25% of the project costs. The Board of CentreVenture has approved the necessary $2.6 million subject to the City of Winnipeg providing annual grants of approximately $225,000 to cover the principle and interest costs, to replenish our coffers for further reinvestment in our downtown. These funds are project related and not for programming or for annual operating subsidies. As a condition of our approval, we have requested and been assured by the Board for the Centre for Youth Excellence that its doors and programs will continue to be open to all youth, regardless of race or religion, and that the focus will continue to be on cultivating the healthy development of our youth. We are further assured that the Aboriginal Community will be consulted and embraced during the detailed planning phase to ensure that appropriate recreation service programs are provided in a manner that reflects, respects Aboriginal culture and teachings. This is of major importance to CentreVenture.

YFC actions speak louder than words and I encourage everyone here today to take the time to visit their current facility, meet the staff and more importantly, talk to the kids who ultimately are the judge of the benefits of the programs and service provided. Mr. Speaker, our successes as a community has been built on collaboration, and we see the Centre for Youth Excellence clearly as a positive demonstration of how a number of public and private groups can come together to achieve collectively that which cannot be undertaken alone. During such economically challenging times, perfect solutions are not always possible but I am confident that by working together, we can capitalize on this opportunity and work through any outstanding issues as the project moves forward. Clearly the City cannot provide the much needed recreation services alone and leveraging $3.00 of outside public and private funding for $1 of civic investment strikes me as a good deal. I recognize that concerns have been expressed about process and the lack of consultation. Often times developments, private or public or both as in this case, require a level of confidentiality imposed by the various financial institutions and funding agencies with the understanding that appropriate consultation will occur during the more detailed programming stages once the final due diligence has been satisfied and the funding commitments are in place. The funding for this project, 11.6 million, is intended to construct a building, accommodate the various programs that are currently offered by YFC and those more culturally relevant programs that will merge through the stakeholder consultation process. We are prepared to facilitate this consultation and look forward to working with YFC, the City, the Federal Government, the Aboriginal Community, area businesses and residents, to bring this important project to fruition. Thank you for your support.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Milton Michelle. You have five minutes.

Milton Michelle: Okay. Hello. I am of Aboriginal decent. I come from an Aboriginal home and I went to an Aboriginal Elementary and an Aboriginal High School. My involvement with YFC started back when I was 12 years old, and the influence it had on me shaped me to be the person I am today. Without it, I would have been caught up in gangs or drugs, alcohol or violence like a lot of my, well all of my older brothers have. Just recently on June 14th of 2009 my brother, Wayne Michelle, was shot down and killed in the inner City. That had a huge impact on me, but, yeah, sorry. And how I came to the conclusion on my decision to pursue the Christian faith was not based on peer pressure, manipulation or brain wash. I made the conscious decision, as an adult, to pursue the Christian faith and I discovered more of that and shaped my life around that. Having the opportunity to now work at YFC as a staff member in the Winnipeg Floor Hockey League, as a League Facilitator, gives me a chance to pour into the lives of the youth, the same way that the staff and volunteers have influenced and poured their time into my life. So it pretty much came full circle

and some people call me sort of a living testimony of what YFC is all about. It actually took me seven years, and I didn't actually make the conscious decision to become a Christian until my involvement with YFC was actually over. I made it on my own, after I was done with all the programming, and was on my own. I got a call from my mentor soon after to actually work with YFC and here I am today. Like I said, just giving back and what can I say. Here I am today. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Dr. Wilson. You have five minutes.

Dr. Wilson: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Your Worship, Mayor Katz, Council and fellow community members. On a personal note, as a youth aged 16, I made a personal commitment to Christ and invited him into my life and that experience had an incredible impact in my life, so that 57 years later, I stand before you a man who has never tasted alcohol in my life. I've never puffed a cigarette in my life. I've never taken illegal drugs in my life, and I've never had sexual intercourse with any other woman other than my good wife of 25 years. So my experience with Christ has been a relational experience and not one of religion, and so I speak in favour of Youth for Christ. When it comes to Youth for Christ, first of all, I see Youth for Christ, well Youth for Christ is about youth and not money. If money were the focus we would soon realize that 70 plus staff members of Youth for Christ are financially supported by people in community; from the community except for the few subsidized administrative staff. All Youth for Christ staff members raise their own support and dedicate their lives to full-time work with the youth of our City. Family, friends and ordinary folk who believe in the work of Youth for Christ and who care enough about the youth of our City, invest their hard earned money in people like these who make the world a better place for our youth. It is the community that is caring for our youth, through Youth for Christ. Youth for Christ is not asking the City to sustain its organization; it's simply asking the larger community to get involved in the development of our youth so that they could become healthy, self sustaining members of our society and our City. So Youth for Christ is not about money, it's about the well-being of our youth.

Secondly, Youth for Christ is not about one culture verses another. It's about people working together to create a safe environment for our youth, and it's about people who provide a positive role model for youth from every culture. As a member of the Peguis First Nations, and an active member of the…and an active Board Member of the Youth for Christ, I have made it my goal to see that Youth for Christ have representation from all cultures at every level of the organization so that we would effectively serve youth from all nations. As an organization, we promote diversity and provide positive role models and a place where kids feel safe. So it's not about competition, it's about the welfare of our children.

Thirdly, Youth for Christ is not like the residential school. It's a group of well-meaning people who have integrity and a heart for youth. These people go to great lengths to understand youth and youth issues and are willing to engage with them and walk with them to the places where most of us are unwilling to go. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Your Worship, Council, and even people of our community, I urge you to seriously consider how we can walk together and work together to make this City a safer place for our youth and a richer place for our community as a whole. Thank you. (applause).

Mr. Speaker: Chris D'Souza. You have five minutes.

Chris D'Souza: Mr. Chair, His Worship and Council. I applaud everybody for coming up today and speaking and certainly I have learned a lot, and I have also gained a lot of knowledge. And what I bring to this Council is my ten years of working with mental health and addictions in the community for the last ten years, and that hasn't been talked about. And I have visited Youth for Christ, like I visit every other organization to see what they do, and I can assure you that they don't preach. They give 99% of skill training on emotional, mental and many other balances. Now, from my personal experience with drugs and alcohol, I had to find my own path, and the last thing I wanted to hear was a God or a Jesus or any of that, but you know what? When it's about life and death, you learn and you have to grab on to something, and I would sooner have someone given the freedom to choose their own path so they can find their own higher power rather than being forced, and this is not about money like it was said earlier…this is not…this is about more that's needed. We have a property and I've been living in the Point Douglas for ten years. That property has been pretty well an eyesore, and here is an organization that has stepped up to the plate, that's bringing money, bringing resources, and bringing a good history of success and knowing the addiction side, knowing the gangs, in working with the youth centre and so on, I know that they will only add and benefit the communities, and from speaking with John, he would only welcome dialogue with other organizations to build, not to take away, but to keep building, because one of the things that he mentioned to me was about wisdom, respect, trust, honesty, love, humility and courage, and I do believe that's part of the seven teachings of the Aboriginal Culture, because I have had some personal teachings on that from elders and I respect that. And I think we should respect all but don't make this about the Religion; don't make this about anything. Make this about what it is. It's a building that's going to offer really good programming. It's going to offer youth an alternative to gangs, an alternative to drugs, an alternative to prostitution, and if you haven't seen it out there, I encourage you to go and take a walk on the street at eleven o'clock at night or twelve o'clock like I do, and you

will hear these kids. They just want to do something that's fun, that's safe, and this is what this environment is providing. Now, for the individuals who don't believe in that, they have the option not to go, and I think the other organizations need to learn from this, that when you snooze, you lose, and if anything, let's all come together and help bring them money because Ndinawe and all do good work. They do a lot of good work but we've all got to do more, because there are people dying out there, there are people going to the jails and there is not enough jails. So give YFC the opportunity. What have you got to lose? They are only asking for a one time, one time. And then they are saying let us do what we do best. So please, I encourage you to have an open mind and to have the willingness to see beyond everything and rise above and seek guidance from your heart, not from the pocket book. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Larry Gregan. Five minutes.

Larry Gregan: I really want to speak in support of this project because what is at issue goes to the heart of what we are doing here in Canada. The free, democratic and pluralistic society we're building. Serving at New Life Ministries for 15 years, I got to observe the community level delivery of programs and services up close. The opponents of this project quickly refer to themselves as community-based but withhold referring to Youth for Christ in that way, an interesting distortion of language. People do not always realize just how few people an organization or agency can represent or work with and still call themselves community-based. No one holds exclusive rights to the word "community".

In presuming to defend what is presumed to be the culture of all Aboriginal people, opponents of this project don't hesitate to make sweeping statements about changing the culture of Christians of every ethnicity. The desire to share that faith with other free persons just because the sins of people I have never met, I'm supposed to now not share the hope I have with others. Irony abounds. As Harry used to say, give me a break. They are concerned that they were not consulted, but when was the last time they made sure that Youth for Christ was consulted on anything. Just because they haven't been engaged doesn't mean that other parts of the community have not been engaged by Youth for Christ for years. Opponents of Youth for Christ ignore this large, effective organization because they don't network in their corner of the community and then are surprised when they present a plan and refer to them as outsiders instead of people who have been making a contribution for years. As you can see, all publicly delivered services and programs reflect values, and, all sources of values, even non-religious ones, cannot help but make a statement about religious faith. If anyone thinks secular delivery of services is either value neutral or religion neutral, you're kidding yourself. Will youth and young adults be attracted to the way of life modeled by an effective service provider? Absolutely. It happens all the time, in women's resource centres, in addiction treatment centres, in neighbourhood associations. The values transmitted in those contexts also include very definite conclusions about spirituality even though the institutions and programs are a validly non-religious. Is the problem that service delivers would be ready, willing and able to lead willing persons into a disciplined approach to a particular spiritual life? Would we rather that people focused on the holistic formation of youth, think so little of what it takes to become a mature adult, that they take a casual approach to it? Is the problem the Evangelical Christian Spiritual Life in particular? Well, there is no such thing as an unparticular spiritual life. Everyone's lives are made up of particular beliefs. This particular tradition has a massive track record of positively contributing, according to our common values, human rights, social services, public health. These are not fanatical people. So, calls to exclude this particular tradition are highly problematic from a Canadian perspective. We are not American. The relationship between Church and State is not handled the same way here. If it was, there would be a lot less public funding for Aboriginal spirituality and Thunderbird House. You do not have to worry about a Charter Challenge as was threatened this morning. We have accomplished a remarkable achievement in this country that is rare in the world, a free society where everyone can contribute according to our common values, each drawing upon our own sources for our values. So what it comes down to is this: are we going to try to force a society that under the guise of supposed secular neutrality allows only one conclusion about the relative importance of religion in public life to be the source from which service providers can draw to make their contributions? Or, are we going to continue to build and support a society in which we can all contribute, according to our common values, each drawing upon our own sources of those values. It is only this latter approach that is sustainable because it truly respects the human dignity of all. This is a deal that anyone can support, without fear of undermining the principles that provide the foundation for a free, democratic and pluralistic society. In fact, it upholds them. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Mr. Ken Whitecloud.

Ken Whitecloud: Thank you very much, Sir. Good afternoon. Mr. Mayor, Councillors, I'm here as you heard my name is Ken Whitecloud; I'm here on behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. I used to be…I'm a former Chief of the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation for 10 years, 11 years. I'm here to speak in support of this project. A.M.C. has been receiving lots of letters of support; the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has received lots of letters of support on this, and I have one and I would like to read it to you. It starts…it's a letter from an Elder. "I am a Residential School survivor and First Nation mother of 13 children, grandmother of 33, great grandmother of 25, great, great grandmother of 7. I strongly support the Youth for Christ project as an option for our young people who are currently in crisis. In the last year I lost two of my grandchildren to drugs and gang activities which left five of my great grandchildren without their mom or dad in their lives

and left our family with broken hearts. The lives of our young people are important to our families and society overall. They should be treated as important gifts to be cherished and not as political footballs over funding. I fully support our Aboriginal organizations, but I also welcome anything that will provide our youth with desperately needed opportunities to have a healthier lifestyle and positive options and a safe and solid base for the future. Let's not let the fight for funding hurt our youth. Let's stop hurting ourselves and our future generations. We need to work together as a community to protect our future generations." And that is a letter from one of our Elders. Faith-based organizations, there is quite a few of them. There's lots of examples. The Salvation Army, Grace Hospital. We have teens, our teens, we're talking about teenagers here. Teenagers can make up their own minds. Who here has a teenager? Can you tell them what to do? I don't think so.

I'd like to give you a short history of my own short history. I grew up with my mother who went through the Residential School System. My father who also went through the Residential School System, also World War II Veteran and also a Former Chief, my father, and my mother right from when I remember, two years old sent us to church, three days a week. We went to a small Mennonite Church in our Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. We had four Churches. Ours was the church that happened to be the closest. My Dad was baptized Catholic and my Mom was Anglican. Her brother, my uncle, was an Anglican Minister. I went to a Mennonite Church run by Mennonite people from south of Winnipeg in the Steinbach area. I went three days a week, four days a week sometimes to church for different activities and Bible Study and what not, right until I was 16 or 17. Also along side that, I had my father who was traditional and went to World War II, served his country, came back. He taught us the traditional ways right along side the Christian way, and he taught us that both can co-exist. There is no need for them to be butting against each other. My father also told me…this sticks in my mind forever…that it doesn't matter. If we are true to our religions, respectful and decent and nice to people, then we don't attack other Christians, don't attack other religions, we don't attack other people. Our traditional based religion teaches that. We don't attack, we respect people and we don't attack people. So that's where we are here. Let us not attack each other. We are talking about saving the lives of our children. That's what we're talking about here. If we can save one life by putting this organization, helping this organization put up their building here. If we can save one life, is that not worth it? I respectfully say to you, Mayor and Council here, I fully support this, so does the Grand Chief, and we'd like to hopefully have your support and the Council's support on this project. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Nona Pelletier. Is she here? Followed by Nelson Sanderson and Fred Sinclair. Go ahead. Thank you. Five minutes.

Nelson Sanderson: Thank you. My name is Nelson Sanderson. Living in Elmwood for the…sorry?

(inaudible speaking in the background)

Mr. Speaker: Is she coming down? Okay Nelson, just wait.

Nona Pelletier: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Nona, five minutes.

Nona Pelletier: Thank you. I wasn't going to come here today, to speak to this proposal. I had written a letter last night in support. I just want you to know that I'm not here for Youth for Christ or against my Aboriginal colleagues and community organizations that I have worked with over the last few years, to support recreation initiatives in the North End. I'm here because I want to support this project. Many people don't realize how important it is to have a development at that corner. Main and Higgins is a really uninviting, dark place. It's the darkest corner in Winnipeg and I have to frequently travel through it. Not just me but anyone who lives in North Winnipeg and wants to cycle to and from work, or walk, and that doesn't just include adults. It includes children and their families, too. It's a real serious concern, and it's not something that can be easily fixed. Many people have tried, more than a decade have tried to improve that area. Nothing will improve it more than this project. We couldn't even imagine, if someone said Nona, here is half a million dollars and all we're going to do is make this corner safe for you and your friends, I'd say fantastic, what a great investment because thousands and thousands more will be able to use the same route. This is really important. It has nothing to do with what happens at that centre, although those are concerns that many others here have addressed today. I'm not going to address those concerns. I just want to say that not only is it a good location for a recreation facility, it is actually ideal. It's perfect. It's really quite perfect. And I really commend the people who have been proponents of this project bringing it forward. It is at the location of a convergence of the Higgins, King, Princess, active transportation routes. People need to go through this area. Now, you know, I don't want to make any judgments whatsoever about the people's concerns about religion, politics, spirituality, culture, policy, process, transparency, accountability, but these are genuine concerns, of course they are. And yes they should be addressed. But you know there's a will to do that. I think that the community certainly; I'm here in a private capacity but I sure have been to a lot of meetings about recreation and I've never heard anyone say that we don't want to work with faith-based organizations.

We do, because they have a great volunteer network and they've got money. And, they seem to have a tireless desire to work for the same goals, which is to really provide healthy options for youth to become involved in recreation, sports, all those kinds of things. So I'm hoping, knowing the people involved, that we can all sit down together or at least some of us can sit down together and sort out these issues. I don't understand why we can't. We really need to work together. I personally work with maybe, I don't know, 50 or a hundred kids. Thousands need help. It'd be great to say that, you know, we could live in a world where every child would have some sort of equal opportunity. Well, they don't. And yeah there's lots of issues but we're not going to solve them here in this forum. We need to move forward. I think that the investment is a good investment. I think it should be supported, it should be applauded and I think that the concerns that have been raised here today should also be addressed and that's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Nelson Sanderson. You have five minutes.

Nelson Sanderson: Try this again. My name is Nelson Sanderson and I've lived in Elmwood for the past 22 years and married to my lovely wife Lillian for over 31 years. And we're from Motor Coach Industries until I retired at 55 which is about four years ago. In the time that I've been working, I guess I've volunteered for many organizations. I was the President of the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for four years back in 1996 up to year 2000 and was on the Board of Governors for the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba back in 2000, the Race Relations for the City of Winnipeg back in 2001, so I have a little bit of expertise when it comes down to meeting and greeting people and everything else but I'm speaking today I guess on this new organization that a few friends of mine founded. It's called Off the Street, and Off the Street is an organization trying to grab young people prior to joining gangs or anything else like that. They want them actually to get off the street and in speaking about that I see a lot of things, I've heard a lot of things here today but nothing really positive to what's really happening on the street. I have three of my friends here that have been with me listening all morning but nobody spoke for the children. I guess the children that I speak of, kids that are walking at ten o'clock at night either on Dufferin or any area, and the thing people spoke of was the distance that one has to walk once this organization is put in place down on Higgins and Main. You know when I was a kid, I lived in the North End and the Indian Métis Friendship Centre was across the bridge. We walked across that bridge in 40 below just to go enjoy ourselves. I think if we have, there are many kids around there in that area that really want to do stuff, positive stuff. Now when we talk about Christian organizations, yes I am Christian and I'm proud of that, but the thing is, how many other Christian organizations that are actually around here? After I retired back about four years ago, I gave two years of my life for the Siloam Mission. They serve 98% of their people, are Aboriginal people. Now, are we going to have the youth of today eating at this area maybe 20, 30 years from now? I don't want that. I want a positive thing to really come out of this. I want the…you know people will say well, Youth for Christ, it's a Christian organization. So is the Y.M.C.A. They don't use the "C" as much as they used to, but it's a Christian organization. And so is Salvation Army, and Siloam Mission. You'll say a Prayer before you eat there in the morning but you don't have to say it. If you're Muslim or anybody else, you walk in, and you don't have to say that prayer, and that's the good part about not necessarily only Christian organizations but mainly around that area it is. The Christian organizations that are feeding, and I really don't want 40 years from now to be at the same thing, status quo, where our people, the Aboriginal people, are eating at Siloam Mission. I would like them to come or to be like myself, you know, very stable life and good pension and everything else like that, so, at the end of the day I guess I really…I spoke of yes, the distance that people have to walk. I think there's a lot of possibly people here that if they're old enough they can talk about walking five miles back and forth to school or whatever, but if it's this organization that's going to do very positive stuff for the youth, whether it's Aboriginal, Black, White, Yellow, Red, it doesn't really matter. What we want to do is install good things into these youth, and right now, as far as Off the Street, we're working, and there's hundreds, hundreds of Aboriginal youth out there, and they're learning the bad stuff, the real bad stuff. And I'm not going to talk about that today but there's a lot of negative stuff out there that's occurring to our children, every day. But I didn't here that this morning. It's just that I want…I guess you guys really…take a real good look at the need today. Sure I got that; I've raised beautiful children that have gone to University and everything else, but I was raised in the North End. You have to look hard. At the same time, at the same time in conclusion, I have been a member for the Y.M.C.A. for the past 30 or 43 years. So it's a positive thing and I thank you again for your time. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The final delegation is Fred Sinclair. You have five minutes.

Fred Sinclair: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'll get right to the point. I came here today with an open mind. I came to listen to the people and let the opinions of them guide my way towards a definite stance on the subject, and bear with me as I try to put into words the distaste that I've come to feel listening to the opposition throughout the morning. I've heard words like "assimilation, transparency", all regards to due process, and I've come to the conclusion that people are missing the one positive aspect here. I am not opposed and have based my opinion on the important aspect that any service directed at correcting the problems we face as a society concerning our youth, should be embraced. I believe the Youth for Christ organization and their services would be far more beneficial than an ill-conceived ad campaign. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillors, there is one person that has been overlooked by us. Tony Zerucha you wanted to speak?

Tony Zerucha: Yes Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead you have five minutes.

