COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, January 26, 2011

The Council met at 9:31 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 Gerbasi.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Today we are joined by our page, Madison Fedyck from Glenlawn Collegiate. Welcome, Madison. Thank you for being here. (Applause) Madison resides in the North Kildonan Ward. And we also have some guests with us today, from Red River College, from across the street, we have a class from the Creative Communications Program and their Instructor Duncan McMonagle, so welcome, Red River. (Applause) Go Rebels. I would like Councillor Pagtakhan to Move the Minutes of our previous meeting of December 15th.

MINUTES

Councillor Pagtakhan moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on December 15, 2010 be taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Contrary? Carried. And we have no delegations, and so at this point I will invite the Executive Policy Committee Report and His Worship Mayor Katz.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JANUARY 12, 2011

Mayor Katz: Thank you. I introduce the Report of January 12, 2011 and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried. Thank you. Carry on.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JANUARY 19, 2011

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would like to introduce Report of January 19th and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 18.

Mr. Speaker You would like to stand something down Councillor Sharma?

Councillor Sharma: To speak in support of an Item.

Mr. Speaker: Alright, which one?

Councillor Sharma: Item No. 1.

Mr. Speaker: All right those in favour of 2 through 18? Opposed? Carried. Councillor Sharma.

Item 1 - Memorandum of Collaboration
Intergovernmental Agreement on Aboriginal Initiatives

Mr. Speaker: The Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Very briefly Mr. Speaker, this is something that last summer we signed with the other two levels of government. The whole purpose of this is to make sure that we're working in harmony and not being redundant on different programming which I think would be very beneficial to those who actually need some constructive things that need to be done to make sure we provide those that need it, hope and opportunity for a good life, and that's what's this is all about to make sure the governments are wisely spending those very precious tax dollars. With that in mind, I would love to hear from Councillor Sharma, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Sharma.

Councillor Sharma: Today Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this initiative. It is my hope the successful efforts of the Winnipeg Partnership will continue and the enhanced co-operation between the 3 levels of government through this memorandum will effectively address the needs in the aboriginal community. Not only do I recognize the social economic disparity facing our Aboriginal neighbours I also recognize that by setting our sights on these disparities we will hopefully address the roots of other problems, such as violence against aboriginal women and crime prevention itself. I look forward to seeing the 5 Year Strategic Plan and sincerely hope this collaborative effort will bare real positive results for Winnipeg and the Aboriginal community. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. No other speakers to that motion? All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

ADDENDUM REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED JANUARY 19, 2011

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I would like to move that the Addendum Report of January the 19th, Item No. 19, and that the rule be suspended and that Item 19…I'm hoping to have some discussion on it but I'll ask for it to be adopted by Consent.

Mr. Speaker: All right. We need two-thirds to suspend the rules.

Mayor Katz: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: All right. So all those in favour of suspending the rules? (Inaudible) Okay. We want a Recorded Vote. Those in favour of suspending the rules please rise. Thank you.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Clerk: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie…

Mr. Speaker: It's unanimous, Clerk. Thanks, Josie, all right. (Inaudible) Go ahead.

Item 19 - Winnipeg Police Service Complement – Additional Officers

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: First of all I thank Council number 1. Number 2, Mr. Speaker, as most everybody here on the floor of Council is aware of, we have some serious issues in our City and obviously crime and safety is number 1. After consultation with the Chief of Police, as well as Members of the Winnipeg Police Association, we obviously know that we have some areas we specifically need to deal with. One of them is the problem of gangs, and the only way that the men and women of the WPS can actually deal with gangs and to monitor gangs is to have more resources. We know our young people are basically being recruited by gangs. We know they are extremely vulnerable. I think Councillor Sharma pointed out that specifically young Aboriginal people are very vulnerable, and we want to make sure that the gangs do not get a grip on our young people, and we don't have to invest the kind of monies we do, to work against gangs for a long term. We want to make sure we deal with this in the short-term.