Tony Zerucha: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mayor Katz, Members of Council. I come to you as Director of Parks and Recreation for the Rural Municipality of Springfield, member of the Board of Directors of Recreation Connections Manitoba, passport member of Kids Sport, and a past employee of New Directions for Children, Youth and Families. In my current position as the Director of Parks and Recreation, I deal with recreation infrastructure projects of all sizes and I have done so for the past seven years. In my experience, those projects that both succeed and fail tend to share common characteristics. Successful projects have their ducks in a row. They have assessed needs, consulted users, developed feasibility assessments and fostered partnerships prior to submitting an application for any funding. Youth for Christ, by every indication, has done this. I suspect some of the groups concerned about the status of their projects are not in the same state of preparation. In 2009, I submitted several applications to Recreation Infrastructure Canada. Those that were accepted included site plans, letters of support, quotations, estimates and municipal funding confirmations. They spent seven months, if not years, in the planning stages and as a result were prepared to take advantage of rank once it was announced. Conversing my applications that were rushed into submitting did not address all of those areas.

Successful projects are more likely to be spearheaded by groups with a proven track record for developing solid well received initiatives. The municipalities are more comfortable committing public funds to groups we have worked with in the past rather than unknown entities. We have a good idea that the funds we provide will be used in a prudent manner. Our regular partners communicate well, provide us access and try to be empathetic to municipal realities as they develop their projects. In order to experience the success Youth for Christ has for as long as they have, one has to master those abilities. Successful projects also rely on an existing and reliable volunteer base. The number one reason projects fail after the development stage is lack of ongoing human resources. Groups have a comparatively easy time getting people for the project's creation, build and opening than they do for keeping the facility open two, three and five years down the road. This is especially true for youth centres in much of Manitoba.

The most consistent sources for long term reliable volunteers are church groups such as Youth for Christ. Congregations are encouraged to serve and follow Christ teaching of let us love one another. This can be as simple as opening a door for someone or serving them a meal. Providing a safe resource to escape the harsh reality of the streets qualifies as well. I'm also a Christian and a founding block of my faith is that actions mean more that are words. The population served by the type of development Youth for Christ proposes can spot a phony a mile away, and if all the staff did was talk to them they would stay away in droves. Do the kids know they are in a faith-based site? Yes they do. Is it constantly told to them? No it is not. Those guests that develop a relationship with the church do so because they see a difference in the staff and volunteers. That difference meets the need that existed when they walked in the door the first time. In closing, I would like to say if the Higgins and Main site is convenient for the Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg and it is convenient for Thunderbird House, it will be convenient access for this project as well. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillors. This is it for our delegations. It's been a very interesting morning and afternoon. We'll get on with the Executive Policy Committee Report of December 9, 2009. Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED DECEMBER 9, 2009

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item 2.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Report of February 3, 2010, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker : All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Report of February the 10th of 2010, Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item 1.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Report of February 17th, 2010.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 4 and 6.

Mr. Speaker: And Item 5, Councillor Vandal?

Councillor Vandal: I have a question for Item 6.

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead.

Councillor Swandel: Well you've got to Stand It down. You have to do 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker: Okay Councillors. On Items 1 to 4, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 6. Councillor Vandal you have a question? Oh 5, didn't we turn it down? Didn't we put it aside? Okay. Mr. Clerk?

**Item 5 - CentreVenture Development Corporation –
Funding for Youth Centre of Excellence project**

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal what is your question in number 6?

Councillor Vandal: Question for 6. Okay, item 6, my question is United Firefighters of Winnipeg Local 867, I've read the report; there's nothing on the status of sick leave cash out and in the entire negotiation and I'm just wondering if Mayor Katz can give us an update on what the status is, relative to the clause of sick leave cash out?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker through you to Councillor Vandal, I'm sure he would know that that is something that has been negotiated. If there were to be any changes that would also be part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement which would take place in the future. At this point in time there is nothing on that issue, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Motion Number 6, All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 5 has been introduced by the Clerk, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, Mr. Speaker, this past week that Youth for Christ announced their intentions to convert a vacant City lot at the corner of Main and Higgins into a Youth Centre of Excellence. If I were to tell that you that the corner of Main and Higgins will soon be home to this 50,000 square foot facility that will house a multi-sport gym, a dance studio, a fitness centre, a skate and BMX park, a drop-in centre, a theatre, a classroom, a counseling facility and a job training centre, I think we would all go hip, hip, hurray. We all know the importance of it. And it's extremely important that we come to the understanding that we need to work together with all levels of government, Aboriginal leadership, businesses, parents, families, community groups, and yes, even faith-based organizations to solve our problems. Mr. Speaker, today has been a certainly a learning experience for me and I'm sure the majority of Council. You have seen people come forward for and against, very passionate, very emotional, some angry on both sides of the equation, and I'm sure that the rest of Council felt like me, that you're being pulled apart on both sides, one pulling one arm and one pulling the other arm.

Mr. Speaker, from what I've seen so far, this project has the support of the Federal Government, the Provincial Government, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Grand Chief Ron Evans, and I believe this could be a very good recreational facility, and that's the way I'm looking at it. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, there were many organizations that appeared here today, and you could see that their concern was about dollars and cents. I don't think there was one organization that appeared here today that doesn't do a good job and isn't worthy of more funding. But, during our lunch break I just was able to clear something up. Mr. Speaker, we fund many organizations in our City of Winnipeg, and I hope that most people know we fund the Aboriginal organizations as well, and just to give you a little history here, Mr. Speaker, $6 million for Circle of Life/Thunderbird House, Neeginan Village Transitional Housing

Complex receives $6.1 million, Eagle's Nest $146,000, the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, Anti-Gang Program $41,000, (inaudible) Program for Young Mothers. $131,000. Ma Mawi Chi Itata Communications Internship $16,000, Ma Mawi Chi Itata Job Training 107,000, Resource Assistance for Youth Program to address homelessness $82,000, Spence Neighbourhood Association job training program 30,000, Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre Program 21,000, Aboriginal Leadership Institute Job Training Program 99,000, Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre 50,000, Spence Neighbourhood Association 23,000, Broadway Neighbourhood Centre 120,000, Immigrant Refugee Community Organization 53,000, Circle of Life/Thunderbird House 443,000 from WHHI, Neeginan Development Corporation 123,000 from WHHI, Spence Neighbourhood $1.2 million WHHI, (inaudible) 270,000 a year for the past five years. That no longer exists. Standing Tall 59,000, Wa Wi Chi (inaudible) Inner City Education Centre 295,000, Aboriginal Teaching Assistant Pilot Project 92,000 WPA, Aboriginal Youth Leadership Initiative 42,000 WPA, Graffiti Art Programming Inc. 73,000 WPA, Four Nations Urban Support Services Program 28,000 WPA, Aboriginal Youth Housing Renovation Project 148,000 WPA, Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Career Awareness Committee Internship 45,000 WPA, Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg for Sound and Acoustic Refurbishment and Air Quality Upgrades 363,000 WPA, Métis Cultural Centre 35,000, Capacity for Change, Aboriginal Women Reclaiming Their Power 33,000, Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre, Capital Purchase, 80,000 WPA, Youth Light Management and Employment Business Plan 10,000, Wa Bank Facility Construction 65,000 WPA, Residential School Healing Initiative $5,000, Wa Sack (inaudible) Program, $30,000, Turtle Island Rec Centre Neighbourhood 60,000, Freight House Recreation Program 55,000, Magnus Eliason Recreation Program 160,000, Aboriginal Internship 50,000 WPA, Inner City Wading Pool Program 200,000 WPA, Aboriginal Focused Free Play Programming for Children at Inner City Facilities 225,000, Aboriginal Focused Youth Action Centres in Winnipeg Core Area 225,000 WPA Funding, Aboriginal Cultural Training 20,000, Community Service Work Project 158,000 WPA, Youth and Community Services 45,000 WPA, Bus Operator Outreach Program 10,000. These are all directed towards the Aboriginal funding. Mr. Speaker, these were all, except for maybe one, good projects. Would we like to give more? Pappywack in case you're wondering okay? If anybody disagrees, I will tell you, each and every one of these organizations, I guarantee you, would want more money. And they're probably all deserving of more money. Mr. Speaker, what we're here today to talk about is a recreational facility, and I think it's really important sometimes to go back in history, Mr. Speaker. August the 26th, 2002. Many of you were here. There was an announcement that six local community groups would receive 1.1 million from the Government of Canada for the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative. The funding was provided to the Circle of Life Thunderbird House, Neeganin Development Corporation, Main Street Project, Winnipeg Harvest, Red River Christian Fellowship, and Holy Trinity Anglican Church. These were under the Government of Canada's Urban Aboriginal Strategy and Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative as well as National Homelessness. Anita Neville, at the time of a Liberal government, totally supported this. By helping to fund these projects, the Government of Canada is strengthening the community's capacity to respond effectively to their own needs. Another quote, "these projects will help community agencies to better meet the needs of citizens at risk." Former Mayor, Glen Murray. Mr. Speaker, there's been continuing and on-going funding through these types of functions and I could go on and on and on. Circle of Life Thunderbird House 443,000, Neeginan 123,000, Red River Christian Fellowship 86,000, Holy Trinity Anglican Church 71,000, these are some of the amounts. Mr. Speaker the realities are the funding of this ilk has been going on for a long time. I think we're very lucky to have faith-based groups to help fill the void that government has let happen because the realities are all three levels of government aren't there all the time when they're needed. And I'm very grateful that we have faith-based organizations, including Youth for Christ and all the others that I've mentioned today, that are doing a fantastic job. I am saddened by some of the concerns that are out there, and I'm not going to tell you that they may not be valid Mr. Speaker. If someone has a concern you have to acknowledge it, but I think what we have to understand today, we want to move forward on a project on a vacant lot that is an eyesore in an area that youth can access on a regular basis and someone said, one of the speakers, on the price, if we save one life, if we turn one child's life around, do you think it was a good investment, Mr. Speaker? I do. (applause).

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor, there is a motion on the floor, Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Vandal, and this is a motion to refer with instruction so is debatable. Would you like to introduce that motion Councillor Thomas.

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Thomas,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

That Item 5 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated February 17, 2010 be referred back to allow for community consultation on the development of this site.

Councillor Thomas: Yes. I believe that a motion to refer takes precedent so we vote on it before we vote on the others and if we…after we voted on that, I have some things to mention about the clause, but I will strictly speak to my concern which is I moved referral of this item back to allow for community consultation on development of this site. I could spend a lot of time talking about my 21 year relationship with Youth for Christ as it is a valued member of my community, but I won't do that at this point. What I'm concerned about is the process. People feel shut out. They feel that they didn't have

the necessary consultation on the development of this property. I've heard quite a few people come forward today who felt they were concerned about this as a location. Some people are for this location, some people are against this location, but I think that it's appropriate that we develop some consultation around what is a good use of this site and some process around presentation of proposals for how to properly utilize this site, and I think it's appropriate to have community consultation on this and I think if we do that, that there will be more solidarity in proceeding forward, however we decide to proceed forward if we develop community solidarity which I think can only be done through community consultation, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel on the motion.

Councillor Swandel: Not on the motion, just on this…no not on the clause, just the motion to refer.

Mr. Speaker: That's what I'm saying, just the motion.

Councillor Swandel: Just, you know, for the Councillor's information and for all Councillors' information, this matter has already been dealt with through the consultation process. The land in question we've given over to CentreVenture to market on our behalf, and it's been quite vigorously vetted as to what CentreVenture does and this land has been given to them for redevelopment. The idea that we need to go and somehow revisit that now because of this particular piece which is actually to do with this recreational opportunity, is not germane to what we're doing here today. We've already made these lands…given these lands over to CentreVenture for redevelopment. They've brought forward to us this application, so I think what we really need to do is deal with this today. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be supporting the motion to refer this for consultation. I think it's crystal clear to me this morning as one Councillor that there are all sorts of information that's missing here. People clearly didn't know anything about this project and that's not to say there aren't merits to this project. I will say that Youth for Christ are a serious organization that do good work. I know many of the people that came down here, such as Mr. Sanderson…

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, just for clarification on a point of order, can you explain to me whether we're debating the Youth for Christ project or referral on the development of this site.

Councillor Vandal: The referral.

Councillor Swandel: The referral is specific to the development of this site, not on the Youth for Christ application.

Mr. Speaker: We're talking about the referral motion by Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Swandel: Which is about development of the site, not about the Youth for Christ project.

Mr. Speaker: The referral motion, she has moved referral. We can debate it. We can debate it.

Councillor Swandel: No no, that's not what the motion is though.

Councillor Steeves: Can we call the question on the referral? Can we do that? Can we just call the question on the referral.

Councillor Vandal: People can speak to it.

Councillor Thomas: Not in the middle of someone…

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to talk two minutes. I'm going to talk two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Alright Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, clearly there's a lot of information that has not been shared with this Council, let alone the people that showed up in this Chamber this morning. This was an issue that was not even on the agenda last Wednesday at Executive Policy Committee, otherwise people would have showed up in delegation to speak both pro and con. It was walked on at the last minute. There is no information, there's no business plan, there's no development plan, there's no site plan, there's no contingency plan if this doesn't work, there's no plan on how we're going to evaluate

this, there's no sense of what the organization is by our own Public Service. I appreciate the fact that the people who work for Youth for Christ can call our offices and want us to visit their facilities and some of us have done that but some of us would prefer to listen to our own Public Service, the experts in recreation, as to what the advantages, the disadvantages, the risks are to the solution. We have no information, Mr. Speaker. By referring this back, by taking a bit of time, by telling the Federal Government that we're not exactly too worried about their time lines, we're going to do it right when we do it. We're going to it once and we're going to do it right, consult with people and bring back something that's win win win.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Mr. Speaker, I came to this meeting this morning with…I had a chance to meet with Mr. Courtney and to talk to him about the project because there wasn't a lot of information that came from the EPC motion, so I made a point of meeting with him and I had every intention of supporting this project but I also listened to the delegations, and each and every one of them intently, and one of the things that struck me when I listened to the delegations was the great amount of community pride that is in this neighbourhood and in the inner City and downtown, and I heard a lot of Aboriginal pride, I heard a lot of community leaders who have taken ownership of the site, and it was interesting to hear the Mayor's mentioning in his opening comments and also Ross McGowan said, who would have thought, Main and Higgins, we'd have a big debate about, and I think EPC was well intentioned, the Mayor was well intentioned. I think that is genuinely the case. Who would have thought? I wouldn't have known that there was this great sense of community ownership and community pride at this site, of all places, and it's great to hear that sense of community ownership and community pride Mr. Speaker. And I know we have a deadline and I know the Federal deadline is March of 2011, they have to have the building built by. But Mr. Speaker, what I heard is, most of the discussion that I haerd today I think a lot of it is because, we've heard, is a lack of dialogue. A lack of dialogue, and I don't blame Youth for Christ, because I talked to John and I think they were kind of being pulled in a direction, you know, on a ride that they've never been on before and they're learning as they were going along. I don't blame them and I definitely don't blame the community members who are here who are upset and frustrated. I think if we, as a Council, take a step back and say, look, nobody's lost anything, nobody's gained anything here. You know, this may be a great project, and I personally think it is. I just think there has to be that dialogue and that consultation, and at the end of the day, there still might be those who say absolutely not. This is not the right place. This is not the right location, but most capital projects that I've been involved with at least in my community, we start on the basis of consultation, and we look at different locations. We don't pick the locations and say this is what it's going to be and that's it. That's not real consultation Mr. Speaker. I'm supporting the motion to defer. So I would appeal to Council, I know that you've discussed this, I know EPC, I've been on EPC, I know what it's like when you start moving and the train has left the marshalling in the yard and it's hard to turn back. I'm just appealing to members of Council and to the Mayor just to give this a month to let this come by. If we have to have a special Council meeting, let's have a special Council meeting. On one hand you can't say I've heard the concerns and next minute dismiss them and say that we're pushing ahead no matter what. That's not really listening Mr. Speaker. At least those who spoke don't think they've been listened to. So I would really encourage us to support this and come back at a later date, and if we need a special meeting, so be it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further Speakers before I call the question? Recorded vote has been called for. All in favour, please rise, of referral.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Gerbasi, Orlikow, Smith, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel, Mr. Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko.

Mr. Speaker: And the vote?

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, yeas 6, nays 9.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is lost. Now on the Clause. Who wants to take the first crack at that. Councillor Vandal?

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This has been a good discussion this morning. I'm disappointed that we didn't take the time to do this properly if we're going to do it at all. But let's move forward.

This issue is proof positive that it doesn't matter what you know but who you know here at City Hall. Today we're offering a sum of about $3.4 million, a grant to Youth for Christ through CentreVenture. That is a very, very significant sum of money and in fact, 3.4 million is the same amount as the loan guarantee we offered a community centre in my ward, Southdale, back in December of '09, the very last meeting of this Council in '09, exempt the Southdale proposal was processed to death, Mr. Speaker. The Southdale proposal was handed to the City, the Province and the Federal Government back in 2004. It was submitted to GCWCC, the Greater Council of Winnipeg Community Centres, the organization that co-ordinates community centres for those of you who aren't very familiar with the City Hall acronyms, and it culminated last December with a special meeting of EPC on the morning of December 12 so that it can come to Council, approval for $3.4 million.

Between '04 and '09, five years, there were literally dozens of meetings between the volunteers of the Southdale Community Centre, myself, former Councillor Magnifico, the GCWCC, various City Administration and, in fact Mayor Katz got involved in several meetings and I know went out to Southdale on one, maybe two occasions with the CFO, the Director of Community Services, the Director of Planning, Property and Development, some GCW staff, and about 10 volunteers, so this was a tough nut to crack, keeping in mind that Southdale is owned by the City of Winnipeg. It is located in one of the fastest growing areas of the City of Winnipeg, but regardless a report was produced. A comprehensive report was produced and on December 12 Southdale received a lone guarantee of $3.4 million, Mr. Speaker. Let me make that clear. It's a loan guarantee of $3.4 million. What that means is that the volunteers of Southdale, in spite of the fact that the City owns the facility, in spite of the fact that the Federal Government were putting in $3 million, in spite of the fact that the Provincial Government were putting in $3 million, in spite of the fact that that part of Winnipeg is the fastest growing area in Winnipeg, the best they could do was a loan guarantee of $3.4 million that they all have to repay within the next 15 to 20 years, and I compare that experience with what we have this morning, the motion. This is it. We have a simple motion on one page of paper. Three points. Number 1, $225,000 per year for a 15 year period paid from the City of Winnipeg through to CentreVenture. Number 2, the source of this funding will be referred to the 2011 Operating Budget. It's a Capital Grant apparently but it's going to the Operating Budget. I'm not sure why. And Number 3, the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing. There is no business plan attached, there is no Administration report attached, there is no description of the site. I understand there may be…we may be gifting Youth for Christ the land which is valued 500,000, 600,000. We're guessing because there is no information. I understand there is another parcel of land that's going to be put together. It would be nice to have a site map. I understand that we've gifted the firehall at Talbot and Stadacona where I spent most of my youth at a boxing club by the way, but that's another story, for Youth for Christ to sell to put towards this. The point I'm making, Mr. Speaker, is that there is absolutely nothing that we have in front of us. There's no contingency plan if this goes down, and probably most important of all is we don't know how we're going to evaluate successes as a City Council. We have about four and a half million dollars on the table and we have no clue how we evaluate success.

The Mayor was right. He listed a long list of money we give to organizations and a lot of that came up last November with our Aboriginal Strategy, and we all voted for that because they were good projects. We have gave 21,000 to Wa Sac (inaudible) and we asked for a detailed description of what they were doing, funding agreement requirements, about five or six lines long and out comes results to date in performance measurements. We did that for $21,000. We gave 100,000 to Resource Assistance for Youth with the same criteria. A very, very detailed list of performance indicators on what we're doing. I could go down the line and I don't want to list all the projects, but every sum of money that we've given to non-profit organizations to go out and do essentially the same sort of education, life skill training, employment training and education. We watch them very, very closely, and we make sure that our professional staff are working with them to make sure to measure the impact of our hard-earned dollars, tax dollars, are having on those organizations and our communities. We all supported that because that's the way we do business, and yet when I juxtapose that, the Southdale experience to this one page of paper, it's hard not to get frustrated as a Councillor.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons alone, I cannot support the clause in front of me today. I have no doubt that Youth for Christ are excellent at what they do. They are a large organization, worldwide, North American wide, have channels across North America. They provide services to young people that are excellent. They provide those services as a means towards an end and there are lots of ends, and I believe when they say that education, life skills training and self-esteem are some of those ends and I support that. But when you research the organization, the mission statement, the raison d'être, you realize that the actual mission, the goal of everything, is to convert people to the word of Jesus Christ, and I support that 100 percent and I respect that, and I think every denomination, every religion, does the same thing to varying degrees. Where I get off the boat Mr. Speaker, is where government becomes the significant financial supporter of that organization, and clearly, we don't even know what it is, how much dollars we're putting on the table here at this meeting. We don't know what we're voting on, because, through given that significant financial support we therefore become defacto moral authorization for the mission, and there are lots of good goals that Youth for Christ have. Don't get me wrong, but the ultimate mission is converting young people and in this case, young Aboriginal people to become

converts of Jesus Christ. Mr. Speaker, when governments…I get off the boat when government becomes the principal funder of that mission.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Vandal: I 100 percent support and respect the organization, do the work that you do, and I will support you, but when our government becomes the primary funder of that sort of services and we have absolutely no information in front of us, it's very hard for a Councillor to actually rise up and say that they're going to support this. For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, for the historical relationships between the government, our government, of all stripes and Aboriginal people across Canada, that's something that simply I'm not comfortable with. I get off the boat when we start talking about approving millions and millions of dollars of money with no information. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement. Still quite a ways till election time. Councillor Clement, you're first to speak.

Councillor Clement: Oh it's me.

Mr. Speaker: Yeah, you're second.

Councillor Clement: Well, Mr. Speaker, first thing we're going to announce is that I'm not running for Mayor, so I'm not going to make any phony motions to kill projects because I might be running or I am running in this type of thing. Because I don't believe there are any trees to hide behind in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. You know you actually have to…you get elected, you're supposed to come here and you're suppose to vote on things and referring them when you know that referring is going to mean the end of the project, automatically because the Federal money dies if this doesn't go forward today, then that's the end of it. There's not going to be any discussion and people know that when they make these motions, they're not stupid. By the way, I'm surprised that Councillor Vandal doesn't know how much this is. Fifteen years at $225,000 is 3.75 million and a half million dollars worth of land makes it $4.25 million. That's what we're talking about. It's in the report.

Councillor Vandal: What report?

Councillor Clement: This document here in front of us. I mean, everybody's been talking about it. It's been…all you have to do is read the paper. Everything's in there too. That's how much it is anyways, and where's it going to come from and why is it in the Current budget is because where it's meant to come from is from the revenue from the new WHR building which is two blocks from this site, and we've never had any revenue from that building but that is the revenue, about 225,000 a year in property taxes, and it's unfortunate, I agree with you, that we've had to jump into this but it's just the way that it's come down. The Federal Government created a program and they've got money on the table, and the program requires three partners. Well, one of the partners is Youth for Christ and the third partner, who would usually have been the Province of Manitoba, said no. I mean, I guess they didn't have any money left after they put $50 million on the table to save five minutes of travel time over the Disraeli freeway when we repair that. They didn't put $3 million into the overpass on Kenaston and Waverley, but they did find the money and I guess the other reason they don't have any money for this, Dan, or Councillor Vandal, is because they put all their money into Southdale. But don't worry about Southdale by the way and all the fun they've had, because when we did the loan guarantee, I bit my lip because they'll never be able to pay that loan guarantee. They'll be back and we're going to have to give them money anyways. Don't worry about that. We're going to be in there too. Trust me.

As far as this other comment about who do you know, I really take offence to that. You know, the Mayor read out a whole pile of dollar amounts here a little while ago, quite a large number of items with great large amounts (inaudible) several million dollars worth of money. Earlier this morning, one group came forward that was talking about having $50,000 and not enough money and he announced some of their numbers in here, but they were "Googled" here this morning and in the last decade that one group has received $1.9 million in public money for a variety of interests. 1.9 million. That's just one of those groups that came and spoke this morning.

Councillor Vandal: How much City money?

Councillor Clement: So there's lots of money, lots of it was City money. Some of it was just read out here, and I supported every nickel of it. I'm from Charleswood. Big deal, okay. But I'll tell you what. You can smile up there all you want, but I'll tell you what. That about four years ago when we had a $43 million recreational program and not one nickel of it was going into the North End where I thought that we had the biggest youth problem in the City. I fought for a community centre and it's built. There's five and a half million dollars got spent at the old Ex for a community centre and it would have been more except the local Councillor wanted a million dollars of it for Sinclair Park, which is just a little further north. That's who fought for that. A guy from Charleswood, not somebody from the North End. So we support a

lot of things that take place throughout the City. We're City Councillors. We don't just do things parochially in our own wards, and it gets a little frustrating listening to some of the comments when you know that you're dealing with a land deal. You know that you're dealing with something that either has to be dealt with today or it's going to fall apart. You're trying to do something for youth in the community and a whole bunch of things, and I don't mind telling you that I was taken aback by some of the things that were said here today. I was surprised by some of it. I have genuine concern for some of it, because if people believe some of the things that they actually said here today, then we've got a serious problem in certain areas. But the fact of the matter is, that we do have an issue in our City with recreation and we certainly have it in this general area. And some of us are trying to do something about it. And it's got nothing to do with the past and the indiscretions that took place that were not right, that were terrible, and all those other things. We weren't involved in that. All we're trying to do is do our job and it gets a little frustrating because you wind up getting accused by splashing on you if you like what other people have done before you and it's really not fair. And you know, the interesting thing, we get a lot of ethnic people moving to Canada. We certainly have a multicultural mosaic in Winnipeg. We all know that and we're all very proud of that situation. There are thousands of Filipino people, there's thousands of French people, there's thousands of Aboriginal people, there's thousands of Ukrainians, there's all kinds of mixes of cultures in Winnipeg. And most of them try to congregate together, many of those groups, not all of them, but many of them have cultural centres and most of those cultural centres, frankly, are places of worship. I can't think of one that's been built that we either didn't give land to or land and money to and virtually everybody in this room has voted for it. So why do we do that and what's the difference? I don't think there is any. It's not about that. It's never been about that. It's been about creating…as a matter of fact, some of those sites, people have come and they've said you know, we need some money, we need some help for this or that or the other thing, and I mean I've been out the Hindu Cultural Centre. I've watched one night children from Waverley Heights Community Centre playing basketball there. Why were they there? Because it was part of the deal. They had to make that space available if we were going to give them money. Why is there a soccer pitch that Southdale uses out on St. Mary's Road at the cultural centre out there? Because when we gave them money we said you had to provide time slots for the community and they did. It's got nothing to do with religion. It had everything to do with youth activities and trying to provide more and greater facilities for youth in our community, and that's what this was really about. That's the only discussions that I've been in. This other stuff never ever came up. Religion's never even been mentioned. Never, until Pat Martin started talking. I don't get where he was coming from. I don't really understand his position and one day maybe he'll explain it to me, but I think that he is wrong. I think that this is a good project. I think that it will be helpful. I heard today from Ross McGowan and I've known Ross for a long time. If he says that the community is going to be consulted, I know they will.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Clement: I know when he says things like that and says that there's going to be consultation within the community, that it will happen. I don't know anybody from Youth for Christ that I'm aware of. I may do, but not that I'm aware of, and so this idea about who you know and that, I don't buy that, I don't like that kind of discussion. I find it very frustrating and I normally sit back and I listen to a lot of speeches before I talk. Today I couldn't do it. I just couldn't do it. There was just too much coming at us here too fast, Mr. Speaker, and I just can't let some of those comments go by. I find it very, very frustrating. I think we've provided a tremendous amount of money into the downtown area for so many different projects. I've been convinced by many, many people that they've been worthwhile and I can't think of one that hasn't…Sam had one a little while ago but I'm not sure what that was, but for the most part I think that most of the programs are very good. We would all like to see them funded as well as we can. There's realities around budgets and everybody has to be careful with them and we try our best to support as many things as we can. But this particular issue is a Capital Project. It's not Current funding, it's Capital and that's how it was set up, that's how it's been created and that's what it is, Mr. Speaker, and I would implore everybody to support it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: A lot of emotion in the Chamber today Mr. Speaker and that's fine. I guess there could be. I sometimes feel that way myself, Mr. Speaker, when I'm in this Chamber. It's an unfortunate by-product of being here but as part of the process and I respect that and I understand people's feelings that way. I make my decisions in this Chamber with the humbleness of somebody that never knows exactly what the outcome of any given decision is going to be. There's no way that we could. There's no way that we could. We do the best we have with the information that we're given. I am confident though, that every proponent that has come forward with this project is a person who genuinely wants to help and wants to do good and wants to do right by the citizens of this City. I have that confidence and I think everybody in this Chamber feels the exact same way, and that's not a bad starting point, Mr. Speaker.

One of the delegations alluded to this already that you would not see this type of debate in our neighbours to the south. They subscribe to a different model, a melting pot. We fancy ourselves more of a mosaic. Everybody here hangs on to their traditions and their realities where ever they happen to come from. It's part of what makes us uniquely Canadian. It's part of our spot in the world. In fact, you may search the world over and never find that duplicated in any other

country Mr. Speaker. I think it's part of what makes Canada beautiful. Might be part of what's going on here today as well. But we have had this debate before. Councillor Clement talked about different societies that have come forward, either in this Chamber or sub-committees. We've all sat and we've all approved monies to, for example, the Hindu Centre, our friends on St. Anne's Road. A wonderful facility. My ward of St. Vital. I think we all have given some funding for that either locally or as a whole. The Sikh Centre in Councillor Swandel's St. Norbert. Same thing. The Rady Centre, the Greek Centre, the Filipino Centre we had on the agenda not too long ago and I think Mr. Speaker, I dare say, the list of ethnicities and cultures is as long as we have cultures and ethnicities in this City. I think most cultures and ethnicities have benefited from the collective in order to achieve realities for their culture in this City. I don't think that's wrong. I respect people if they think that is wrong. The most vitriol and anger sometimes, regrettably, we see pointed towards our Aboriginal community when we do things to try to support the Aboriginal community. I don't know why that is exactly, but it's an unfortunate reality that I think as leaders we have to deal with. It might have a lot to do with proportion. When the Mayor read out the list, it's probably clear that we try to put more funding into that area. I think quite rightly so. I think as a group, there are more at-risk components that have to be dealt with, and I also happen to feel personally that as a collective and as a society, we have more responsibility because of histories, because of what has happened in this nation. I believe that. That's my belief. I remember going through the sometimes very unfortunate debate about the urban reserve which I think most of us, then labeled "urban reserve", I think most of us around this table supported, probably still do in whatever form that might take. We thought it was the right thing to do then. We still think it is today because it puts in place the right building blocks for a certain segment of our society that is going to help, that is going to make the difference and we hope that in greater and greater form it materializes. I guess we'll have to see.

Christian organizations benefitted as well. In St. Vital I see the Salvation Army, Y.M.C.A., two rocks in that community that are now operating, or have been operating, the Y.M.C.A. with a brand new facility, the Morrow Salvation Army with the soon to be brand new facility. Not brand new but very augmented facility, supported by the Provincial Government, the Federal Government, the Civic Government, because they do good work. I have had a chance to spend a lot of time inside of those walls of those facilities. They are Christian organizations. The sense that I have is they are populated almost entirely, not exclusively, but almost entirely by minorities in our community who are benefitting from the services that they provide. They are in there learning languages, job search, job skills, things that help them in every day life. I went to the Morrow Avenue facility on another matter just the other day and I saw this in action, taking place actually before my eyes. It was wonderful. There didn't appear to be any untoward conduct whatsoever. Perhaps I am too trusting, but I think this project will be the exact same. We shouldn't make the mistake, however, of assuming our downtown vulnerable populations are entirely First Nation. Certainly a large proportion are, but not entirely. We're talking about a facility and a place in our downtown that is severely, severely disadvantaged, severely under served, Mr. Speaker. Of that we can certainly all agree. It is not easy to find projects to locate in these areas. We can all testify to that. You're concerned about the money and people are concerned about the amount of funding going into this project. Fair concern, fair questions. But we know regardless of project, regardless of title, we as an organization fund to higher proportions, projects that take place in the inner City. Why do you think CentreVenture even exists? There is no south venture. Why? Because we don't need it. There's all sorts of development out there. There is no need. It's a different story in the inner city. Things have to be done differently. We have to find solutions a different way, and if we are going to support projects which we do continually in the downtown, we have to be more creative and simply saying we're going to stand back and wait for these projects to come to us is folly. It's not going to happen, and as a collective, as a City we realized this a very, very long time ago and that is evidenced in a myriad of projects across the downtown. You'd be hard pressed to find a major development of any type in the downtown that doesn't enjoy some type of resource funding, be it credit funding, be it grants, something, Mr. Speaker.

There have been some fair comments made about the timing on these issues. And again, those are fair comments. These things do move fast, but that has nothing to do, I can assure people in this gallery, with any cloak and dagger scheming of the City of Winnipeg or anybody else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Orlikow moves to extend. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Steeves: We have seen this pattern repeated across the country, every corner of this nation, over the course of the last 18 months, because as different types of funding become available for different types of projects from different levels of government, we have to move fast. Councillor Vandal is a friend of mine but I have with all due respect a very different recollection of the Southdale project. If memory serves, not very long ago, 60 or 90 days ago, we rushed a motion on to this Council floor to have that matter heard in short order against the process, to get it on the books. I believe that's exactly what happened. The project was announced, again, harkening back to process, the project was announced during a Provincial election campaign by the then leader of the Provincial Government. That's how it came to be, quote unquote. If Councillor Vandal is holding up Southdale as a process to be followed, I dare say, this very intelligent Councillor could come up with better examples than that and I, of course, stand in support of the Southdale project, because I understand that in this day and age, that the City that can't move quickly, the City that cannot do this

type of thing in short order, will not be the beneficiary of that stimulus funding from other levels of government, end of story. So, with our apologies to folks who feel put upon by the speed of these things, we're doing what we feel we have to do. I stand in support of this very, very good project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Steeves. Councillor Lazarenko.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's amazing how things can get twisted around to a point when an application is made and especially falls within the side of religion. This proposal is before us, it is a Youth for Christ, is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian organization that ministers the youth of the City of Winnipeg in 15 different ways. That organization is the same like we've got all others…the Y.M.C.A. I've got in my ward, we just approved, the old Y.M.C.A. building was torn down and a new wellness centre was put in along with the involvement of the Y.M.C.A. organization, but words are mentioned such as "Christ". "Jesus Christ, what did you do! For Christ's sakes nothing… Christ's sake, no one told you to do that." These words are being used. And I, as one am proud to say that I'm a Christian. My bringing up as a Christian was never meant that someone else is better than you are. Everyone else, every human being, we believe the same way. We eat the same way. We sleep the same way. We die the same way. So no one is different about anyone else.

Some 25 years ago the late mother Teresa, may she be blessed by God as long, as long as her name is ever mentioned, I had a chance to meet with her at a time when her sisters were trying to establish a shelter for battered women and children, and it was in my ward. When that was being introduced there were people, the shelter was right next to a church, church congregations had said no way, get this garbage out of here, take it way back to Churchill somewhere because a shelter for battered women is going to mean one thing. When a woman or child goes to that shelter, someone will be out there to get after them or whatever the case may be. I had such a hard time, it was close to election time also, that there were 400 names on a petition were presented to me at the Community Committee and said we don't want this, period, without consulting, without even knowing what Mother Teresa's sisters wanted to do. It was ready to die on a table. I, as one member of Council at that time, did meet with Mother Teresa for about half an hour. I had a meeting in that centre. Mother Teresa, short little woman about this high. She always walked like this. She came to me and she said to me that people don't understand. Here is a person of experience, a person, a nun from Calcutta, dealt with sickness, with death all her life, had said people don't understand but you have to get them to understand what is the purpose, what is it we want to do. She had said if the world would learn the four letter word, I thought right away it must be something bad. The four letter word "l-o-v-e". There would never be no wars. There would be no hunger. There would be no hatred. She said Mother Earth has enough to feed every man, woman and child on this earth forever. But the one thing happens, it does not go that way because someone always turns around to the point of saying I don't believe in this, I don't believe in that. Like I said before, my bringing up, to me religion is religion, a church is a church, a synagogue is a synagogue, and I have no problem going to either one of them to worship with the people who are worshiping. This non-denominational Christian organization will not be preaching as far as I understand. They're not going to be preaching at all, as far as I understand because I doubt if they'll even qualify for a tax exemption. I hope that somebody from EPC will be able to allude to that, to say how much are we, or will be getting somebody…once the building is completed, completely built, the City of Winnipeg will be getting the revenue from taxes.

The government agency that we have in place now, various organizations, get involved on the political side without taking into consideration, sure, look, I can tell you right now, this in itself is puzzling to the point that someone who reads this, it does not give you much. And I have looked at this, I have talked to people about this, and I know for a fact, Higgins and Main is a bad place. People will not venture from Tuxedo, from Transcona, say "don't go there because it's a bad place. Big open space. You've got transients hanging out. It's a place that should not be visited." After all the money that we have spent revitalizing Higgins and Main, we bought out all those old buildings, we bought out all those old hotels. We overpaid for some of those hotels because the market was right for expropriation and some of them made a good profit. We have gone that far so why should we stop now? When you take a look at what is around us, what our responsibility is, I was brought up, up north, not far away from Peguis Indian Reserve, as a child used to have people coming in from the reserve, coming through our land. I knew how to make bannock. I knew how to float like a boat on grass that was about that much water and the kids would all gather. We'd be undressed, we'd be chasing, running, and then we'd slide like a boat going all the way down to the other side of the pond. And you're wasting my time Steeves. (inaudible speaking in the background) I'm fast. Councillor Steeves I'm fast. So I knew what it was like going to school three miles north of our place in the cold of Winter, jogging…it was not jogging, it was the Indian trot that we learned. I knew what it was like to get dressed and run against a cold north wind for a period of time and then run backwards because you had to warm up your face because otherwise you were liable to drop dead. I learned all that. We lived in a community in harmony. Learned a lot from our neighbours, a lot, and are still learning. So the question that has to be addressed here to each and every one of us, is it the money or is it the religion? If that would not be a Youth for Christ, would some of those who are opposed be in the same, have the same feeling? I don't know. For money, what we'll pay out, what the Mayor has read out before, into the millions of dollars we give each and every year, no one will

say a word. You don't have anyone complaining about the North Y.M.C.A. or the Y.M.C.A. Downtown, don't go there because it's a Christian organization. It's Christian. Publicly funded...

Deputy Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan moves extension. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Lazarenko: …by Christian believers who believe we are one and all the same. We may have a different belief of what we give to ourselves but to be as neighbours, and to work especially the children. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have an area that I have been pleading, I've been pleading, even with the Grand Chiefs, talk to us, I want to talk to them. Let's try and do something. I'm tired of seeing young children at eight o'clock at night or two or three o'clock in the morning, running around down the back lanes and I've asked the Child and Family Services, what are you doing? No response. So something has to be done and I applaud for an organization that comes along and says we will try and we will correct the problem that exists to make it better for all of us. No one is better than the next one. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Lazarenko. Councillor Thomas followed by Gerbasi, Orlikow, Fielding and Smith.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm disappointed the amount of debate that's been around faith-based funding. We have all funded faith-based groups in the past. I've personally funded projects in my area, an Islamic school, two Catholic schools, a Seven Day Adventist school and yes, Youth for Christ, all through CGI and Per Capita programs, whether it's been contributing to money for playgrounds, gymnasiums, exercise rooms, libraries. They met the criteria by ensuring community access. As a City we've also funded many faith-based groups. They've received Capital and Operational funding for crisis housing, transitional housing and in some cases they continue to be part of our regular budget process and we assure that they will be getting those dollars to do those jobs for us. This is not a debate, as far as I'm concerned, about faith-based organizations, and I could spend most of my time talking about my 21 year relationship with Youth for Christ as a valued member of my community. Not only do they have great programs that they offer to my residents, they also participate in many community programs and they reach out for the community. They have been active and valued members of the Elmwood Community Resource Centre, of Beautify Elmwood, of River East Neighbourhood Network, of Happy Days on Henderson, of the Youth at Risk Program that was in my area. They have been there, they have been helpful, and they have been involved in so many community initiatives, I can't even begin to recite them all.

My community is also hurting because of interference by this Council in its ability to control its own destiny. The closure and ultimate demise and the raising of Kelvin Community Centre in the lowest income part of my ward and the neediest part of my ward, in the part of my ward that has the farthest walk to go to another community centre is unconscionable and you will be reminded of this on every opportunity that I can remind you because it was unfair. My community is still hurting from this and you heard from members of my community who told you so today. That it hurts. Money was taken from that centre to put to other areas, in areas less needy. I also supported the area where it went to but I thought it was unfair that it would come from Kelvin Community Centre, grossly unfair.

The problem is not with Youth for Christ, the problem is not with the need for recreational services because we need that, and while some people can be proud that they received a community centre in their area, let me be reminding them that they voted for the demise of the community centre in my area.