Vis-à-vis, part of this motion is asking for an additional 20 officers that would be dedicated to the Gang Unit. And hopefully, Mr. Speaker, we can have the same kind of success with the Gang Unit that we had with Auto Theft

Suppression, whereby we gave them the resources and auto theft dropped by 74%. That's our goal and that's what we want to do here. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I think if you talk to the citizens on the street, they want more feet on the street. They want to see a presence of police officers. I know everybody here was knocking on doors during the campaign, including yours truly, and I can tell you, there is nothing better than the presence of police officers and especially in some of the more volatile or at risk areas. That's what they want and that's what's needed. This Motion would basically contribute additional 20 officers to walking the beat, which everybody believes is a positive thing, at least on every door that I knocked on, Mr. Speaker.

And in addition to that, there have been many Councillors in the past here, who have said they want cruiser cars staying in their area. Only way to do that is to get more cruiser cars. What most people don't know, Mr. Speaker, it takes 18 officers to man a cruiser car. Vis-à-vis, 20, 20, 18, a total of 58 officers. I'm sure I'll get this question asked later so I'll share this information right now. The cost for 2011, for this Mr. Speaker, would be approximately $1.1 million, and that will be from the Operating Budget. With that I look forward to hearing from the rest of Council, Mr. Speaker and I certainly hope this will be supported unanimously. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I'm the first one?

Mr. Speaker: You're the first one.

Councillor Eadie: (Chuckles) I was hoping to be in the middle. I generally; I did knock on those; many of the same doors as the Mayor did and there really is a want from the people who voted in the last election, for us to bring more Police Officers into the force, in order to help Police our areas in communities especially at risk. There was also a lively discussion about how Police Officers should conduct themselves when they are; or how they should conduct their police work when they are, whether you say they're walking the beat or I say, implement more of a community policing base where people who are walking the beat, officers walking the beat are actually engaging people in a manner that is not necessarily aggressive, but in a manner that recognizes that we're all human beings and that you need to respect the law. Officers are respectful people, and that's a good way to work with people in the community. And I'm sure that; and I have confidence actually, in our Police; Winnipeg Police Services, to implement Foot Patrols that would work in that manner.

So, I think that this Motion is really good. It does have, however, a lot of financial implications involved with it, but before I speak a little bit on that, I am really interested in how we implement the trainees for this year. I think the dedicated officers for the Gang Unit are very important. The Foot Patrol Officers are very important, and I would from a perspective of a Councillor from Mynarski, I'm not sure that another Police Cruiser Car is necessarily great because technically, they're reacting, not being proactive; the other kind of officers we're talking about are proactive type officers, who are working at making sure that crime is not happening, whereas, Police Cruiser Cars usually they're just responding to calls. So; and when you're responding to calls, Police Officers have to be somewhat aggressive in dealing with those situations, and it's been my life experience and many people's live experience that the more aggression you apply, the more aggression that will be kicked back. And so that to me, is not necessarily a long-term solution to our problems.

Now, on the financial components to this, $1.5 million this year but moving forward, it is quite a lot of money that we will be spending more on in total 58, I'm sure it will cost somewhere once they are all online about $6 million a year. And so we need to be making sure we're planning; being fiscally prudent on how we deal with finding the money. But what I'm concerned about with this one and while I am very supportive of more Police Officers, I don't want people to think that this is the only solution to solving crime in our Inner City areas or for that matter, solving crimes that happen outside of our Inner City because crime does happen all over the City. So we do need to make sure that prevention mechanisms are also in place to deal with these issues, and so when we're looking at moving ahead with financial decisions, which this particular Item will have financial implications in the operating budget, we still need to be sure that we can continue forward with finding money for services like library services, providing more literacy say in the North End where we know that education and literacy are helpful and libraries can play a huge role in working on prevention measures, keeping kids out of gangs. We'll have 20 new Police Officers working on existing gang people, but we need to do the things that make sure that kids don't get into gangs, and we need to do the things necessary to ensure that older kids and youth are dealt with, too. So that's pretty well all I wanted to say on this, Speaker Nordman. The consideration of funding prevention is also something that needs to be done but I Stand in Support of this Motion for 58; well eventually, 58 new Police Officers.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you. (Inaudible) Comments to get on the record regarding the Police and additional Officers. I think one of the things that's important for us to be cognizant of is that one of the pieces you get when you add additional officers like this, is we get some greater value. The ability for the Police Department to manage the resources better, to eliminate some overtime. So yes, there are some costs but you'll also see some value and hopefully some reduction on the overtime side that with the extra bodies, are able to manage the resources and maintain not just the same level but a higher level of service to our citizens.

We all agree that gangs are an issue that we need to be doing more and more and you know, we see them from specific sort of prongs, you know there is aboriginal gangs, immigrant gangs, and there's great changes that happen. So, we need to be adding, we need to be changing, we need to be adapting, but we also need to be measuring our results. You just can't just keep spending money on Police Officers and not getting the results. So I'm trusting that with our service-based budget process and that look that we will see these numbers likely did with the Auto Theft Reduction Program, that we were quite; it was quite visible, the difference that that program made.

The other piece that's important; is that you can't just be spending on Police Officers. This has to very much be an integrated approach. We need to have the programs that are there as alternatives in these communities and resources to ensure that we have healthy families that are able to look after their own children, and to bring the resources into these communities. The City has shown great leadership. We were looking at programs like our Look Safe programs starting off there was Councillor Sharma, talked about our Partnerships with the Federal and Provincial Government on Aboriginal issues. The Mayor's Aboriginal Youth Strategy that started a couple of years ago. We've really been taking the lead. It was unfortunate this morning to see a headline in our newspaper that there is an erosion of Federal funding in some of those programs. It's not just about policing, it's not just about finding a bad guy and putting him in jail or a bad girl and putting her in jail, it's about trying to make healthy communities, getting those people back into the communities and strong families, getting them ownership in their community. You go into a lot of the most troubled areas and you find it's just transitional housing. People are going through these houses maybe staying in them for a year and then on to the next community or on to the next house. You got to get people anchored in these communities. Like in the days when they were built. You think about the North End was like back in the 50s and 60s with these waves of immigration and hard working people that put their children into higher levels of education. We did that as a community and there was police presence and there were issues. We've got to be that robust, we've got to be not just on the police end, we've got to be there and we've got to be there with our partners. There was a mention; somebody mentioned; I think Councillor Eadie mention being proactive and it's important to realize that it's not just in policing that you have to be proactive. A lot of this programming is the proactive piece. So that is; that is probably the greatest proactive piece is let's stop it before we need the police and you do that by having healthy communities and healthy families.

One caution I have and I don't; it's hard it say this without maybe offending the Province a little bit but I've been known to do that in the past, so why stop now. This idea of a Police Commission coming at us, and greater provincial control over our Police Department, and how we spend our Police Budget, I'm a little leery that as we step out doing this, which we know is the right thing to do and we'll find a way to get it done because it is the number 1 concern of most citizens in the City of Winnipeg, it is crime and safety. But as we go forward, we have to ensure, we have to know that the Province will respect that we are on the right track with our Police Department. We are making a difference, we are bringing change, we are getting a safer community. And they've got to stay away from the political spending, to be seen to be doing stuff. The political parochialization of dollars that don't necessarily make sense. They have to let us make these decisions and do it in a way that we can manage; and is affordable for our citizens. The taxpayer; that's one taxpayer at the end of the day but, we ultimately bear that burden. So I hope we tread cautiously and I hope the Province treads cautiously as we move into this new era of a little more provincial control with the Police Departments and that we're able to maintain the value, and we're measuring and getting the successes that we've set out to do. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Swandel. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'll be supporting this as well. Today, basically what we're supporting is more Police Officers and that's pretty hard to oppose. I don't know why; we all want more. I certainly have spoken frequently about needing Foot Patrols back in some of our neighbourhoods, in my area that's certainly a very big issue. However, one; I just wanted to point out, those of us who are not currently involved in Operating Budget process until it's released to the media, don't really know how this is going to be addressed. The Mayor has given us a number of 1.1 million just now, but, where is that 1.1 coming from? We do know we started with an $80 million shortfall when we went into the Operating Budget process. I'm supportive of having this but I think we are going to have to see some fiscal accountability and sustainability.