I am very supportive of the organization and I am not supportive of the process. CentreVenture was set up as a system that would quickly facilitate business deals. Business deals to get businesses off the ground and moving into an area where we needed business to come. This is not a business deal. This is a recreational facility. There was no consultation on the development of this property before a request for proposal. Oops, no, there was no request for proposal that was submitted. People feel shut out. They let you know today in huge numbers, not only the people who stood at the podium but the people who stood behind them, letting you know by their voice, by their presence how upset they were at the lack of process. And no, this project would not die if it was laid over for a month so that consultation could occur. This community needs healing time. There have been distasteful comments made hinting at motivation. Yes, I'm running for Mayor. That doesn't mean that I'm not going to stand up and be counted on the issue. Opportunity for cooler heads to prevail is seldom called cowardly. I'm disappointed that it was this time. Quite frankly, the process stinks. If too much is coming at you too fast, as someone so politely said, perhaps one should learn to take one's foot off the gas pedal and to look around at what you're heading into before you get into an accident. Go through a red light or just do not proceed wisely.

This area is severely under-serviced. That is true. That is so true. But also, this community has made it clear that they want to be a part of that process in the future, that it has also been severely mis-serviced, and the way that it has been mis-serviced is because they haven't been included in the process. They haven't been given the opportunity to tell us what they need, and they tried to tell us today. Really, what harm would it have been to give them a month to work with

this group? And the saddest thing about this, the saddest thing is that Council could have been part of the healing process. It could have facilitated a whole list of community-based decisions. It could have been there for the community. Regardless of what happens here today, there has been a rift created in this community that Council could have healed and it has chosen not to become a part of this healing process, and the saddest thing for me, the absolute saddest thing for me is what it has done to the organization Youth for Christ that I believe in, that I support, and that I am thankful has been there for my community these many years. They would not mind consultation with community. They have certainly been a part of the consultation with community in everything that has been laid on the table for them. They have jumped at any opportunity to become a part of the consultation in my community each and every time. They have been there, they have been positive, they have been excited, and they have promoted Elmwood in ways that I so much appreciate. Why, why, did the members of this Council ignore that opportunity? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt moves extension. All in favour? Opposed?

Councillor Thomas: Ignored that opportunity to be inclusive. Because you can bully your way? Because you have the votes regardless so you don't have to listen to what the people have to say? Well, as another Councillor so politely put it, there is an election coming up in a little while, and for not listening, and for not giving people the opportunity, people will be judged on that. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Thomas. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I'd just like to thank many of the delegations on both sides of the issue that came out to speak today. It's a long day and it was very short notice on this proposal for people to take the time to come out and speak. It was very important. I don't know if everybody realizes that one of the speakers was Beatrice Culleton Mosionier who was the author of the very well known book "In Search of April Raintree" which I think is really honoured that she came and spoke to us today and I think we should be listening to all the people who spoke to us today.

Now on the surface, this proposal…a proposal to fund a new facility for Youth for Christ sounds very positive. A beautiful new recreation supercentre with wonderful new equipment and facilities designed to create activities for our vulnerable young people. How can that be wrong in any way, as some people have said, however there are many, many questions that have been asked and should be asked. First of all, I also think it's unfortunate that people who have spoken up or raised questions and concerns about this proposal have been unfairly labeled as anti-Christian or pro-gangs or other sorts of unjust accusations to deflect attention away from the real issues. It's interesting to note that many of the people who raised concerns about this proposal are Christians themselves and attend a variety of churches. Others have concerns from a variety of other perspectives.

I think there's been some lack of clarity about the funding amount that is being given here. It is around, I believe, 4.2 million when you add in the land from the two sites of Talbot as well as Main Street land, and if you take the 225 times 15 years, you've got three million, so when you add it all up it's around 4.2 million. And I am concerned about the money for this reason. 225,000 a year in our Operating Budget, somebody pointed out it's a Capital project, so that still has not been explained why that's coming out of Operating. It should not be coming out of Operating, and we have a projected Operating deficit of $80 million next year, as well as 120 the year after that so nobody has explained how this is fiscally possible or responsible. You know, it's always, you know, we get caught up in the wonderfulness of something, well explain how you're going to do it, and this should be a Capital project, and I express this concern because I'm also concerned will existing programs and other funding be cut to pay for this in those future budgets? We don't know, we don't know where this money will come from, and I think someone should ask that question.

Now, I had to do a lot of detective work just to figure out those numbers in the short days we had before this vote, and what should have happened with this project is it should have been vetted through our Chief Financial Officer, through an administrative report going through all the numbers and all other future financial implications. This is simply not the way to run a City and not the way to do any kind of business and we've got to stop doing things this way folks. The other thing is that this issue should have been vetted through our recreational staff and looked at through the lens of our recreational policy. We spent years working on P.U.F.F.'s and R.A.L.P.H.'s and all these policies to decide…and recently it was decided what a number of key priorities were in the recreational area including areas in the inner city, and many of these projects have absolutely no identified funding and this is for capital improvements and expansion of existing facilities and new facilities, and how this money is suddenly available when nobody knew about it. We're in the middle of a budget process. Where did it come from? It's just being said, oh we'll just pay for it in 2011 and the next 15 years, but how? And what about all these other priorities and all the community clubs and all the groups that met and discussed all these things and agreed to amalgamate and agreed to work on things and then suddenly this group is in here at the front of a line? I think you can understand why other community groups are concerned and shaking their heads and wondering about how this City Council operates.

The Mayor listed a number of projects we fund and we do fund a lot of those projects. I'd like to point out most of those were WPA or WHHI funding which is all three levels of government. Often they were one-time capital funds, and a lot of those programs are coming to an end; in fact the WPA isn't necessarily continuing so I don't know what's going to happen in the future with those programs, and those groups are scrambling and very concerned about their future funding because that was funding that may be over with, with the direction of the current Federal Government.

It's very important…I'd like to make it clear that many people are not criticizing whether the Youth for Christ do good work or not. They do their work and they do good work, but up until now they have pretty much paid their own way. They haven't come forward asking for $4 million of public money. And the difference here with this decision today with previous decisions, and there have been decisions where we've given some money to faith-based groups, but this is… the difference here is we're diverting government tax dollars that could have gone to existing community clubs and public non-profit programs to a private organization while important programs in our inner city run by Aboriginal people, our own staff and others are desperately short of cash, their facilities are crumbling, and their priorized projects are being ignored. It's a very valid concern that we are spending over $4 million on a group that up until now was perfectly able to fund itself.

Another concern that has been raised that is very valid and very difficult to talk about without being accused of some terrible thing and some kind of intolerance, but it is true that we live in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society where a variety of cultures are practiced. Churches, missionaries, private groups, have every right, are part of the fabric of our community. They exist, and they do that work. I beg to differ that the Y.M.C.A. and some of these other groups that maybe originally started are exactly the same as this particular organization, but you know, that's been said. It's a free country and all of these views are valid, all of these views are acceptable, but this is the question we as members of Council need to ask. Should we be spending this huge amount of public money at a time when we don't have it for many other things, to a group that is open about its mission, is to change the world view of vulnerable youth to its own view? I don't see that that is what our community clubs are doing, and what other groups are doing. And I mean I know…you know, and that type of activity is fine but it belongs in churches and on the church's own dollar. If you look at the annual report for Youth for Christ, their statements contain information about how many young people have converted to the faith. It is divided under those under 12, those 13 and over and it actually lists the number of people that have been converted, so I don't really think that's a question. That is what they are doing and that's fine. That's what churches are for and that's…and they can…and churches can have programs in our community and they can pay for those programs and they can convert people to their beliefs, and anyone has the freedom to do that in this country. But it is a fair question to ask whether we should be diverting public dollars away from more culturally sensitive programs that are open to all faiths in the sense of accepting people from different faiths, and you've heard members of the Aboriginal community today. I don't want to try to speak on behalf of how they feel. We heard them speak for themselves today, you know, and I'm sure no community is uniform. There are some people in the Aboriginal community that would support this but there is obviously from what we've heard today, a large number of people in the community who are very concerned about this direction the City is taking.

I also have concerns about the particular...

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Orlikow moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gerbasi: You know, I asked a question that got people kind of uncomfortable earlier about the prevention…they mentioned the prevention of teen pregnancy, and I guess, you know, I just don't know that public dollars, our school system, we do promote birth control and other things to deal with teen pregnancy. I mean, this is going to…how are people that don't have that view of abstinence only or how are gay and lesbian youth going to be…are they going to be encouraged to be changed into straight youth? Like, I know these are things that make people uncomfortable but that is part of this debate and we are putting public dollars into something that has one particular world view and I believe that the minority…there are some minorities, including the gay and lesbian community, that need to be protected and be able to have the same services as everyone else. That's why we provide public services with public money, is that everybody is comfortable there. And that is a principle that I think needs to be said and there are people in my constituency, I've had a lot of people writing to me about this who share that kind of concern and I think it needs to be said here today. Maybe it's a minority view. Maybe this Council doesn't agree with that, that's fine, but I have to express that on behalf of my constituents. So I would argue…you know, we've said the Federal Government is there so we have to take it, we have no choices. I would argue that we are a level of government that has choices, we can take a stand and choose priorities. The Province decided. People keep saying because there was a letter from Steve Ashton with the Province's support that says, well maybe Steve does but the Province did not put any money into this so that level of government is able to say no to the Federal Government. So, we have a choice if we want to participate in this. It's not just forced upon us and I guess that is the choice that is being made by this Mayor and Council and let's be open about that. We do have a choice.

I'm also concerned about CentreVenture treating this like a business deal. Recreational services are dealt with much differently with a much greater degree of consultation. You heard today that many people feel left out of that process, there should be a R.F.P. I think I've already had my extension. Oh you want to hear more, Bill? There should be an R.F.P., you know, on something like this. It isn't just a straight business deal. It's part of our recreation policy. This has not been handled properly. I'm sorry Mr. Speaker. I wish I could support it.

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

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much. First of all, I'm going to stick to my notes. I'm learning. I do support investing in inner-city youth and helping them make some good choices in life. City Council also must continue its proud work, working with all groups, and I would say including all religious groups as well, and we had a list from the Mayor and I've been witness to many great faith based groups and cultural groups, different ethnic groups who are doing some great work. And we are all together in the hope that this program will actually save one life, but, of course, that's a given. We're also knowing that that is occurring with our existing programming that's happening in our neighbourhoods. They are saving lives daily. So again that argument, of course, we all want that. For me, the type of organization is not really here for this debate. People are saying oh, what's your view on this, it's not a part of this debate for me. People have been trying to drag me into that debate. It's not part of the debate at this present time. We do believe in working in partnership with all groups. So again, I was able to focus most of my look-see I guess we'll say, with the two pieces of paper I had and the phone calls I was able to made, on the actual grant. For example, right now, I know that the Youth Centre for Excellence has already received 150,000 from the sale, the ability to sell the land at Talbot, if not more. I have heard and I hope it's confirmed and I'm sorry, I don't have a business plan in front of me that would give me these numbers so I have to make some "guesstimates" that CentreVenture has donated this land for the operation of the Youth Centre of Excellence, valued at about $500,000, and now we've heard property taxes will be paid by another group that will fund this to that. Again I'm not sure what other supports that we are providing potentially for the Youth Centre of Excellence, however, I would say in this realm, I'm okay. These supports aren't bad. Those are okay and that shows a strong commitment by the City, however, the proposed grant of 3.4 million, that is where I do have a problem. Again, it's with the problem of three main points.

I believe that the $3.4 million should be directed in developing relationships rather than bricks and mortar. Bricks and mortar are beautiful, they look nice but again, we know that the way that we're going to solve social ilks in our neighbourhood is by developing positive relationships at a local community level. It may be faith-based, it may be culturally-based. It's a whole arrangement of different reasons why, but again, it goes to people.

Plan 2025 has already identified, Plan 2025 is kind of our recreational infrastructure and we all battled through to find out what recreational facilities are needed in our City. Well, they have, and I confirmed it yesterday, there is ample recreational programming space available in the area. The problem that we have is we don't have the money for programming. So we have empty spaces that can't be programmed because we can't hire enough staff because they don't have the money. So to me, it's much more efficient to use our exist…the 3.4 million to augment existing resources that we have, to build that capacity, so we have it, let's put it into people rather than bricks and mortar.

Second point, that this 3.4 million dollars, and we've heard a long list of other programs that we support, will being going to one organization to do a mega centre. I'm not a big fan of mega centres for a number of reasons. However, no one group that I can see has gotten $3.4 million to do capital. If they have, I didn't hear. We heard 50,000 here for operating, we heard this and that, and maybe they'll get an operating grant later. I don't know, but at this present time, $3.4 million and excluding the $500,000 for the land, 150,00 for the Talbot and all the tax considerations that may be coming forward which will make it more like $4.2 million, that money would be better served again, I would say, by putting it into our existing capacity. The large centres, while they have their own merit, I believe smaller localized centres through my research and through my work in the inner city have a much bigger bang for the buck, so that's where we should be spending, if we have this $3.4 million from somewhere, again, I'm not too sure where. We should be investing that in programming that actually increases the number of contacts between the kids and the service provider, not to bricks and mortar.

So I do have actually a number of unanswered questions that also make it very difficult for me to actually support this. The money is allocated, it's going to be coming from the…and we heard this today…from the Operating Budget not Capital. Well, so where is it going to be taken from? Is it coming…even if this money is diverted from another project and it just moves over, we're not getting that money to invest into other projects. So where is that money coming from? I would like to know that. Again, the one page document we've got doesn't allow me to do that. Should we not know how we're going to pay for something before we spend the money? I believe so. When you add up everything together, all that stuff that we have donated, the City is contributing over 43%, in my calculation…that could be wrong, prove me wrong…43% towards this project at the 9 or 10 million dollars, if you take the Talbot, if you take the land given and

everything else, and the grant, that's 43%. That's a large percentage from the City. That's what I…so if I have the numbers wrong, I really appreciate it, but again I'll state my numbers. (inaudible) I have $150,000 for the Talbot contribution potential, 500,000 from CentreVenture land donation, then the 3.3, 3.4 million from the proposed grant which makes out of a 9.3 total project cost, which is outlined, 43%. Okay so if it's less, that's wonderful, because 43%, I don't know any other projects that have been given that much money from the City for one project. Again I would state, all that money would be better spent reinvesting back into our existing infrastructure and people. So that's one area.

We also heard how the A.M.C. and through Steve Ashton if he is representing the Province or not, are supportive the program. Well the City supported the program too, but we're the ones who are putting up $4.3 million. Did the other groups pony up some cash as well? No. So again, that should…we usually do tri-partite agreements. This was not tri-partite. We just sucked up a lot more of that agreement, so again this is quite unique and requires a little more scrutiny. My question also would be if we put this $3.4 million or even the $4 million out to a public tender, what other programs would have come forward? Again it's excluding, we're going to lose the Federal money. Right now, supposedly we have $3.4 million. Let's see what other kinds of proposals would come forward. Maybe Youth for Christ will come forward and put another proposal down. That'd be great, however, that opportunity has not been forwarded to anybody. So again, do we chase, because the Federal Government said we will now pay a third of this so therefore we must jump in to pay 43% of that? No, it's not money well spent in that regard. If there was a facility needed in the area then I could be…I could address that and I could say okay, but the General Council who I believe have done a thorough report have stated that it's not. So again I say the money is better spent on existing service providers to provide more programming and not bricks and mortar so therefore I won't support it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this initiative. For me really, what really this boils down to is a huge opportunity in my opinion for recreational programming for one of the most at-risk areas I think in our City. If you look at Youth for Christ, you know, it's a community organization. Youth for Christ is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian organization. I think you've got over 15 different programming facilities that you have kind of running that's there. You know, this is a group that's coming forward in one of the roughest and toughest at-risk neighbourhoods in our community to provide some programming, some supports that are there. I think this organization could have set up shop anywhere but they decided to focus in on an area that really needs a lot of support. There's a lot of good programming as other Councillors have said. There's some good groups that have been…that are involved in terms of some of the programming funding, but my point is I don't think there's a shortage where we can put all our eggs in one basket. I think this will add to the area. As I talked about the area, it is very much in great need, that is there, the Main and Higgins area. I think Ross McGowan talked about the area of need and Councillor Wyatt spoke of who would have thought that we'd be talking about this type of area in terms of the development that is there, but I think it really does makes a lot of sense. It's going to provide a lot of opportunities I think for youth to be involved in recreation based projects and delivering more recreational opportunities which I think is our key business that is there. There is vast support for this project. Obviously the Federal Government is on board. You've got a lot of the community groups that are on board as well as the A.M.C., as well as the Grand Chief that is there. There's been a lot of talk also about community clubs. Well this year I think we've shown a lot of expansion in different community clubs; one in my area, the Silver Sturgeon amalgamations, but there has been a lot in other areas of the community that have been invested in, so we are making these investments as we go.

The project, as we know it, brings in over 50,000 square feet of recreational facilities, whether it be dance studios, whether it be BMX and different art studios and are a part of it. That's going to add to the amenities in the community. It's going to add to what people can do to keep people out of trouble and I think it is a great opportunity for the area. I also think it's a great partnership for City of Winnipeg. When you look at the dollars and cents we have a lot of organizations that come here looking for funding from a variety of sources. There's a whole host of funding. They're putting some of their own dollars in. They've shown some good aspects in terms of any of the programming that's there before, and I think this is very much a good deal for the government. There's been some talk about the other levels of government that support it. The Provincial Government I know has supported it through a letter which I think makes a lot of sense. You know, the one item…and I'm going to keep my comments brief here, we are at the end of the day, but really what has disappointed me on this whole argument, it surprised me a little bit, is really the treatment of some of the organizations (inaudible), the Youth for Christ. I can tell you that these are good people and they're trying to do some good work in our communities, add to what's there, and to hear some of the language I think that's been used back and forth if you're for or against the project has been disappointing because I know these people are good people and just trying to do what's in the best interests of our community. I've been convinced that any of the religious options I guess I'd say is exactly that. You know, if a youth wants to go and they want to use the facility yet they don't want to partake in any of the religious side of things and spiritual components of it, they are more than willing and interested to be a part of it, but this group is trying to make a difference in our community, and I think to a certain extent have been vilified and I think that's unfortunate. You know, I really encourage everyone to support this. I think this is a great partnership for the

City of Winnipeg and I think it can be a great opportunity for people who are under-privileged and can offer some alternatives. I think, you know, we talked about what it means to people. Well you know, the Mayor alluded to this earlier, but if you can save a few people from going down a wrong path and getting involved in gang or criminal activity, but taking another course because of some opportunities that are there, I think it's a very positive element, so I very much am supporting this and I encourage all my colleagues to support it as well. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you this. Obviously there is a need for programming. Obviously, we need to do a lot more in the inner-city, but you know, when I hear people coming forward, most of them talked about the needs. In fact that's why they're supporting the project. Not because of the religious base, faith part, but because they believe this will provide some facility for inner-city youth to use. And that's great. But what really concerns me after hearing the spokesperson for Youth for Christ was the whole question of recruiting. He said 5% of the kids that use the Talbot facility had been recruited to support the Christian philosophy, Christian faith. And that's great, if they were only funded by their own members and their own organization. You know, we had Councillor Lazarenko and Councillor Steeves compare them to the Y.M.C.A. and the Salvation Army, but they don't have a specific goal to recruit. I mean, I have given, for example, to faith-based organizations; in fact the Mennonite Church at Raglan Road and Portage, I gave them funds for building a skateboard park outside. But they did it for their members and also for the community. You know, they weren't recruiting. They weren't saying this is our goal as Youth for Christ is doing.

You know, we have…we have a recreational department under Community Services. They know nothing about Youth for Christ. They haven't been consulted. You know, there is no…the fact is, I don't blame Youth for Christ doing what they're doing because they see a void. We're not doing enough as a City Council to provide funds to deal with the problems in the inner-City. We are not doing enough to go ahead and supply funding to all the organizations. You know, the Mayor mentioned a whole list of things. I never heard a million, I never heard 2 million, I never heard 3 million, I never heard 4 million. You know. There's just…we are not supporting the organizations well enough in the inner-city, and if we felt there is a need, why didn't we do something about it as a Council? We haven't even...we haven't. This project is a mighty fine project in the sense of the facility it will create, but we could be doing that as a City of Winnipeg. Organizations are short of funds. That's obvious. So, you know, I'm getting e-mails from various people, New Directions, Elizabeth Fry Society phoned me this morning. There's a number of groups that are opposed to this project, and we're not taking that into account. There's no business plan, there's no…we've got no information at all on this. I went yesterday and I'm rather impressed with the facility at Talbot. It's quite good. But even then, they're going to be closing that, okay, and I think that the point made by Councillor Orlikow is true. I mean, the kids can walk to that facility. You know, they…this is…it's providing a need that we're not fulfilling, and that is what is my concern and that's why I'm not supporting this. I think that the 4.2 million could be channeled into doing something to deal with the youth of this City that need help, and we should be doing it. It's a really…a criticism of this Council with this proposal before us, because to tells you that we are not doing the job as a City. Community Services Department knows nothing about this organization hardly. They haven't consulted with them, there has within no…there's been no grand design of recreational facilities that (inaudible) to the City of Winnipeg. We're off-loading to a faith organization. We shouldn't be off loading, and I'm not going to be supporting this because I want inner-city programs, I want something happening and I think we should be doing that as a City Council and not off-loading to another organization. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Nordman.