Councillor Swandel made some really good points as did Councillor Eadie, about the fact that it's not just about enforcement in terms. It actually is about reducing crime. And also, the point about evaluation of how effective our measures are has come up and that's a very important point. Are we evaluating based on how many police we have or are we evaluating it on the crime being reduced? And I think that's how we should be looking at it. So, I also am very concerned about; and wanted to mention the Federal Policy right now of ending Gang Prevention Programs. We are having to step in as the City. I know the Mayor made a commitment which I really appreciate, for the Just TV program on West Broadway which is a wonderful program that prevents crime from happening in the first place. But, there is many other programs being cut by the Federal Government. They are spending huge dollars building new jails but there is very little happening on the other side, in terms of you know, cuts that we know about to the National Crime Prevention Council, and other things that are of great concern on the National Level. As your FCM Member I can tell that's been on our Board Agendas. This is the other side of the equation and I appreciate what we're doing today, we do have issues in Winnipeg we have to deal with, but we have to find a way to pay for it that doesn't take away from things that also reduce crime, and I just hope that that's what's being considered right now for those of you who are working on the Operating Budget. So that was; and a bigger and bigger percentage of our budgets are going into enforcement. So, with that, you know we have to find ways. I agree with the Partnership idea, the thing passed earlier, to work with the other levels of government but the other level of government in terms of the Federal Government is not going in that direction. They're not going in the direction of crime prevention, they're going in the direction of punishment and enforcement only, it seems like we're reducing their input into the other side.

So that was my point. I really look forward to seeing how this will be accomplished in the budgets when they are shown to us, because we know there has been talk of no tax increase. We have to do this for more than this year. We have to do this going on. Once you hire police officers you have to fund them many years going forward in the future. And just on my last point, the Federal Government, I know the Mayor earlier had talked about accessing Federal Government funds for some of this. I don't know if that's still on, or if that's still a possibility. But that funding has not really had a lot of take up from municipalities across the country because it's short-term. It's basically a year or two and then it's gone. Meanwhile as a City or Municipality you've hired Officers and their salaries have gone up and nobody wants to cutting hose Officers a year or two down the road. So we really have to look longer term than making it through this budget. If we're going to increase; we're not just adding officers but increasing the complement. So, we have to pay for this going forward for decades unless we're going to start cutting Police and I don't think any of us want to be doing that. So, those are some thoughts I just wanted to put on the Record. I appreciate the effort and I look forward to seeing what the financial plan is to cover this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gerbasi. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Mr. Speaker, you know, I'm definitely supporting adding more Police Officers but I'm also concerned with the Federal Government's position of cutting the funding for these four agencies that in effect, foster a campaign to prevent kids from entering gangs. I'm wondering what we as a City have done to communicate with the Federal Government about our concern about the shortfall for these agencies? That's what I'm concerned with. We all say we're concerned with gangs but here is a measure where the Federal Government has stopped their funding, and I think we could; we should be communicating with them how important it is for us to have these agencies flourish.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Orlikow. Thanks Councillor Smith.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to support this Motion but with reservations. My reservations stem from the fact that this Motion doesn't outline a few fundamental things. Such as really, what is this going to cost us in the end of the day, how much? I can estimate only through my extrapolations of whatever I've been giving because nothing is really written down. You're looking at $6 million at the end of this, plus equipment. So you're looking anywhere between 7 and $8 million for these Police Officers, which I believe would be money well spent. We indicated today that we heard that in the Operating Budget this year we're looking at an added $1.1 million. Again, that can be doable but again I don't know where the money is going to be coming from. I do believe that this Motion should have that for us. It's quite difficult to be making Motions and say we like the concept. We all like a lot of concepts in the City of Winnipeg but funds are limited and we have to make some tough choices. This is actually asking us to support something prior to actually knowing the financial implications of not only how much it will cost but where is the money going to come from? Are we going to be taking money away from other programs to try to balance our Operating Budget or are we going to be raising new revenue sources?

Again, I have to just sort of say I don't know. But again, the concept sounds wonderful because we do know that the citizens of Winnipeg are concerned about crime, we are all concerned about crime. We do know that we want to have neighbourhoods where everybody feels safe in their home. And, as many of us noticed walking door to door, for just the campaign during the campaign, unfortunately there are people living in their homes who are actually scared to go outside. That is not tolerable for a place like Winnipeg. We have it make sure that everybody feels safe to leave their

home. So we're here today to ask the trust that the funds will be available to pay for this and that this will be the best use of the monies, to make our neighbourhoods safer. Well, we will see and my continued support at that time will dependant on what programs, if any, are going to; the money will be taken from, and/or where the new monies will be coming from? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes Mr. Speaker, I too, rise to Support the Clause going forward, and I think there is no doubt that many of us have said that there is a need for resources for the Winnipeg Police Service. The challenges they're facing, the individual Members of the Winnipeg Police Service is sometimes, I think, hard for those who do not see it on a day to day basis, hard to understand or fathom. The Members of the Winnipeg Police Service live with these challenges day in and day out throughout our City. The fact that they put themselves in harm's way every day for the safety and protection of all of us, I think says a lot. The challenges that we're facing in terms of our City, are great. I think there's a need, Mr. Speaker, to ensure though that they have to, as we add these refer this to the budget, that we ensure that we can clearly state that this is going to be well used and efficiently used resources by the WPS.

We have, as has been pointed out, in the past, increased the complement by I believe it's 200 or over 200 since 2004, in additional officers. We have yet to increase the amount of Patrol Car areas in the City, we still have 27 Patrol Car areas, Mr. Speaker, and we've had them for the last 25 or 30 years. We have not adjusted that at all, even though our City has grown. We have not, Mr. Speaker, seen how those additional resources have been more visible, I'll put it this way, more visible in the trying times of day and night and some suburban communities that are pulled directly into the Inner City. We know this is what happens at those trying times, and we cannot blame the Winnipeg Police Service for this, Mr. Speaker, this is something which is beyond their control because of the calls that they're receiving, they have to respond. And there is no doubt that in the event of an emergency in the suburban community they will respond as well. But the presence that was typically there at times 30 years ago, is not there today, we know that.

We also know, Mr. Speaker, that just referring to a Report back, I think it was in March or April of last year, to the Standing Committee of Protection & Community Services, we know that just by using; by taking the numbers that have supplied to us by the Winnipeg Police Service, that they argued that an 190 additional Officers would, with additional equipment and other associated costs, it's totaling 17.6 or $17.7 million in 2011, and increasing to $19.1 million by 2015. Now I know the Mayor said that this cost is 1.1 million in 2011. This may be the case in terms of the fact that we have training classes and this is not coming on all at once, of course that's, I'm sure, factual. Of course we will see, I think, the full cost based on the Police Report here, Mr. Speaker, from last year. We will see the full costs of this come to bear in 2012. And probably not entirely full until 2013 as the hiring continues based on the numbers supplied to us by the Winnipeg Police Service. Based on these numbers, Mr. Speaker, you're probably looking in the neighbourhood of 5 to 7 million but basically what Councillor Orlikow was saying earlier in terms of the full cost, based on the Winnipeg Police Service's Report. So let's understand what we're adding to the budget here, Mr. Speaker, and the costs that we're adding to the budget based on the Winnipeg Police Service numbers of just last year.