Councillor Nordman: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today and I just want to put my support for the project on the record. Am I crazy about the process? No. Frankly, I think the way it's come upon us in a curious way, and not to use an inappropriate metaphor but we're sort of the savior of the project. The reality is the original plan for this 50,000 square foot project was for another part of the City with another partner, and it's only sort of in the 11th hour that it's coming to the City of Winnipeg to hopefully allow at another location this project to go forward. As I understand it, the Federal Government money is crucial to the project. It won't go forward without it. We can't depend on them agreeing to extend their infrastructure situation next spring, so the sooner that the project is in the ground and operating, it will certainly clean up the blight that we've come to know at Higgins and Main. As you've said in your comments that it was once a bunch of old hotels and has been a real eyesore for a very long time, so as part of the extension of and rehabilitation of North Main along with the new United Way building and the Winnipeg Regional Health Association property, I think this is just one more sort of new plank in the fence along Main Street to make it a more attractive and safer area. So, the conversations I've had with many people over the last 48 hours in particular, because it didn't really become a hot button until Monday, has had people on both sides of this subject, and frankly the people of St. Charles Ward have not spoken loudly on either side. But, Councillor Clement made the comment that we're Councillors for the entire City of Winnipeg and in the overall scheme of things, as I said, I'm not crazy about the process that brought this here, but I think in the overall scheme of things, I, too, visited with Mr. Courtney over at the Elmwood property on Talbot and was really amazed that such a facility existed and they did as much as they could for those 4,400 youth that they do supply

services to. If a couple of hundred of them in the course of a year decide to embrace the Christian faith, you know, that's, I think a reasonable connect for what their mandate is, and I don't fear that this will become an onerous and unfortunate situation for some of the disadvantaged youth that are closer to Main and Higgins. This will be a project for the whole City of Winnipeg. I think based on what I know to be true about their dance program there, kids are coming from all over the City of Winnipeg to participate in particularly their hip hop program, and I have a 16-year-old so I'm certainly plugged into what they're listening to and what their choices of dance presentation are, so, I just think given more opportunity for more kids, more kids that are disadvantaged in the core area of the City, I just think this is the right thing to do and I will be supporting it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is, no doubt, for me an issue of process, lack of due diligence, failure to consult, and I hate saying that this is an issue of process for me because frankly, Mr. Speaker, I like to see results, and I like to see things happen, and it drives me nuts to have to stand up here today and say it's an issue of process but I'm going to say it, it's an issue of process because of the fact of what I heard this morning, Mr. Speaker. And, before I get started here, I'd just like to say, I don't think he's in the gallery, but wherever he is, Pat Martin, thanks for nothing. In one stroke, a Member of Parliament has done more to create more debate and misinformation and lack of information on a project and an organization than any other individual who's elected that I can think of in recent memory Mr. Speaker. This is an organization, by the way, Mr. Speaker, which having grown up in northeast Winnipeg, I'm somewhat familiar with. Like Councillor Thomas, familiar with this organization because of their home being there. I was lucky enough, Mr. Speaker, to have friends of Mennonite descent who invited me and my brother to play floor hockey in the basement of River East Mennonite Brethren Church Thursday nights for youth brigade, and those kids, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, if you watch them play floor hockey you didn't think they were Christians because they hit you and kicked you and bashed you like there was no tomorrow, you know, and you learned to bash back right Mr. Speaker? And it was great, we loved it, okay. And even one summer I had the honour, Mr. Speaker, of being able to go out with my friends and we actually raised money and we went on a walkathon for the Youth for Christ. We had to walk 30 kilometres around Assiniboine Park. And believe it or not, you know, some of us walked 30 kilometres and others didn't. The bus kept going up and down Grant Avenue, it was too hard to turn down. But anyway, it was a great thing to raise money for Mr. Speaker, and it's a great organization and I had a chance to go down on Friday and talk to John Courtney and see his project and see what they're doing down there and they do tremendous work. I mean, every religious group and organization out there, they have a raison d'être and that is they wish to spread the word of God and their point of view, and that's no doubt the fact, Mr. Speaker, in the case of Youth for Christ. There is no doubt about that. But, Mr. Speaker, they also provide a social good for the community. You know right now, they get referrals from the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. They take the toughest kids and they have a classroom up on the top of that building and they teach these kids and give them a second chance from being thrown out of the education system completely. Why didn't Pat Martin refer to that or the school trustee who was here today? You know, Mr. Speaker, there was more information about religion, Mr. Speaker, this Council has funded in the past, as has been pointed out on the floor, people of different religious backgrounds, different organizations and yes, we were told they were cultural centres and indeed they become churches later on, so be it. So be it Mr. Speaker, and they're tax exempt and they've been named Hindu Cultural Centre, Muslim Culture Centre. I know we've given grants to Christian churches Mr. Speaker across the board, and we indirectly fund every church out there, Mr. Speaker, through the fact that we…they're tax exempt. Most not for profit organizations out there would love a tax exemption. They would die for a tax exemption. I mean, but they're tax exempt. Now you could argue that that's directly funding religious groups. But none of that was discuss when Mr. Martin lit the fire on this issue which I think is a shame because the real issue here, Mr. Speaker, I think what we heard today is not so much the issue of religion verses non-religion. I don't buy that as an issue, Mr. Speaker. The issue is the process. And, I've heard this before in Councillors, many of you who have gone through public hearings have heard this before, that if you just take a step back sometimes and give a little bit of breath to have a little bit of a dialogue, you can make a great project even greater and that's the truth. And I do believe that, Mr. Speaker, and that's why I really appealed on the motion to refer. And I know that there is a deadline Mr. Speaker. I know there's a deadline. I've been faced with that deadline as well on issues we were told in this Chamber you've got to decide today, Councillor, or else it's too late where people are pounding the glass here, Mr. Speaker, to try to get in to speak but were barred, so Mr. Speaker, I know what it's like to have community groups up against the wall and feeling like they've had something forced down their throats without any consultation. And we might think we're here to make great decisions, and this is leadership, Mr. Speaker. We're told this is leadership. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest this is a failure of leadership that the Mayor has done more damage by some of the comments he said publicly just as Pat Martin has said in the last few days, to create a division, Mr. Speaker, in the community that didn't exist before, and I appeal to the Mayor to heal those wounds. Youth for Christ is going to have a hard enough time. They'll win the vote here today but they're going to have to work hard Mr. Speaker to heal those wounds in the community with their new neighbours. Wounds that were created not by them.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that I heard some things today and I don't know how to address it because I'm not Aboriginal, and I heard the comparison being made to the residential schools and of what happened in the past to what

was being proposed today. And I'd like to think that that comparison is not fair. But, Mr. Speaker, I heard somebody speak today who I have a lot of respect for, and it's Damon Johnston who is anything but radical in the leadership of the Aboriginal community. He's quite reasonable. He's just the opposite, and his anger and frustration had an effect on me. I, to be quite honest, I think he came…he basically said something which I never thought of and that was how they identify with this issue and how it's coming to them. And you know we say sometimes perception is reality but that's not the reality so we should do what we think is right. But the reality is for many of these people, Mr. Speaker, who are here today, they feel that this is stepping beyond the bounds and that we should have allowed for some consultation and I don't think, Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about common sense, the common sense is this is a great project and it should happen and should happen somewhere. But also part of this, Mr. Speaker, is that, the other part of this is the process, and the request for consultation to have input is not unreasonable either and that's common sense, too Mr. Speaker. That's the difference here. That's simply the difference. It's not that far apart. If we just simply say yes and let's go forward and have consultation, at the end of the day this may not be the site. We might have to quickly find another site and indeed quickly, Mr. Speaker, but we've done great things before as a Council. This is not insurmountable but that does take leadership.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I just want to say one other thing, and that is, as a Councillor who has been involved with building recreational facilities, I do believe that a double standard is existing here. And I'm hearing this from the community groups and I can tell you I think it is because I've been told time and time again that if you want to do something and you don't want to do a significant project, there is a process and there is a process that you have to follow with regards to a report being written with a business plan and bringing all that forward, and to follow that through. Now, maybe all that's been done and I have great respect for Ross McGowan. I have great respect for Lloyd Axworthy. I have great respect to Art Defehr. But other than maybe Lloyd Axworthy and Ross McGowan, it's not their money, I'm sure Art is probably putting some money in it, it's our money that we're making a decision on here today. And Mr. Speaker we don't have any financials before us. We don't have any report before us. It was referred to earlier that the amount of money that we are giving here today, Mr. Speaker is…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor who was it? Councillor Clement moves extension of two minutes.

Councillor Wyatt: It is an amount of money (inaudible) throwing around and we see an amount for the amount we're supposed to be subsidizing over 15 years, plus we're told also the land on the site. Also if you read the motion further up, we're told that a previous decision was made in 2009 which I'm sure we did, to also give them the revenues from the sale of the firehall on top of everything. But there is no financials, Mr. Speaker. I think it's our responsibility to do a bit of due diligence to ensure that the financials are there so that we don't have a situation down the road where this organization runs into a jackpot and can't make the…pay their bills and needs our help, which could happen.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think there was anything wrong with a little bit of common sense in taking a break and allowing for some consultations with the residents in the area, but for some reason, somebody said that this has to happen immediately, and it has to happen because the Federal Government's deadline. Well, Mr. Speaker, if this is important to the Federal Government, and heavens knows Mr. Speaker that the challenges this City is facing today is thanks to the…a lot of it…thanks to the failure of the Federal policy when it comes to Aboriginal affairs in this country, a complete failure, surely to God, Mr. Speaker, they can give us a bit more time if push comes to shove, if this is such a worthy project. Now, who knows, maybe that's written in stone but we are dealing with a minority government and there is no doubt that they see this as a priority project. A little bit of consultation, a little bit of understanding, that's what I heard today. I had every intention after I met with John and I reviewed the site, I thought let's go for it, let's build it, but you know what Mr. Speaker? I don't live in this neighbourhood. I don't live in this neighbourhood. A lot of people come here, live and work in this neighbourhood and have their heart and soul in it, and I'm listening to what they're saying, and I think if there had been that consultation we wouldn't be here today having this big brew hah hah. Well maybe not. I mean, Pat Martin said what he said and then we would have had the battle anyway, but the reality is, had there been consultation there might not have been any venue for somebody like that to stand up and say what he said. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I live in this neighbourhood and I can tell you as a 14 year resident of the Centennial neighbourhood, Higgins and Main, that corner there, the northwest corner of Higgins and Main, Mr. Speaker, has been vacant for the past 14 plus years. It's also been, Mr. Speaker, in the hands of CentreVenture Development Corporation which has been very busily trying to make sure that something happens in that neighbourhood. There is a huge momentum Mr. Speaker that's happening right now on Main Street with the new Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, with the new United Way building, with the relocation of Main Street Meats Mr. Speaker, a brand new grocery store that was in existence there for a long time but is now on the east side of Main Street, with The Edge Artist Village. There's a slew of things that are happening on Main Street Mr. Speaker, and I for

one Mr. Speaker do want to see this project, the Youth Centre of Excellence occur and built right there at the corner on the northwest corner of Higgins and Main. I think it will do a world of wonder and a tremendous benefit to our City of Winnipeg. This City is built Mr. Speaker on the foundations of partnership and inclusion, and I think that when we have the Federal Government, when we have a non-profit organization, the City of Winnipeg, their members all working together, good things will happen. And Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, in my neighbourhood, there is a ton of youth there and they are looking for recreational opportunities. There is youth in North Point Douglas and South Point Douglas, in areas of Mynarski, in your ward Mr. Speaker, that are looking for more spaces for basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, skateboarding. Mr. Speaker, the Youth for Christ, they have a building, the Edge Skate Park in the Exchange District. Right now they're prevented from allowing more people, I think more than 50 in there, because of fire code issues and yet they're bursting at the seams despite the fact that we have a brand new skate park at the Forks Mr. Speaker. This is a huge thing, and you know once this facility is built, I dare say, it will still not meet the needs, Mr. Speaker, of the inner-city, of at-risk youth, of various people who like to use this facility Mr. Speaker, so I think you know, I want to congratulate the Youth for Christ, this brand new, their proposal for a Youth Centre of Excellence. I think these folks are motivated by their faith to do good works Mr. Speaker, and I want to encourage them to continue to do that because that's really the foundation here Mr. Speaker, and you know, if we talk about process, good gosh! We can't let that place, we can't let the northwest corner of Higgins and Main be vacant one more day Mr. Speaker. You know it's high time that something happens in that neighbourhood. There's a huge momentum, and if perception is reality Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that is the most feared and dangerous part of the City of Winnipeg, Main and Higgins. You go underneath that underpass, there's bricks falling on you. You know, people don't believe it's a safe spot but yet we have a group Mr. Speaker who believes in this neighbourhood. It's going to be making a multi-million dollar investment with money raised from their members and who has the savvyness to take part in this Federal Infrastructure program Mr. Speaker and work with our development corporation Mr. Speaker to find a suitable piece of land that has been open and available to many different organizations. In fact, in the last couple of years, you know as a former Downtown Development Chair, during my time there Mr. Speaker, there was a credit union that was going to be built there alright. And I was anxiously awaiting that, and I think it's going to be built somewhere else but you know that never worked. Now we have an organization that has set their sights on this particular area and, wow, that's something to celebrate Mr. Speaker I can tell you, as a resident of the Centennial Neighbourhood, and I know that there'll be a lot of good things that are happening here and I encourage John Courtney, his staff, his volunteers to have further conversations and dialogue with the surrounding community and I have every faith that they will. So Mr. Speaker, you know, I really appreciate Larry Gregan coming here today. I think he summed it up for me. We need to encourage collaboration and build, to send a statement to build a city of collaboration, of partnership, and I think that we can do that when we have a common denominator here and I think everyone just wants to do the right thing. There's a big void of recreational opportunities Mr. Speaker here, and the Youth for Christ organization who wants to build this Youth Centre of Excellence, I think they have the resources, they have the capacity, and they have the savvy to do it. Mr. Speaker I am going to be supporting this project.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me start by just correcting and providing a little bit of information. Councillor Smith stood up here and used the term that John Courtney had said that they had recruited 200 individuals. I was with Councillor Smith yesterday with John Courtney at Youth for Christ. That wasn't what Mr. Courtney said. He said that there was approximately 200 youth that had chosen a Christian path, is what he said. Not that they had recruited them. And I think these sorts of nuisances and language are sort of leading us into a dangerous territory here that is certainly not indicative of what this organization is doing in our inner-city (inaudible).

I think it's also important to realize that many of our colleagues have stood up here today and sort of taken a shot at this group because of their particular religion, and it was only on July 13, 2009, a short time ago, just seven months ago, when this Council, all of them who stood up here and said they wouldn't support this organization because it's a religious organization that goes out and recruits people or tries to convert them to Christianity, did in fact do that very thing. This Council unanimously supported the amendments to their lease and the sale of the property at Talbot Avenue for a dollar. It was already part of an agreement that was done back in the 80s or early 90s. And in doing that, the report actually stated that Y.F.C.'s annual income is in excess of three million dollars and the organization is presently working with CentreVenture to acquire land to develop a multi-use facility. We did that. We all agreed to do that, so this is not about this organization, this particular religion, its way of doing things. We have agreed in the past that we support this organization and those are not this organization's issues, so let's take that little bit of smoke and mirrors off the table as well Mr. Speaker.

Councillor Orlikow had some mystery math that he was worried about. Well the piece that has to do with the building on Talbot as I previously stated was done a long time ago. This was already owned and operated, you know, it's their proceeds already. It's not City of Winnipeg. The $2.6 million that we are talking about here today is separate from the

land value, which you could argue is approximately $500,000. I would argue to you today that it's zero. I think it's a negative value. So we're talking about $2.6 million.

So I think it's important when we talk about process to realize how this all started. Youth for Christ at some point quite a while ago had a conversation with Premier Doer at the Province of Manitoba talking about their desire to build this multi-use facility. It was because of that conversation with the Province that they were directed to the Federal Stimulus funds. So that's how this got started. It was actually initiated at the Province of Manitoba along with Youth for Christ. It wasn't initiated by the City of Winnipeg and it wasn't initiated by the Federal Government. It was pushed by the Provincial Government into the Federal Stimulus umbrella because they saw that as a place that they could, you know, that they could access funds.

I've got a number of prepared notes here that I'm going to try and get through in a short period of time, but how did I get involved in this? Well several weeks ago, I was visiting Lloyd Axworthy at the University of Winnipeg discussing community learning and a possible link between the City's Live Safe program and the University. While waiting, Dr. Axworthy's door opened, while waiting to see Dr. Axworthy, he appeared with two gentlemen from Youth for Christ. I was introduced and we exchanged pleasantries and they went on their way. As I entered Lloyd's office he began to explain the situation that Youth for Christ was in and they were at the University to discuss the University getting involved in their Youth Centre of Excellence project as the Province now had no money left for stimulus projects, which they had assumed would not be the case as the Province had been the initiator of pushing this into the stimulus arena, and they were at the table with over $3 million of private money and a loose commitment from the Federal Government. But the Province seeing the merit of the project had provided a letter of support and steered them to the University as there's a standing commitment from the Province to fund the University for a large recreational facility and this might be the match that would allow this project to go ahead. To compound the problem, there was little time to get this done. This was a stimulus project, but a March 2011 deadline, architectural tenders needed to be let a.s.a.p. followed by detailed design and construction tenders for a 2010 building season. The University tried for a couple of days to make something work, but the pieces didn't fit. In the meantime, the Mayor, who immediately recognized the value of this project and the potential lost opportunity, had agreed to work with Ross McGowan of CentreVenture to continue to try and convince the Province to find a way to bring their one-third funding to the table, but as the University deal had died, so had our efforts to get the Provincial support. They simply didn't have the money, Mr. Speaker. Even though we explained that the incremental educational taxes from the new Winnipeg Regional Health Authority building just down the road could cash-flow the project over 15 years, they still said no. The perfect T.I.F.F., but the answer was no.

The next step was to take the idea to our colleagues at Executive Policy Committee. After a short debate, we all agreed that there was merit to this project and that for a $2.6 million investment, we could bring a 9.6 to 11 point something million dollar facility to the corner of Higgins and Main. This was a stimulus project, the timelines were tight, so we proceeded quickly believing that all could see the merits of the project and the opportunity and value that lay in front of us. Much to our surprise, Mr. Speaker, as a motion was brought forward, a dark cloud began to gather overhead with bolts of twisted logic trying to derail this project. First was Pat Martin with his insults to both Christianity and Islam. When that got him some negative press, the spin machine started with the usual lefty loonie rhetoric of "there's been no public consultation" followed by "this smacks of another backroom deal being done at City Hall". It's amazing they didn't start batting around the privatization and cash grab cheques. That's right, Mr. Speaker, the labour movement and the N.D.P. have long taught their troops that you don't necessarily have to be right to win a political fight. You just have to make the right noise or holler a catching chant.

Next, some of our N.D.P. connected colleagues jumped on the anti-City bandwagon seeing the opportunity to make some political hay on the backs of inner-city youth and Christianity and maybe help Pat Martin save some face. One finally, or hopefully coming to his senses and realizing that this was an organization that he'd been involved with as a youth, but it looks like they've landed on process and the public consultation chant. The usual strings of e-mails and voice mails from the usual network of folks were received with the identical message, save for dramatic and verbal nuances, the organized mis-information campaign was obvious, and it was clear that this was Pat Martin and N.D.P. damage control going to work. The only thing they needed now was a couple of left leaning columnists to help out and you would have enough noise to deflect the Pat Martin faux pas to a good City Hall debate. What a shame, Mr. Speaker. Where were these voices when the Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims were are accessing public funds for rec and cultural centres? Perhaps they recognized those entities as voting blocks and thought it was in their own best interests to support those projects. And where were these voices when each year, public dollars flow to the religious based parochial schools in the Province. I think reasonable minds can see what's going on here, and Mr. Speaker, where are these voices when public dollars are pigeonholed for Aboriginal-only programs? In that case, they are silenced for the right reason, Mr. Speaker. It's because the projects and programs have merit…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Swandel: …as does this project. I've listened to all the Aboriginal comments here today and not enough time to go into detailed arguments on each, but I will say this. As Aboriginal individuals, if you don't believe in this project, don't access it. Don't allow your children to go there. Don't access it. But I think a great deal of Aboriginal families will because Aboriginal and Christianity are not mutually exclusive. That's all I'm going to say on that.

Mr. Speaker, $6 billion has walked through our door for a project and a program that speaks for itself, and each of us must ask ourselves why we take the position that we do. For me, that answer comes from a background of treatment, foster care and working with youth. As a matter of fact, one of my foster children came out of selling drugs and prostitutes out of the very hotel that resided on this site prior to this. I got more information on why we need to do this about the youth, but I can tell you that one common theme in any of the kids that we or many people help save is that it's not any miraculous cure, it's usually a single…or it's not any long-term thought-out treatment program, it's usually some single intervention or opportunity that becomes available to them, whether it's learning music or discovering music or anger management classes that change the way they think.

Well, I guess I got to skip forward to the end here. I've also been educating Christian based facilities, and, you know, today I'm not a Christian man, but I do walk through life from those Christian-based facilities that were forced on me as a child with a set of values and respect for my fellow man regardless of race, colour, creed, or sexual orientation, and above all, those experiences taught me to stand up for what I believe in. We must not kill opportunity and throw the baby out with the bath water because of ill founded pre-conceived notions brought upon us by those who will not stop at any ends to serve their own ideologically driven, self-centred political ends. Mr. Speaker, some among us can't see the opportunity, hope, healing and goodness for the religion. Today I stand up to fight for the Youth Centre of Excellence and tomorrow I hope to stand up for the next opportunity with this kind of value that comes our way. Carpe diem, Mr. Speaker, carpe diem.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty?

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our City, our downtown, has many problems, social problems, economic challenges, and some of the people that need these services are our most vulnerable people. We had a parade of organizations presenting in opposition to this this morning, and I believe a lot of them do a lot of good work. I'm not intimately familiar with the organizations and what they do, but I have no reason to doubt the importance and the value of what they provide our community. Youth for Christ has a phenomenal track record for the services they provide our community, and I know a number of people who are here at Council that mentioned it. Their programs on Talbot Avenue at the moment, their skate park, The Edge, Camp Cedarwood, programs like that are institutions in our community. I bet a lot of people didn't even know these were necessarily faith-based type organizations. You know, they're just familiar with the reputation of these programs, regardless of the separation from the faith-based aspects of them.

John Courtney brought up some very good information in his presentation this morning. In particular he suggested that there is a base of 300 people who regularly volunteer with Youth for Christ in town at an average of four hours per week. The amount of time, the amount of value of the volunteer hours that are spent by volunteers with Youth for Christ I think are very key. Providing that type of service into our downtown area at the corner of Higgins and Main, one of our most notorious intersections, would provide great value to the City of Winnipeg. I picked up…I'll share a Chinese proverb, wasn't on my place mat at lunch, but "if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. You teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." That is a Chinese proverb. The point is, this is capital money we're providing. We're spreading it out over a period of years, but we're providing them with the ability to provide this programming on an ongoing basis. I mean, some programming, they don't have the means to do this sort of thing and we do provide them with annual operating grants. I'm not saying today that that is inappropriate or wrong. But this is one-time money. This is, I think, a very good value for money for the amount of service and the amount of programming they're going to provide.

My single biggest concern honestly with this whole proposal is, you know, the plan to get out of their current facilities on Talbot Avenue. I agree that that's a community in need and, you know, an area of high need in northeast Winnipeg and I really do hope that whether it's City or other partner organizations or whomever, we continue to work with, you know, high needs areas throughout the City. You know, I'm partial to that particular area because it is, you know, beyond my area and it's an area I'm very familiar with. So, again, I will certainly be supporting today's proposal. In terms of the process, you know, I don't love it either. I do believe that the Federal Government deadline is real. This stimulus money, they have programs like this across the country and they've held very hard and fast to these rules in every case I'm familiar with. So unfortunately, you know, I have a bad feeling that if we don't support this today, we will, in fact, lose the funding and as a result, you know, we're going to push this forward. I know the organization would love to have more time as well, but the reality is, I mean, they need to have this built, you know, have the shell and everything finished probably before the wintertime and have everything up and going by the Federal Government's stimulus deadline to

March 31st, 2011. I think that's a very real, real deadline. So, again, I would like to thank Youth for Christ for what they're proposing to do, and I will be supporting this today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor, closing?

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been a very enlightening day. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say to John Courtney and Y.F.C., I think it's unfortunate that for so many years you've provided phenomenal services to our youth, very low key, never asked for any government grants, and in the last week, you've gone through what you had to go through. Very unfortunate and not necessary. To all those delegations who spoke today representing the Aboriginal community, I think we're very much aware of what took place with the Residential School System. We certainly don't want to ever see that repeated. By the same token, many of those organizations were all looking for more money as well and they're good quality organizations, and I think it's good that everybody came out because you could see there were Aboriginal people speaking on both sides of the issue.

The first thing I'd like to deal with, Mr. Speaker, is process. You hear that over and over again, and so to Councillors Wyatt and Gerbasi and Orlikow and Vandal who unfortunately had to leave for Vancouver to be at the Olympics, because I wish he could hear this, if you want to talk about process, let's talk about the last Council meeting where we walked on Linden Wood Community Centre. Why? Because, Mr. Speaker, there was stimulus money involved, and if we didn't move quickly, they were going to lose it. Not one Councillor objected or complained. The month before, the exact same situation, walked on Southdale Community Centre. Why? Because they were going to lose the stimulus money and we had to have an answer, and to go beyond that to address Councillor Gerbasi's concern, we for the first time, this Council created a policy for community centres. The Provincial Government changed all that, Mr. Speaker, announcing during election money going to that community centre. It wasn't the G.C.W.C.C. I won't even go back into the history of the past where the sale of Winnipeg Hydro was sold, walked on, M.T.S. Centre walked on. Please don't insult our intelligence about process, number one. Number two, Mr. Speaker, I think everybody here agrees this Centre for Excellence is a great facility, and it sounds to me like a few Councillors had the opportunity to visit Y.F.C. and see what they do. It amazed me today how many people never even knew they existed, didn't know about the skateboard, indoor skateboard park which has been there for a long time, didn't know about Talbot Avenue that's been there for a long time. Mr. Speaker, Councillor Swandel I think gave the itinerary of how this thing came to be, okay. It had nothing to do with anything other than the fact a commitment that was made changed, the project was going to die, and for some unknown reason, Mr. Speaker, it ended up in this Council's lap like many other scenarios. And it's unfortunate we have to have this debate, but it's what we're elected to do. So let me tell you this, Mr. Speaker, I took the opportunity to visit Talbot Avenue. I saw the dance studios. I spoke to the dance instructor. I saw the rock climbing. I saw the gym and spoke to some people there and then most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak to Milton who I had no idea would be here today. And Milton told me his story, and I asked him the question about what a lot of people allege is taking place because of what's on the web site, okay. Are you preaching, are you proselytizing, whatever the case may be? And Milton looked me in the eyes and said absolutely no. When I look at Milton who is there right now, Mr. Speaker, this is what this debate is all about. There was a 12-year-old, Mr. Speaker, who obviously could have headed in a certain direction. He had the courage to tell us what happened to his older brother, was shot to death, Mr. Speaker, okay. This is a young man who obviously did not get involved in gangs, has basically found himself and not only that, is giving back to youth today because I know he's running programs himself. And, Mr. Speaker, take everything else aside today. If all the members of Council don't see that this is all about the young Milton's that are coming up the road, who we want to have an opportunity, who we want to give hope to, everybody deserves hope, Mr. Speaker, everybody. I don't care about the colour of your skin or your religious denomination. We all deserve hope Mr. Speaker. Everybody. I don't care about the colour of your skin or your religious denomination. We all deserve hope. We all deserve to believe there's a future for each and every one of us. We all deserve to believe that we can accomplish something. We all deserve to be thinking that we can have a family and provide for them. Well, Mr. Speaker, we know the challenges that we face. We know what's going on out there with gangs, and I'd like to believe we all believe we have a problem with gangs. We know we're giving the W.P.S. as many tools as possible to deal with that. They can't do it alone. It takes all three levels of government, and it takes faith-based groups and the private sector to solve this problem. Milton, I admire your courage. It's not easy. It's not easy doing what you're doing, and I admire when anybody has to…it's almost like today has divided families, okay. Brothers against each other, sisters against each other, and for all intents and purposes, husbands and wives having different feelings, but, you know, Mr. Speaker, the majority of calls and e-mails I've gotten on this subject has been quite simple. Many people in the general public do not believe we should be funding faith-based organizations, and yet almost every Councillor here has said or would agree, we've been doing it for a long time. Doesn't always get the front page of the paper, Mr. Speaker, but we have. Churches pay no taxes. Universities, when it comes to education, we subsidize that, they pay no taxes. And every Councillor from one of their funds I guarantee you Councillor Smith said even he's done it, has made a contribution, a donation to a faith-based organization. Why? Because they fill the void that government has failed at, our youth, our children, our future. Councillor Smith is right. We should be doing more, but unfortunately, it's not happening. So thank God for faith-based organizations, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great project. I am so saddened by the fact that there is a divided Council here, and everybody will vote the way they think is best. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? That land has been sitting there forever, and there's only one Councillor here who lives in that area. It's been there forever. We know what was going on there. CentreVenture has tried their best. They finally got a proposal. It came through CentreVenture. The Federal Government supports it. The Provincial Government supports it but not with money. That's only because they're smarter than we are because now we have to debate it, not the Province. We're the ones faced with this, and we'll be the ones taking the bullets or the accolades. Well, no one ever said being a Councillor or Mayor is going to be an easy job. It is what it is. But, you know what? It takes courage to do the right thing, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that I've had some great conversations with people on this issue. I understand where they're coming from. We've had good dialogues on it. Mr. Speaker, today I will stand and proudly support this, and Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping years from now when we look back and hopefully this is passed, we will say we did something great for inner city. We should be proud. It doesn't mean we don't continue to support Aboriginal groups. I am head of that for all intents and purposes, Mr. Speaker. You know that's one of my portfolios and I will continue to do that. Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that all Councillors will support this worthy project.

Mr. Speaker: Ready for the vote? Recorded vote? All in favour of item 5, please rise or stand.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel, Thomas, Mr. Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko.

Yeas

Councillors Gerbasi, Orlikow, Smith, Wyatt.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 10, Nays 4.

Mr. Speaker: It's Carried. Consideration of By-laws Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Too exhausted Mr. Speaker, but I'll try. Mr. Speaker, I move that the following by-laws be read a first time. By-law No. 7/2010, 11/2010, 12/2010, 13/2010, 14/2010, 15/2010, 16/2010, 17/2010, 18/2010, 19/2010, 20/2010, 21/2010, 22/2010, 23/2010, 24/2010, 25/2010, 26/2010 and finally 27/2010.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 7/2010, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, all of 2010.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that By-laws No. 7/2010 and 11/2010 to 27/2010, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 7/2010 and 11/2010 to 27/2010, both inclusive.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 7/2010 and 11/ 2010 to 27/2010, both inclusive, 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? Councillor Fielding, Gerbasi, Pagtakhan.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Fielding: Yes Mr. Mayor, I'd like to ask you a question about the Building Canada Fund, really what is the status and if you could update us on some of the money coming in from the City.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker through you to Councillor Fielding. The City of Winnipeg submitted 11 infrastructure projects for the Building Canada Fund and I'm happy to share those with Council; Pembina Highway Underpass at Jubilee approximately $14 million; Plessis Road Twinning with Grade Separation on the CNR Line approximately $30 million spread over 2011/2012; Polo Park Street and Intersection Improvements approximately $10 million dollars; Keewatin Street north of Inkster Boulevard, expansion to four lanes approximately $20 to $25 million; Stage 2 of BRT from Jubilee to the University of Manitoba $220 million dollars; Community Centre Investment Fund Contribution to replenish what's been used $10 million dollars; Regional Street Major Rehabilitation $10 million dollars per year for 2011 and 2012; Kenaston Boulevard Widening between Taylor and Academy Road $110 million dollars 2011/2012; Chief Peguis West Extension from Main to McPhillips Avenue approximately $60 million dollars; St. Anne's Road Twinning from Aldgate to Perimeter approximately $7 million dollars; Inkster Boulevard road construction from Keewatin to Brookside approximately $31 million dollars. These were all the projects that were submitted to the Provincial and Federal Government. We're hoping to have an answer as soon as possible Mr. Speaker but those are the ones and as you know you need all three levels of Government to agree on those projects.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question? Councillor Gerbasi your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Well, as we speak a massive tunnel is being blasted through the Fort Rouge Yards to, as the Council approved Bus Rapid Transit. It is! My residents are listening to it. As the Council approved Bus Rapid Transit project Downtown to Jubilee is under construction and I just heard you say that we've applied for Building Communities funds for this, for the second phase of BRT. This is why I'm wondering if the Mayor, if you could clarify, you know since it was reported in the paper that you're seeking a different project, different technology and I'm not even sure the location of the LRT that was talked about in the paper because this hasn't been discussed with Council other than to know that you as Mayor have said you want this. Could you please clarify for Council and I also just because of what you just said about all of these projects we're asking for, I guess I'm wondering is there any kind of prioritization and is it not going to hurt our prioritization of getting that project if you're talking about a different project in the media that you're not so keen on the project we're building, and I guess I want to know Mr. Mayor what is your commitment for the project we're actually building, on the second phase of it?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker through you to Councillor Gerbasi I'm happy to address the issue because I've addressed it many times in the past. Number one as you know we have moved forward with Stage 1 of BRT from our downtown to Jubilee, that's number one.

Number two, I have said in the past on this floor of Council and I will say again that the City of Winnipeg should basically be moving into the future no different than Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, etc., and go to LRT. I can tell you that I have the full support of the previous Premier, Mr. Doer who's now the Ambassador, to basically go to Ottawa and move forward on LRT and get a long term commitment so that Winnipeg could be just like every City and be a modern City.

Just the…I think it was today Mr. Speaker, I saw a picture of Councillor Wyatt and the fact that the City of Winnipeg did an experimental project on LED lighting using no energy, we have a quorum Mr. Speaker? Okay, using no energy and basically using the sun. These are good things; I think it's time we get with it on other areas as well. In the interim there's approximately $189 million dollars available under Building Canada and these are the projects that were put before the Province and the Federal Government and as Councillor Gerbasi knows it's a matter of everybody agreeing on what project they believe they want to do and hopefully that answer will be coming forward. In the meantime I have asked Premier Selinger to go to Ottawa with me and to lobby the Federal Government because unless the Premier and the Mayor are united, nothing will ever happen when it comes to LRT and us being treated the same way as Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, etc.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor?

Councillor Gerbasi: I'm very happy to hear your passion about Rapid Transit and you know I share it absolutely but I guess what I'm trying to clarify is are you asking the Federal Government for money for the second stage of BRT or are you asking them for another number to do with LRT because I read in the paper that the Province supports the second

phase of BRT and I mean I'd like to have information other than the Free Press but that's where it's being talked about. Could you please clarify which project you're supporting?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker for clarification I am supportive of all these projects that we've put forward, that's why we shared them with the other two levels of Government, that's number one. Number two is that I am very supportive of having the Premier join the Mayor and go to Ottawa and see if we can get a long term commitment for LRT which I believe is very realistic but only if we're united. In the meantime we will find out and I'm sure that Councillor Gerbasi can probably access Premier Selinger as quickly and as easily as I can, I guess she could ask him exactly what he's thinking. Doesn't have to take it from any media. You can talk directly to the man.

Mr. Speaker: Your third and final question Councillor.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay, since the suggestion of putting the second phase of the BRT project in the meantime until we get LRT in the Five Year Capital Forecast was denied, I guess I just want to know that you are committed to finishing this second phase which the Province has indicated to the media in the comments made by Provincial elected officials, it wasn't Selinger himself but I think it was the Minister, are you prepared to say that we are going to be building that second phase and if so why, you know, why was there a reluctance to put it in the budget? I mean that…and why would you send that message to the Federal Government if you're actually looking for that money?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, the message to the Federal Government is to basically stand beside the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba and as I said, the former Premier and I already had an agreement and an understanding to get long term commitment from the Federal Government to go to LRT Light Rail Transit. As we all know an election took place, things changed, that's the nature of the beast. There's nothing anybody here can do about. I have been 100% supportive of Stage 1 and as Councillor Gerbasi has said, that's under construction and hopefully will be completed on time and on schedule. There's then Stage 2 from the University…from Jubilee to the University and that certainly is one of the options, but Mr. Speaker if we can get the Federal Government and the Provincial Government to join us and united move to LRT that would be wonderful. If that's not the case Mr. Speaker they may come back and say this is the project and so be it. This Council will have to make that decision.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan your first question.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Mayor could give us an update on the Winnipeg Police Cadet Unit.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker as many people are probably aware of, I know the Chief and I a long time ago started talking about a Police Cadet Unit. Mr. Speaker I'm sure you'll remember it. It existed many years ago when we were growing up and they provided some phenomenal services and they basically gave police officers the ability to police and in the end many of these cadets became police officers.

What I can tell, through you to Councillor Pagtakhan, is that last year, in the fall of last year, we had an agreement with the previous Minister Chomiak and the previous Premier Doer that they were going to move forward and announce 50 cadets. The Winnipeg Police Association has agreed to up to 200 cadets. Once again an election took place, the Premier is no longer the Premier and the Minister is no longer the Minister and at this stage of the game we are still working to see whether a cadet program can become a reality. There is no doubt, at that point of time Mr. Speaker, there was $1.7 million dollars allocated by the Premier and the Minister for this project. That is no longer the case.

Mr. Speaker: Second question? None? Councillor Browaty your first question.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, yesterday morning, Dr. David Schindler was in from the University of Alberta presenting on why 63 scientists have put their name to the fact that tackling phosphorus, not nitrogen, is the most important thing to clean up Lake Winnipeg and that in fact the $350 million expenditure to remove nitrogen from our wastewater plants is in fact an erroneous way of spending money. Terry Sargent yesterday suggested that he thinks that perhaps the process that we are now proposing to remove ammonia may be sufficient and he agrees with the science that phosphorus is more important than nitrogen. Is the Mayor ready to go back to the Province and ask them to again reconsider the whole notion that removing nitrogen is a wasteful of way of trying to clean up Lake Winnipeg?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had the privilege, phenomenal opportunity to have Dr. Schindler, probably the top scientist in North America if not the world, come here and share with those Councillors who had the opportunity and time to attend along with representation from many other organizations including other levels of government, and Dr. Schindler made it very clear that removing nitrogen was a complete waste of $350 million as well as waste of $9 million annually for the taxpayers of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker it's no secret at my State of City Address, I spent a little bit of time talking about this. I felt it was very important and I will continue to do that and I'm hoping after Dr. Selinger…Dr. Selinger, Dr. Schindler appeared here, (laughing) after Dr. Schindler appeared here that everybody will realize that the decision that was made by the Clean Environment Commission was based on flawed and inaccurate information as stated by Dr. Schindler, and hopefully we can work something out that makes sense and do something productive and not waste $350 million dollars in addition to $9 million every year. I am hopeful that will happen. I can't guarantee it but I tell you this much Mr. Speaker, I will continue to fight for that.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: First of all I thank the Mayor for his response and I apologize for not thanking you earlier for arranging that session. That was very useful and I think beneficial to everyone who was in attendance yesterday.

Does the Mayor have anything he can share with us in terms of his strategy on how he's going to continue raising awareness, how he's going to run it up the flag pole and try to get buy-in from the public and the people on Broadway?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I think first of all the beginning of this campaign was obviously at the State of the City when we highlighted the $350 million issue along with the $9 million. And as I said a long time ago, I think when it comes to these kinds of issues that politicians should take a back seat and it should be the scientists who we listen to and Mr. Speaker I am definitely listening to Dr. Schindler. Yesterday was a step in that direction where all the media showed up and heard what Dr. Schindler had to say and why the Clean Environment Commission has erred. I'm hoping we hear something back in the near future. Otherwise we will continue to soldier on. I mean I know that this issue may not be sexy Mr. Speaker, but its $350 million. I think every Councillor here can imagine what we could accomplish with that kind of money including $9 million in additional operating costs every year, so this is not the end Mr. Speaker. Yesterday was the beginning of the journey. I'm hoping at some point in time, and I know that the Clean Environment Commission is taking a second look. Hopefully they will take a very objective second look.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, report of January 5, 2010, Councillor Steeves, where is thouest? He's doing an interview. Councillor Swandel, you want to move it for him?

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED JANUARY 5, 2010

Councillor Swandel: Which report are we on? We're on January 5th?

Mr. Speaker: Report of January 5.

Councillor Swandel: January 5. I'll move Items 2.

Mr. Speaker: Consent Agenda Item 2. Councillors, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. Report of February the 2nd of 2010.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll move Consent Agenda Items 1 through 11.