I would also like it say, Mr. Speaker, that I think the challenges facing the Winnipeg Police Service are unique and for the Winnipeg Police Service, and Councillor Sharma spoke eloquently earlier about the Memorandum of Understanding that's been signed on Aboriginal issues. And we have that unique challenge in our City. We know this is a reality and it's often sometimes one of those issues that is not openly spoken about, but we know when we speak to the rank and file of the Winnipeg Police Service, this is one of the greatest challenges they face, in terms of one community in our City that has these challenges, for whatever reason, Mr. Speaker. And we know that this is something that the Winnipeg Police Service deals with day in and day out. I therefore, strongly believe Mr. Speaker, that we have to, at every opportunity and we have to show initiative here, the Mayor and Council, and EPC, to take this forward to the Federal Government. They have in many ways, Mr. Speaker, washed their hands of this matter. Indian and Northern Affairs, INACT, they have washed their hands of the reality, Mr. Speaker, of Aboriginal Manitoban, Aboriginal Canadians coming off reserve into the City. Now they're no longer on the reserve, they're no longer the responsibility of the attitude is of the Federal Government, and the assistance and the responsibility for services, Mr. Speaker. That is wrong. This has been offloaded directly onto municipalities and we, as Winnipeggers and as a City, have felt the brunt of that offloading, Mr. Speaker.

We have to address this problem with the Federal Government. The Federal Government is clear, extremely clear under the constitution of this Country, whose roles and responsibilities they are for Indian Affairs. It's the Federal Government of Canada, period. And we have to make them an equal partner, not just an equal partner, a lead partner, Mr. Speaker, in terms of solving this problem, this challenge we're facing. And it's not going to be solved overnight and it's not going to be solved solely by more police enforcement, Mr. Speaker. They have to be at the table now. So the Memorandum of Understanding is very positive, but surely Mr. Speaker, I read it, it's good intentions, Five Year Master Plan with annual time frame for plans of action, the reality is Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that that has to be

more urgent, in terms of how we deal with this challenge, Mr. Speaker. Because, adding another five or 6 or $7 million which we're doing by doing this today, Mr. Speaker, and putting it on the backs of the taxpayers, when we know a lot of these challenges are related to a community which is having these great challenges, because of a failure of leadership, by the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, this can't continue. And I'm not blaming the existing party in power, this has been going on for decades. I'm not being political. I want to make that very clear. This has been going on; as a matter of fact, I think the existing Federal Government has been making some positive strides in the right direction in terms of INACT but we have to address this, Mr. Speaker. We cannot split hairs on this. We have to be prepared to say these things and to address these challenges we are facing, because we owe it to the individual members of the Winnipeg Police Service who, day in and day out, are out there putting their lives on the line. That their children and our children will not have to be facing these challenges in the next generation. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks, Councillor Wyatt. Any further comments? Councillor Havixbeck.

Councillor Havixbeck: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I too support the 58 additional Police Officers. I did so pre-election, and I do so now. In discussions with both the Police Chief and the Winnipeg Police Association prior to the election, throughout the election period, I heard much of what everybody else at this table heard. More people on the streets, more resources to free up Police Officers to do actual policing. And I think the 18 Police Officers that would be dedicated to one cruiser car that would operate 3 shifts, 24/7, 365, is essential. Resources towards gang enforcement and gang strategies is critical. You may say or people may say you come from Charleswood/Tuxedo where the average income there is the highest in the City. Yes, I do. However, I have noticed the disparity growing between the highest earners and lowest earners. For the first time in record history, in Charleswood, we now have two food banks. So we are seeing the disparity and the poverty growing in all areas of our City and I think it's imperative think of we continue with a two-pronged approach, that being more policing, more enforcement and more resources, more programs for kids for youth at risk and more Aboriginal strategies.

In my prior work as a consultant, I worked with Peguis, Fisher River and I understand and can appreciate the culture shock of young adults coming to the City to try to take post-secondary education to try to further their opportunities for themselves. This is compounded into a mess of poverty in an area, the North End and the core area, where I have grown up. But we're seeing it city wide. So, I encourage those Councillors around the table who maybe, perhaps, have dismissed this or see it as excessive costs, that it is part of a two-pronged strategy to bring in more programming at a policing level but also at a program option level for young people. I think kids at young ages are all enticed to be involved in gangs and at younger and younger years as young as 10 years old. And so City wide we have to combat this. Just in terms of what the Police Association tells me, the number of Police Officers per population, Winnipeg is still fifth behind Toronto, Vancouver, Hamilton and Montréal. Yet Winnipeg has the highest in violent crimes. I think it's imperative, Mr. Speaker, that we pay attention to these statistics and that we address them, and this is a positive step towards making improvements in our City and our streets safer. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Mr. Mayor, would you like to close?

Mayor Katz: Yes, I would Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much and thank you to all Members of Council for sharing their thoughts as well as their concerns. First of all, a few facts, Mr. Speaker, on the numbers. The exact number for 2011 would be $1,167,707 not 1.5 million. And number 2, at the end of 2012, the number would be $4,024,734, not 6 million. Those are the numbers, so everybody has access to those numbers. I would like to share something with a lot of Members of Council and I'm sure many of them are aware of this. When one graduates from training as a Police Officer, your starting salary is approximately $40,000. I wonder how many of us would leave our home to go to our shift, leave our loved ones, wondering whether or not we're going to be back, for $40,000 per year? I can guess what the answer would be, but I won't, we can all say it to ourselves.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments. What we're doing here is addressing one side of the equation. And Council will continue to invest money in recreation programs, continue to extend hours afterschool for children at risk. Continue with Live Safe. There are programs and I think everybody here knows we need more of them. Mr. Speaker, when I was the age of most of the people behind me in the Gallery, we used to have Police Officers walking the beat, all year around. Some may remember those buffalo coats and hats. And you know what? In my neighbourhood in the North End, my bike was always left in the front yard and never disappeared. The front door was always open, never locked and if it was locked, everybody knew the key was under the mat. Police presence did have an impact. No question, times have changed, but it worked back then and it will work again.

The realities are, Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of attending a function, with some other Councillors were there as well last night when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was in town. I got to sit with Chief Hudson from Peguis, the largest reserve in Winnipeg, I believe. We talked about the aboriginal issue. We talked about the fact that prison population is approximately 70% Aboriginal and Métis. And we talked about why that is. And it's quite simple, Mr.

Speaker. When a thousand people, which is what the Chief told me, had left his reserve to come to Winnipeg, do they come here with training? Do they come here with education? Do they come here with hope? Do they come here with opportunity? Sadly, we know, that's not the case and that's something we all have to work on. And I don't mean just City Hall, I mean everyone. The Federal Government, the Provincial Government, the Corporate Community, private citizens, faith-based organizations, that's a responsibility for everybody, and that's the only way we can address that situation. Mr. Speaker, the realities are, there are costs to doing good things, and that money comes out of the Operating Budget. And I think every Councillor here, and every Mayor right across the country, knows that we need to get a larger percentage of growth revenue. Right now, we get 6.5 cents out of every tax dollar. No city, no municipality can provide everything they need to provide and also see more downloading which some has been discussed here today, and make it happen. We need our share, our fair share of growth revenue. And if that doesn't happen, which I believe it will, every municipality, every City in Canada, will be in trouble. I certainly hope that everybody supports this. I think it's definitely the right way to go, and we should all know it is a two-pronged approach. One is to deal with issues of crime right now and make sure citizens are safer; two, is to make sure we give the opportunities for our children to have good productive lives, stay out of gangs, stay out of crime, give them hope, give them opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Great comments from everyone today, thank you. I'll call the question. All those in Favour? Opposed? Motion Carried.