Mr. Speaker: You've got Items 9…has been laid over by the Executive Policy Committee. Councillor Steeves?

Councillor Swandel: Councillor Steeves will move Items 1 through 11, except for 9.

Mr. Speaker: What channel? (inaudible speaking in the background) All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motions? Do you have any motions? No motions. By-laws, none. Question period. Any questions? None. Committee of Protection and Community Services, Councillor Pagtakhan. Report of February the 8th.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Councillor Pagtakhan: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move Consent Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Motions? We have two motions and they are both…Motion No. 2 is automatic referral and Motion 5 is automatic referral.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MOTIONS

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

WHEREAS within the most recent collective agreement with the Winnipeg Police Association, the City of Winnipeg has obtained the ability to establish a Police Cadet Unit of up to 200 Cadets;

AND WHEREAS the Cadets will improve service to the citizens of Winnipeg by increasing the Winnipeg Police Service's (WPS) police presence in Downtown Winnipeg and other neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, assist the WPS in day to day duties as determined by the WPS, and will provide these services above and beyond the existing level of service at an economical cost to ratepayers when compared to conventional policing costs;

AND WHEREAS the Cadets will assist the WPS in its succession planning by acting as a potential pool of new recruits for the regular police service, thus further strengthening the existing WPS;

AND WHEREAS no funds were included in the 2010 Preliminary Operating Budget for the purpose of funding Police Cadet positions, and that this is a lost opportunity to improve community safety considering the recent improvement in the collective agreement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that funding for 50 new Police Cadet positions be included in the City of Winnipeg 2010 Operating Budget.

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Vandal,
Seconded by Councillor Thomas,

WHEREAS the Millennium Library is Winnipeg's major library, located in the downtown;

AND WHEREAS the Millennium Library recently was re-opened in 2005, after a $20 million dollar refurbishment;

AND WHEREAS the Millennium Library ranks near the bottom of the list for "hours open" for all major Canadian cities;

AND WHEREAS the Millennium Library is currently closed at 5 PM on Friday to Sundays, during the months of September – June; and closed all day on Sunday during the summer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Millennium remain open until 9 PM from Friday – Sunday, during the months of September to June, beginning in April of 2010.

Mr. Speaker: Question period. No by-laws? Question period. Councillor Smith.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Smith: I'd like to ask Councillor Pagtakhan if he's had any talks with the Chief of Police about the incidents with cab, taxi drivers being attacked and if he has any indication of what's going to be done about it?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty, I mean Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yeah through you to Councillor Smith, I appreciate the question. I actually…the Police Chief has been trying to contact me today and I will return his call later on and I will have contact with him on that particular issue and update the good Councillor once I have an update.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. No further questions? Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, report of February the 9th of 2010, Councillor Clement.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Councillor Clement: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will move clauses 1 and 3 as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: 1 and 2.

Councillor Clement: 1 and 3.

Mr. Speaker: 1 and 3?

Councillor Clement: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. (inaudible speaking in the background).

Councillor Clement: 1 and 3. 1 is the leaf thing in the fall, and that one contract, and that's what they're calling organics and the other one is the fees for the larger carts. That's No. 3, so I'm moving 1 and 3.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, all in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Clement: Okay, if we could leave No. 2 for a minute, there's one more issue dealing with a contract. I'd move that the rule be suspended and the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal dated February 24th be considered. That's the one from this morning. That's what I said, I'll come back to No. 2.

Mr. Speaker: That's a walk-on. Walk-on report. Everybody?

Councillor Clement: It says the Speaker has to say "all in favour" on my script here.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED FEBRUARY 24, 2010

Mr. Speaker: Okay Councillors. Hold it, hold it, just a minute. I want to be recorded in opposition.

Councillor Clement: What, to suspending the rules?

Mr. Speaker: No. Oh, suspend the rules. Go ahead. Yeah. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Clement: Now the Clerk has to read Item 1.

Mr. Speaker: Okay Mr. Clerk, read the report.

Item 1 – Collection of Garbage from both sides of the Back Lane in the Northwest Automated Cart Collection Area

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement, you want to introduce it?

Councillor Clement: I will move…I think everybody understands this issue, this is the two-sided pickup in the lanes. It was dealt with this morning and I will move the recommendation from Executive Policy Committee which is essentially the report that was at Public Works this morning, recommendations 1 through 4, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't talk about times. We'll have to deal with that. I mean, there's something in the report that talks about times but there's nothing here that talks about times. What this is is there's one of the issues that came up when we rolled this new program out, literally, in the north area, dealt with pickup on both sides of the lane, and there's been some issues with that. This will solve that. Hopefully within the dollars that are listed here we'll be able to create a negotiated bid change with the contractor. That's the belief that the Administration has, and so Public Works Committee actually dealt with this on February the 9th, Mr. Speaker, and approved it. It had to go back to this morning because of the way it was worded. It was moved…what was that motion this morning? It wasn't a motion, really. It was received as information at Public Works, went to Executive Policy Committee where it was put forward unanimously, Mr. Speaker, and I will move it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: I just want to put a couple of quick comments on the record and sort of, you know, in dealing with all of these matters. First of all, I don't like the number $500,000 being in here, although I think because of the issues that we have going on in the northwest part of the City, we're going to have to live with that. When we look at the recycling contract, the difference between one-sided pickup for the entire City and two-sided pickup for the entire City, I think the amount is something like $250,000. So, to have an amount of up to $500,000 for just this northwest part for garbage collection, that does trouble me, and I think…I don't think there's a member amongst us that is satisfied with this process. I think one of the unfortunate things is that we haven't as the elected officials of the City been allowed to look at the big picture here because of timing, of contracts, budget, what have you, and we seem to be getting welded in to the decisions that we're making. While I'm supporting these decisions, I do so with a grain of salt, Mr. Speaker. I think…when you look at some of the logic that was put forward by the Resource Manitoba group, that sort of big picture thinking is what we've missed here. It's unfortunate and well intentioned. Our Administration did this reacting to timelines of contracts and it's really welded us into a position. So I'm saying this on this matter, but I'm speaking sort of globally to all the matters that are in front of us. I think we've kind of dropped the ball here, and we're being welded in to missing some maybe bigger picture opportunities. Hopefully we'll be able to pick some of that up and find a way to negotiate with our contractors doing a better job of some of the things that we're kind of having to go down these paths. So with a grain of salt, I'm supporting all of these that are in front of us today, but I don't like the way it's happened, and I feel like it's sort of bad decision making for politicians. I understand the administrative perspective on why it happened the way it is, but this isn't good decision making.

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

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll save most of my comments for the report regarding recycling carts, but I will point out that last fall, the reports that we had a special meeting of Council to consider, the low bid for cart collection was just shy of $1.9 million, and the low bid for manual collection was $2,053,000, a difference of about $154,000 only. When you include the annualized cost of the garbage carts, the collection method, you know, over the seven years of the project, it was already more. Last summer back in July after Council had already prorogued, we had correspondence sent to all of Council. It was July 28th. It was even after the end of business hours, 4:35 p.m., an e-mail from our Director of Water and Waste suggesting cost efficiency was the reason for going down this road. Specifically, the first bullet was more contractors are likely to bid on automated collection making for more competitive pricing. It's become increasingly difficult to obtain an adequate number of bids from annual collection. While that was true for the garbage collection contract for northwest Winnipeg, we had four bidders on a manual collection and five on automatic. It was the opposite when it came to the more recent contract for recycling pickup when, in fact, there were four bids for manual collection but only three for automated collection. There was less competition. Again, it's costing more money for these carts, the program doesn't really address the issue of sustainability and fairness. My issue is for some people, four bags I think is too much garbage, and for a lot of families, it might not be enough. I just don't think this program is scalable. Again, that's Councillor Swandel, or Deputy Mayor Swandel was suggesting, this whole process wasn't very well thought through, and while I will be supporting it, the garbage contract here, I have some serious reservations. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to put a couple of comments on the record. My Ward, Councillor Nordman I think, you know, I've had…speaking for Grant as well…I've had a lot of calls on specifically in terms of the back lane issue. It is a real issue that's out there. Whether this should have been introduced in summer probably would make more sense but we are where we are. The back lane is an issue that is there. I'm just hoping Councillor Clement just briefly in his comments can just verify for us that this is going to be done as quickly as possible to ensure that we are having both lanes because I think I've probably got about 150 calls altogether on this issue overall and 90% of the calls lately have been in regards to the back lane pickup. People are asking when it will be implemented, so if I could just get some confirmation from the Chairman that we're going to do it as…we'll move heaven and earth to get this done as soon as possible that would be wonderful.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. I too actually before, I was quite clear that we did actually need to have a plan before we rolled this out, and I think we've all now come to terms, even though we heard that we should stop, just do stuff and don't worry about process. Well this is a great example where process was kind of, in my opinion, missed. We didn't have a plan. We rolled it out and now we're backtracking. The part that I'm a little infuriated with and I'd say little is a nice word is the fact that when we last, last time I was trying to make motions on that tender, we weren't allowed to go pick the manual because of the tender contractors stated that if their contract, that automatic was 20%, then we had to go with the automatic pickup. Well, this is no longer true because what we did is we just increased the service for that one time and now all of a sudden we're building more into that program where actually it's becoming very, very expensive to do this automated pickup. So, again, I feel duped on the initial contract that we provided. Did we not know that having it on one side of the street would be a huge problem? We all mentioned that it would be a huge problem. Did we not know that the fact of having one sized bin was going to be a big problem? We mentioned it repeatedly that it would be a big problem. However, we went ahead anyway. So now we're sitting here, looking up to $500,000 plus the organic waste again without a plan. We potentially have four trucks going down back lanes. That's so un-environmental, it's astronomical, again, because we don't have a plan. And now we're supposed to say, oh, we still don't need a plan, but let's just piecemeal this and continue on the way as we have been. Well shame on us. We got tricked once. Why are we going to let this happen again? We should stop and do the waste minimization plan, take the lowest contract and the shortest contracts we can now. We'll talk about the recycling one later. But again, these are long-term things that will fix us into a spot where we actually can't do a plan. So, again, I feel duped. I do support going alternating sides, but again, I still don't support the automatic bins at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith?

Councillor Smith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. You know, my ward has all this, eh, right? I'm getting e-mails and phone calls that are just incredible and I'm getting it from outside my ward too. Let me tell you this. I got an e-mail from the Vice President of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple. "I'm writing on behalf of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple to request a portable garbage bin. We are located at 39 Tecumseh, (that's in Councillor Pagtakhan's Ward) and have had garbage pickup in the lane behind the building for over 40 years. We were recently notified by the City that as a result of moving to the new portable garbage bins, that the City would no longer pick up our garbage nor would we be provided with a new bin." There's that one, there's the West End Seniors Centre. The garbage is piling up there. And some people in my ward have refused to take the bin. You know, they just say, I don't want it. It's really a serious problem. Even when they put these bins out, they put them in the front instead of the back lane. And you know, I have the worst back lanes in the City. I have 200 back lanes that need to be redone, and with the snow clearing and so forth, it's just incredible. People are having a rough time. So I support this motion because it was all of a sudden my problems if we pick up on both sides. But you know, there's been no consultation, there's been no effort to make it plain to everybody what was going to be happening, and I tell you it's a mess in my ward. And not only that, the Manager of Solid Waste went on holidays just as they were introducing the plan in the North End, which I found very, very disturbing for, you know, when something as major as this and he goes on holidays. But I tell you this, this motion is good, it will help solve some of the problems in my ward.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas?

Councillor Thomas: Yes, I'm having a great deal of difficulty with this motion because these larger automated garbage carts are going to change our work relationship with B.F.I. Canada. Now, we had an idea that we were going to privatize all refuse collection within the City, and first we were told that would save us $3 million. Then the number changed to 2.4, then 1.8, then 1.4, and every time I see a private contractor come in, there is more reason for us spending more money, and we should be doing this in-house. We should be doing it with a plan, and I'm concerned about this additional capacity just going willy-nilly out there, and I don't want people to be throwing out garbage more. I want them to be putting out recyclables more, and I'm concerned that what we may be doing is encouraging people not to recycle and not to separate their refuse and just putting it all into a big container and the bigger container we provide people with, the

less likely they are to actually be more circumspect about what goes into the garbage, and I know in my household, I have a young granddaughter who is there, and still, we manage to only put out one bag of garbage with five people in the house. We put out two boxes of recyclables, but we put out one bag of garbage, and I'm concerned about how we're doing this without a plan, and I think we need to stop and develop a plan and I think we need to consider going back in-house. I was told there would be all sorts of explanation as to how we saved all sorts of money, and I haven't seen one report actually showing us money that we've saved. It's just now they keep coming back and it's going to cost us more money, it's going to cost us more money, and I think contracting out all of the refuse collection in the City was a big mistake and doing this without a plan is a bigger mistake. I understand that we're dealing with some complaints, but we're going forth without a plan again and I can't go there. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further Speakers? Councillor Clement, you want to close?

Councillor Clement: Yes, thanks, Mr. Speaker. There's no question that this process wasn't a great one, and it wasn't politically driven but I'm not going to start looking for somebody's head either. We know what happened. This, we have five contracts, this is one of them, and it came at us very quickly in the fall, and we had to react fairly quickly knowing full well that we had to make some amendments probably to this particular issue once it rolled out and that's what's basically in front of us today.

I support, as the Chairman of Public Works, a program that would be very comprehensive that should include organics, and I know that we're going to get into that conversation. I believe we have to get into it as well as, you know, although we're dealing with this recycling issue coming up, I think we have to do something before we get into any other contracts, and if nothing else, if we want to have an appropriate amount of time and make sure that we've got that time, then our staff should probably be instructed to look at extending some of the existing contracts so that they dovetail a little bit better with what we would want to look forward to with organic pickup, et cetera. We had people at Executive Policy Committee last week who made some excellent presentations. I was quite surprised by the depth that some of these people had gone into to review some of the processes that are available as far away as Austria and France and places like that, kind of blew me away when I was listening to them, and the information they had was pretty incredible. I don't know where we're going to wind up with this, but as an example with organics, currently from a composting aspect, we're only able to compost for about seven months. The only way that we'd be able to do that properly would be to build a building at Brady that would allow us to do it year round. We have to make those decisions to find out whether we want to invest that capital, and I think we probably do. I think most people want us to be as ecologically correct as possible, and I think we've gone a long way in that regard. The trouble with this particular thing was it came up so quick. We really didn't know it was coming, and now we're into making amendments to try and roll it out a little better than what it is. We've dealt with a couple of them and this is the third one. As far as when we can do this and a little bit about the money part, it's true that the two-sided pickup for recycling for the whole City I think it was about $330,000 was the difference in the tenders and this number here it talks about being a little higher. The way it was explained to us this morning was that it's about tonnage. You can send the same vehicle down the same back lane for garbage as you do for recycling, and you're never going to get anywhere near the same tonnage with recycling as you are with garbage, and so that means that the garbage trucks, notwithstanding that they're already going down the lane and picking up on the one side are going to be required to dump, and their view is that they need to add a truck or two. Our Administration is of the view they might have to add one. The mechanics of that they talked about this morning a little bit. It seemed to make some sense, and because of that, it was going to be a little bit more than what we thought although certainly within these dollars we believe, but having said that, this issue that was in the report that it would take four months to roll out is, I mean that's just not acceptable, and there'll be some discussion with the people who are involved with the actual pickup, which I think is B.F.I. if I'm not mistaken, and we'll get them to do something. Nobody can convince me that they can't find a truck in one of the other cities that's extra to their current resources or that type of thing that they have to actually wait and order one for four months to get a truck or two in here. I just don't buy that. I think that they can solve this quicker than that and that would be the intention to try and roll it out as quick as possible. So I will with that move it, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully we can get past this and get on with the next issue.

Mr. Speaker: Ready for the question? All in favour? Opposed? Mark me down also as in opposition. Councillor Thomas and myself and Orlikow, just three. Okay. Item 2.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Item 2 - Award of Contract for Collection of Recyclables

Councillor Clement: I'm looking for this thing to come up here but it's not. There we go. Okay, I will move this for the sake of getting it on the table, Mr. Speaker, being the Chairman of the Committee. When it was at Executive Policy

Committee, I moved non-concurrence with the recommendation and Executive Policy Committee did, in fact, concur with me voting in opposition, and if somebody wants to speak in favour of this, I'd be happy to step down and let them do that. That won't be where I'm coming from. So I'll put it on the table for a conversation piece and I can speak to it like anybody else.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, it's on the table. Who is going to speak in favour of item 2?

Councillor Clement: Or I can start and I can speak in negative.

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead, it's your Committee.

Councillor Clement: Well, I have a bit of a problem with this particular issue. It's all about money to me. It's not about whether the carts are a good thing or a bad thing and I don't know whether they are better than what we have. All I know about this particular system is that we've had a blue box system for a number of years, I think since 1995. I think that was the year we instigated it, and I know that there's a program change, the two-cent levy that is or has been in place for many years through the various store outlets and that type of thing is being discontinued by the Province of Manitoba. In fact, what they're going to do is they're going to get bottle companies, et cetera, to pay for their costs from their source or from their gross sales, and it will create a pool of money. I suspect it will be greater than what the two-cent levy was. They're going to dole that back out to the various municipalities including Winnipeg based on tonnages, is the way that they've explained it. The Administration told us at Executive Policy Committee last week that they believed that approximately 80% of the cost differential would be covered by that method. I don't know that they can etch that in stone for us or not, but it was their view nonetheless that that was the case. That still leaves approximately $2 million not covered if they're right. So it's more costly to have the cart system for recycling the 240-litre size than it is to stick with the blue box program. I get some calls about recycling. I'm sure everybody in this room gets the odd call about recycling, but I don't get many, and I honestly don't think that the system that we have is causing us much grief or any problem. There are some issues. I mean, I see them myself in the spring because I know that people sometimes put too many recyclables in their boxes and sometimes some of it blows around because they're not as careful as they should and that has to be cleaned up, and I know that it even causes problems out my way with spring runoff in culverts and things like that from time to time, but $2 million a year for this total thing is a lot of money. The other thing is it's a long-term contract as well because of the carts and the fact that they have to be purchased and rolled out. If we're going to look at a waste minimization strategy that's going to include organics and make some changes to the way that we both pick up garbage and recycling and organics and we're going to do that in the other four areas probably before we ever get back to the north area, it seems to me that entering into a long-term contract is the wrong thing to do. So everybody will have a difference of opinion on this like many other things here, but so to me, a) it's not broke, it's $2 million that we could use for something else, and I'd rather do something a little easier that we would be able to switch up because we go to the carts. Because of the investment, we're not going to be able to go backwards. If we stay with the blue boxes we can probably negotiate our way into something a little different and a little stronger strategy that deals with organics and still have a bit of money in our pocket. So that's why I'm landing where I'm landing, Mr. Speaker, and why I intend to vote against the recommendation.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi. Pardon me?

Councillor Clement: The cart recommendation.

Mr. Speaker: Right. Councillor Gerbasi?

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not often I agree with every word that Bill Clement says but I think I do. But I mean, I have to say, I did go and speak quite at length at EPC as part of the discussion last week on all of the garbage issues that were before them, and it is a complex issue and you know, some of the things that are being brought in, it's not like everything is bad or anything. It's just that the problem is it's a dog's breakfast and there's not a plan, and that's been said, and I think everybody here is saying that they're not very happy with the process. What I haven't heard, though, is how are we going to fix that? I mean, we are locked into all these contracts and, you know, it's fine to say you don't like it and it's fine to say, you know, you'd like it to be different, but what are you going to do to make it different? I don't see anything changing here. I see us just continuing on. What the status quo that we're continuing on is is the lowest diversion rate in the country pretty much. I mean, we may be making a few minor improvements and I know the intention to do a better job is there and I know this Council cares about the environment and all of that, but you know the rubber hits the road with what you're actually doing, and unfortunately, we're doing very little and I really am pleased to hear Councillor Clement's comments and Councillor Swandel saying we must have a waste minimization plan, and I think we do. But here's the problem. We're about to lock in for eight years to a new system and I don't really see where the flexibility is going to be within that contract to bring in the system that we all want. I don't see where that flexibility is and it's only words to say you want that to happen if you make it impossible. You

know, I think…I guess since we're all so tired, I was going to go on extensively about what some other cities are doing. I'll try to keep it short. Edmonton's target is 90%, Toronto's is 70%, Winnipeg is at 17% right now. I mean that's something we have to do something about, and I think we're all starting to recognize that.

The eight-year contract, you know, I just want to point out, when we looked at changing our garbage system many years ago under Mayor Glen Murray, one of the issues was that, you know, we had to go…it was said that if we went automated, that would be the time to bring in the composting. You'd be bringing in different kinds of trucks, and you could do things which many other cities do where they bring in the composting and the recycling are picked up weekly and the garbage is picked up every two weeks, and then you actually save the money, you know, you can afford to do it. Things like that. That's what most other cities are doing, but here we are, we're bringing in City-wide automation in this one contract, if this is approved for the blue boxes, but we're not bringing in the composting. We're not bringing in the kitchen waste and yard waste composting. We're bringing in a little bit of yard waste composting in one contract area which is a step in the right direction, but it's piecemeal, it's one contract. Here's our opportunity to do something City wide, which I think is a really exciting opportunity which is why voting to lock in for eight years without that is kind of concerning, and I really, you know, I don't know how we can change that.

So also, I was disappointed. I guess I should have spoken to the organics collection thing earlier. I thought I'd speak to everything all at once, but that report didn't really fully examine the costs properly, and I think that's what we would… because it talked about…it didn't talk about picking up garbage every two weeks, for example, and other funding options that would help us and it didn't really examine the capital costs of building a facility and other things that we need to do. So my point here is that we don't really have the strategy, we don't have the research, we don't have a basis to go forward. We have a very old strategy and our Administration is working from that. We need to as the politicians here take the leadership, give the Administration the direction to do a thorough waste minimization plan. I thought that's what should be happening in Plan Winnipeg. I don't know exactly what is happening yet with the OurWinnipeg process, but I mean whether, you know, I don't think they are doing an extensive waste minimization strategy at this point. Do we need to go to the F.C.M. and get more green municipal funds? I'd be happy to work on that, to do that. That's why I moved a motion that was referred back to task our Administration to go to Public Works Committee, to task our Administration with bringing forth a strategy. If we need to get funding or whatever to do a real thorough strategy, let's do it, let's get on it because here we are, we're stuck with this. On the issue of the trucks going down both sides of the lane, I mean, I share the frustration. I can only imagine if this was brought into some parts of Fort Rouge and you had to put everything on one side of the lane. I'm sure people would be very unhappy. We'd have the same problems so I mean in solidarity with my friend from Daniel Mac and others who have problems, you know, I don't know. I don't have except in Armstrong Point right now which is in the front, I believe, so it's not the same issue for them, but I mean, this is all piecemeal from contract to contract. This is not how we should be running the City. We aren't able to do what we want to do as Councillor Clement expressed. We all want to do a lot more. We're also producing additional greenhouse gas emissions, doing extra runs on both sides of the lane. There's a lot of problems that have come forward including the costs. It isn't clear whether we're saving money and that's the problem with operating outside of a plan. If we had a plan, perhaps we could take some savings from, you know, like as Councillor Clement says, this system is costing us a lot more. Maybe we could have used some of that money to invest in a composting facility or something, I don't know. We don't have a plan, so I'm just guessing.

So anyway, it's been a really long day. I'm going to leave it there. I would like to be able to support automation, but I just can't support something that's without a plan, that's out of context that does nothing really for waste minimization, which is what this recycling contract is locking us in for eight years. You know, I really wish there was a way to support it. Please take the leadership to allow, to give the Administration some resources or support to go out and do a real plan in consultation with the community. As Councillor Clement said there's a lot of knowledge out there from people like Resource Conservation Manitoba and others. So let's get on with it because we aren't really getting on with anything except getting these contracts dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Like all my colleagues and everyone who has spoken today about all the changes that are proposed to solid waste system in the City, I'm utterly frustrated how the whole thing has rolled out. That said, I want to thank the Public Service for the phenomenal report they have put together regarding the collection of recyclables. They provide a lot of very good information in this particular report. They provided statistical information from both the public open houses where they did surveys as well as a third party Probe Poll that they had on behalf of the City of Winnipeg regarding people's background information.

Now, what's interesting is I went through this report and I read people's opinions and everything and the results I got as a decision maker here are very different from what the Public Service recommends in their recommendations. The good news I think for all of us is people want to recycle, people want to recycle more, and over time, people have been

recycling more. I mean, the first curbside recycling started publicly in the City in 1995. It was phased in City wide in '96, and the first full year of curbside recycling in the City of Winnipeg, a little over 23,000 tonnes was collected. Today approximately 45,000 tonnes is collected, almost doubling the initial program. So, again, people are recycling more and people want to recycle more. According to the Probe Poll, 93% of homes in Winnipeg recycle and 91% indicated that they are satisfied with the current program, and if you look at the statistics, you know, Canada wide, we fall in terms of participation rates, we are comparable to other jurisdictions. We're not off the scale. All those that indicate that they don't recycle, people who don't recycle, the number one reason isn't because they think that the boxes are too small. The reason they don't recycle is they don't have a blue box, at 43% followed by 22% who feel recycling is too complicated. When asked for suggestions on improving the program, people want to expand it to include more materials and they want better information on what materials in fact are eligible, because not everything is eligible. People want to know different jurisdictions have different things you can and can't recycle. Ours is better than some, but there are still a lot of materials that aren't eligible today. Additional capacity was only the third most cited complaint or request for an improved program here in the City of Winnipeg. At present, 71% of households indicate they have two or more blue boxes already. Again, every household was only given one blue box. These people have already…71% have purchased additional blue boxes at their own personal cost. The blue boxes are quite inexpensive. I believe we sell them at cost through Canadian Tire and through the water payment desk at the Administration Building; five bucks plus taxes. I think it's basically right at our cost. And 74% of people say they are recycling more than five years ago. So again, people are wanting to live more sustainable lifestyles and they're doing the right thing in their homes and I believe they are. This whole suggestion that people are trying to be waste maximizers or we're encouraging waste maximization, as my one colleague who has stepped out had suggested publicly, I think is completely inappropriate.

32% of surveyed respondents felt the new carts would be more difficult to use, although some did feel they would be recycling more, a significant number there, 36%. However, when they were presented with options, the alternative of providing every household with an additional blue bin was not presented. Why not scale up and have a third or a fourth blue bin. If these things cost five bucks a pop, if you look at the 265,000 households that we service, you're only looking at a total cost of approximately $1.3 million if everybody took up the option. I think one of the most concerning, some of the more concerning stats are with these carts, 52% are concerned about their carts being lost or stolen. When you look at the City's core, that number rises to 68%. People are worried about these carts. My understanding is if your cart is vandalized, if it's stolen, if it's damaged by the crews doing the collection, it's replaced, otherwise, people are responsible for the replacement of the cart. If that happens, 34% say they would stop recycling altogether, 32% would find alternate ways to recycle. Only 12% identified themselves as purchasing a replacement cart. That's worrisome. If you're worried about people not recycling and worried about participation rates going down, that's a very scary situation, especially in areas where the possibility of cart fires and things like that are serious, you know, possibility. Again, we haven't really provided free bins since the program launched in '96-97. And with the current program, there's still confusion about what happens if you lose your bin or if your bin is damaged? If you have a damaged bin, you call 311, they'll replace your bin for you. Is that very publicly promoted or advertised? No. Do they advertise the fact that we have bins at cost available both here and through Canadian Tire? No. City of Ottawa has a very good documentation. I passed through their City Hall a couple summers ago. Great information. Here's what you can recycle. Nice little fridge magnet. Here's a tiny little card that you can keep around. Very easily explains what you can and can't recycle. What to do if you're new to Ottawa and you need a bin and you don't have one. You can get a code from 311 and then go, in Ottawa you can go to Rona to get a free bin, actually, is the way they do things in Ottawa.

Some of the problems I believe with the garbage contracts in northwest Winnipeg are the same as the garbage cart program, sorry recycle program promoted here. It's one size fits all. No two families are alike. A family of, well, a household of two as we are, this bin is huge and horkin' and it's going to be in our backyard. We don't have a big garage. It's going to take up a lot of room. Our driveway isn't huge. When we're leaving in the morning, if we have two of these big 240-litre bins, we're going to have trouble maneuvering around. We're going to have to maneuver out and then move these things back around. Well, in the winter it's certainly challenging with two of these bins on the driveway because you have nowhere else to store them. For some people, it may not be enough. Looking at my own street today, it's recycling day in my neighbourhood, I think there's some people who would have trouble fitting a 240-litre bin. That's a good problem because they're trying to live a sustainable lifestyle in many respects, but again, the notion that all families are created the same, I think we're just setting ourselves up for problems here without providing the alternative of different sized bins. What about people's existing collections of bins. Again, a lot of people on my block have four or five blue bins out on a typical recycling day. Are we going to provide a program to go and collect people's old bins to find a recycling solution for them? It's not suggested or recommended or detailed in this report. And ultimately, the cost. While again, there's all sorts of discussion about the cost of this program being 80% covered by another level of government, whatever. The reality is there's one taxpayer at the end of the day and one user of whatever materials you're using, whether it's newspapers or pop cans or other recyclable materials, spaghetti sauce, who knows. The reality is the proposed alternative, the recommended alternative here, weekly 240-litre collection on two sides and having lanes, two-sided service, costs significantly more than the current status quo program that people like. If you include the cost of the carts, and again it's just over $9 million to purchase outright, and a capital cost. It's suggesting the amortized

carry-over for the seven and a half year contract of just over $1.2 million, you're looking at an increased cost of $1.6 million per year for a program that 90 plus percent of people like today. What else do 90% of people agree on and like about City services? This is a program that today is already working quite well.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Browaty: The other modification that some jurisdictions have had, and one complaint that, you know, Councillor Clement was alluding to with the notion of Spring and materials being around the neighbourhoods, is you can get a little cover. I called it at EPC a babushka. They got a chuckle out of that one. It's a little rubberized thing that you can put on top of it, on top of your blue bin. It's rubberized. Recycling people, as they're pouring it in, the thing pops open. It's made out of material that you can throw in your washing machine. I saw a company with them at F.C.M. but apparently a number of Ontario jurisdictions have given these out to residents in order to address the problem. Again, significantly less cost than the $55 required or so for the carts.

Again, I think if we want to have better participation rates, we need to look at multi-family dwellings and find better ways to encourage them to recycle. We need to find ways to inform people about what materials are recyclable and how they can be recycled. If people don't have the capacity, they don't have a bin if they want to recycle more, provide everybody with the opportunity for another bin, we can get a much better result at a lower cost. So again, I will not be supporting the administrative recommendation on the recycle contract. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. I rise…I'm not going to be supporting the clasue before us Mr. Speaker. I support recycling like I think most members of Council, but the reality is, Mr. Speaker, I think we are losing an opportunity here. Following the motions coming out of the Standing Committee of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, it's clear that the intent on the Committee, the direction is a will to move towards a comprehensive waste reduction strategy, and really, that's not where we're going. I supported the previous clause because of the fact that it's better than nothing. I pushed for going back to 2004, moving a motion in 2004 to have a Spring organic pickup or depot, actually, a Spring depot, and that was established last year. It took five years and motions being moved out of Community Committee to Standing Committee, but it was established last year, that we just don't have the Leaf It Program in the Fall, but we also have the depot system in the Spring which was an improvement. The clause that just got passed was an improvement. But Mr. Speaker, we're talking about spending approximately a million dollars more from our manual collection system. What are we getting in the end? We're basically getting the same system. The process here, Mr. Speaker, seems to be driven by the method in which we're picking up the garbage rather than the goal being waste minimization, waste reduction and diversion from our landfill. I can tell you that we're not re-inventing the wheel here, Mr. Speaker. The cities across Canada are now leading the way when it comes to looking at methods and ways to introduce and reduce waste going into landfill. And we recently as a Council passed a waste…a greenhouse gas reduction strategy and a community one, which we're still waiting for the report on, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the amount of waste going in the landfill directly impacts our greenhouse gases and the CO2 is going into the atmosphere. A City of a population of 750,000, estimates about 28,000 and 125 tonnes produces about 84,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent a year. I mean, it's massive, Mr. Speaker, the amount of waste, the amount of CO2 that we're creating by going directly into the landfills, that we could if we took steps to divert it.

City of Ottawa has just established a compost program starting…or organics pickup program starting in January city-wide. They're doing it every two weeks in the wintertime, once a week in the summertime. They're actually going to take the product and turn it in to compost which they can then turn around, Mr. Speaker, and sell. The City of Kingston, actually, has introduced a program, and believe it or not, they actually turn around and went and sold the rights, advertising rights to the front of their bin. The newspaper there bought the rights. I don't know what they paid for it, but it's stamped right on their bins, the newspaper, the main paper in Kingston, Ontario, I'm sure Mr. Laubenstein knows which main paper that is, so you know they looked at creative ways to try to pay for this and they're doing that, but they also have a comprehensive program, Mr. Speaker. The goal should be waste minimization, waste reduction and diversion from the landfills, and that should be the main reason we should be here today discussing this issue. We're just talking here about simply moving from one type of cart to another. I don't see it being productive. Let's put our energies into waste reduction. I think that's what people want. They want those types of options. A lot of people are trying to compost now in their own yards and we do offer the compost program with selling the backyard composters, but the reality is, Mr. Speaker, we also know that to get higher levels of participation, one of the key ways to do that is through a curbside pickup program, which, by the way, we would now have more supportive funding from the Province than ever before. So there is a cost of getting up and going. A $5 million cost estimated in the previous report to get it up and going, to build an organics, to be able to process and an estimated $5 million cost to run it but Mr. Speaker, I guessed for across the entire City. Those are estimates, but, Mr. Speaker, the benefits I think to the City are great. The benefits to our climate change initiative is great and we should just get on with doing it and have a comprehensive waste

reduction strategy. By coming along and saying this is how we're going to do it, and I appreciate they had consultations. They had mine Friday night in my community. You know I mean, if you're going to get folks involved, you don't come out on a Friday night, but I guess that's when they tagged it to the Plan Winnipeg consultation, but anyway, they're doing their best. We can do better, Mr. Speaker, and that's why, you know, I…frankly don't see the rationale and logic to spend another million dollars to be collecting recyclables when we can be looking at an organic system that's City wide and that's comprehensive, and it will cost more but at the end of the day Mr. Speaker, I think we'll be living up to our obligations as I previously mentioned. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let me just quickly address the…I'm glad that Council approved the collection on both sides of the back lanes. There was no doubt that was the right thing to do for all those citizens. That was something that was considered in the beginning and addressed as a problem. As I think Councillor Clement has said, sometimes Councillors are put in a position where they're between a rock and a hard place and have to make a decision at a specific point in time, and they had to do that. That certainly wasn't the best case scenario, and here we are again debating a very important issue, Mr. Speaker.

I think the first thing I want to say is I have seen these types of bins in many other cities and they work very well, and maybe some day, we'll have these bins. But, Mr. Speaker, when I've heard people talk about waste minimization or diversion from landfill, I'm sorry to my fellow elected Councillors that I don't think you're going far enough, Mr. Speaker. I think our goal should really be landfill elimination. If you look at every product on these tables, Mr. Speaker, there's carbon in everything, and if you have carbon, you can recycle it. That's just the reality of it, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's what we really should be going towards. As much as I like these, an eight-year contract is a long time. Many of us probably won't be here at that particular point in time, and I think we probably should be looking to the Administration, but to go the whole distance and to see and do what other cities are doing, Mr. Speaker. In some other places, they're actually taking products, recycling them, and turning portion of it into basically gas for the City vehicles. They're taking other projects, recycling them and putting for sale so they can be reused again. Mr. Speaker, I do believe at this stage of the game, we should look at the big picture, and our goal should be further than anyone else. We should be looking to see, and whether we accomplish it or not isn't important, but we should be thinking of no longer having landfill sites. That's where we should be going, and Mr. Speaker, I know the Administration has put a lot of hard work into this, and unlike the garbage, they actually had public consultation. Whether everybody could access it or not, I can't determine, but we know that people will come when they have the opportunity. I just think, Mr. Speaker, we should be actually looking to be leaders and not followers and there's no question right now we're following. Maybe it's time to regroup and see if we can have our Administration come up with a plan that makes sense. I'm sure the waste management company won't be happy but I think we should be looking to what's best for the City of Winnipeg and all the citizens, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement, you want to close on Item 2?

Councillor Clement: Well, I didn't move it, so I think I'll pass.

Mr. Speaker: Fine. Okay, we'll just call the vote now? A recorded vote has been called for. Those in favour of Item 2, please rise. In favour of...

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Fielding, Pagtakhan, Steeves, Swandel.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Gerbasi, Nordman, Orlikow, Smith, Thomas, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 4, Nays 10.

Mr. Speaker: What's the matter?

Councillor Clement: I'd like to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Yeah, go ahead.

Councillor Clement: Mr. Speaker, I would like to suspend the rules to make a motion that we ask our Administration to seek an extension to the existing contract for the blue box system so that we can get some…give us a little bit of time so that we can have a comprehensive review of a major waste minimization study.

Motion No. 6
Moved by Councillor Clement,
Seconded by Councillor Swandel,

That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to seek an extension to the current contract for approximately 6 months regarding recycling to allow time for a comprehensive recycling strategy to be developed.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, any discussions, Councillors? That motion will be…the motion will be written out right away. The motion to suspend the rules, all in favour? Contrary? Carried. On Councillor Clement's motion, you want to repeat it? Mr. Clerk, do you have it?

Councillor Clement: For what purpose? Well, the contract is up. So if we ask them to negotiate an extension of that which would give us some time to then work on a waste minimization strategy that we can bring back, then we can try and tie the whole thing together. So all I'm…instead of moving into a contract for us on the manual collection of blue boxes as an alternative to what we just voted down, ask the Administration to negotiate an extension of time for the existing contract of several months or whatever, whatever it's going to take to have a proper review of a waste minimization strategy and then bring it back as one package. That's what I'm talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Clement, you wanted it to come back to the Public Works?

Councillor Clement: Yes, well, that's where it should go.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, to Public Works.

Councillor Clement: Everything's going to have to come back here.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors, you've heard the motion. All in favour? Contrary? It's carried. The Clerk will have that motion written out. The motions, there's two motions here, motion number 1, Councillor Vandal is not here. Councillor Orlikow, you want to be a seconder for motion number 1? Moved by Councillor Gerbasi and seconded by you? Automatic referral. Motion number 3 is automatic referral.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Orlikow,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has one of the lowest waste diversion rates in Canada when compared to other major cities;

AND WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that a series of separate responses to expiring waste and recycling contracts is no substitute for systematic planning;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct the Public Service to develop a city-wide waste reduction plan in consultation with the public. This plan should consider all options for reducing waste including curbside organics pickup as well as bi-weekly collection schedules for some materials and include an early and orderly implementation schedule.

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,

WHEREAS Active Transportation has become an important part of urban life with growing public use and support;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg is a winter city which creates special challenges for active transportation by way of snow removal and ice control and that the existing city policy does not provide for the removal of snow from all pathways and

this greatly limits the ability for the public to enjoy these important amenities that improve our quality of life;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg now removes snow on some multi-use active transportation corridors, but does not remove snow and conduct ice control on walkways/paths within community parks;

AND WHEREAS funds have not been included in past budgets nor in the 2010 Preliminary Operating Budget for the removal of snow and ice control for both multi-use active transportation corridors or single use active transportation, such as walkways within community parks;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works voted on March 1, 2004 to add $200,000 to the 2004 Operating Budget for snow clearing of walkways within parks, but the recommendation was not included in the final budget adopted by Council;

AND WHEREAS the public service now estimates the cost of amending the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy to include snow clearing for walkways within parks and all multi-use active transportation pathways to be approximately $500,000.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council amend both the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy and the 2010 Preliminary Operating Budget to include $500,000.00 for the purpose of ensuring walkways within parks and all multi-use A.T. pathways have snow removal service.

Mr. Speaker: By-laws, none. Question period. Councillor Smith?

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Smith: Yes, Councillor Clement, you know when there is a problem, when there is a problem with garbage and they phone the 311 and they're told that it takes 15 days for someone to come and assess the situation, that's a fairly long period of time. I think when we're changing something over we should put more resources. Do you not agree? So we don't have to wait 15 days to look at a situation.

Councillor Clement: When I, I think I heard you say that when they phone 311, 311 is telling them that? 311 is putting the call through to the department and the department is saying it's going to take 15 days to investigate? No, I don't think that that's appropriate.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors, we have three minutes. Any further questions? If not, let's continue.

Standing Policy Committee on Finance, no report, motions none, by-laws none, question period. Anything on questions to Finance Committee? None. Downtown Development, Councillor Swandel, Report of February 1.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour. Contrary? Carried. By-laws, none. Question period, none. No, hang on. Council Secretariat Committee.

**REPORT OF THE
COUNCIL SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

Mr. Speaker: I've been advised and I have here that the Executive Policy Committee has laid over that report, report of February the 8th of 2010. One minute to go. Who's going to move adjournment? Councillor Swandel moves adjournment. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Roll call. What a day.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Nordman, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Swandel, Wyatt, and Thomas.

Council adjourned at 5:58 p.m.