Mr. Speaker: We have a motion from Councillor Gerbasi and Councillor Orlikow. Automatic Referral, all right. And we have some By-laws, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

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

WHEREAS a Parking Strategy report was prepared with extensive public consultation in the first 6 months of 2010 at a cost of $134,000;

AND WHEREAS an expert panel was assembled and the project was endorsed by the International Downtown Association (IDA) and the International Parking Institute (IPI);

AND WHEREAS the results of the study have not been made public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Parking Authority / IDA/ IPI Advisory Panel report be made available to all members of Council and the public at the next Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development meeting.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the following By-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 3/2011 and By-law No. 4/2011.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 3/2011, By-law No. 4/2011.

Mayor Katz: I move that By-laws No. 3/2011 and 4/2011 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law's No. 3/2011 and 4/2011.

Mayor Katz: I move the rule be suspended and By-law's No. 3/2011 and 4/2011 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried. Question Period for Mr. Mayor. Councillor Gerbasi.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. During the debate in May over the Veolia Contract, many of us argued that the final decision for the Wastewater Treatment Upgrades should be deferred until the details of the contract could be made public. The point was that the public has a right to know the details and how much it was costing us before we signed on the dotted line. My motion to defer the matter until full public disclosure could be provided was defeated. At that time, it was argued by those who opposed that Motion that we were in a severe time crunch. It was also argued that the Province would come down harshly and punish us if the work didn't get underway as soon as possible. In July of 2009, an Ad paid for by the City of Winnipeg to promote this process, which was in the Free Press here, a full page ad, "The clock is ticking. We must begin immediately to meet the deadline set by the Province."

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question Councillor Gerbasi?

Councillor Gerbasi: I have a two-minute preamble Mr. Speaker.

(Inaudible speaking in the background)

In a recent newspaper article, I'm almost at the question, in the recent newspaper article, our negotiator on the contract, Mr. Gray, is quoted in reference to the Sewage Plant upgrades as saying "That's urgent. That has to happen right away. The other stuff is sitting." meaning the Utility issue can wait but the upgrades are urgent, yet in the proposed Capital Budget that was tabled last week after those comments were made, the upgrades are deferred for a year, so I guess I'm curious that we are not in so much of a hurry after all. My question to the Mayor is this: Is there not a link between the deferral of this project and the fact that the Veolia contract negotiations are not yet complete?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Katz: Short answer is no, Mr. Speaker, but I will certainly speak a little bit more on that. First of all, Mr. Speaker, we have had considerable debate on this topic. That's number 1. Number 2, there has been many comments made by elected officials and others about this contract, which of course were inaccurate. Many said it had been signed which it hasn't been signed. I believe everybody knows right now that there are negotiations taking place. Basically, the bottom line, I would like to think that people would understand that this is extremely complicated, that's number 1. We're also looking for results and performance, and I believe we have some very competent people doing these negotiations along with legal counsel, but the facts are, Mr. Speaker, you know, I have to make one comment on Councillor Gerbasi's question and preamble, you know, about the public having a right to know. I'd like to think that when the City of Winnipeg sold Hydro, one of our greatest assets, the public had a right to know, yet there was zero, zero debate, walked on this floor of Council and supported by the Councillor. So let's not play games, Mr. Speaker. This is a very unique, distinct issue, extremely complicated. And as far as deferral, Mr. Speaker, I have made it very clear to anybody that listens, that as Mayor of this City, and with my one vote, I have absolutely zero intention of flushing millions of dollars of taxpayers money down the toilet when it comes to the North End Sewage Treatment Plant as far as the removal of nitrogen. The top scientists have come to Winnipeg and shared their views, and someone's got to listen, because we're all talking about money and where it's coming from. Is there nobody here who is concerned about hundreds of millions of dollars not only being spent foolishly, but harming the environment? I hope so, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you. The media has also reported that the City of Winnipeg spent $593,000 last year to select Veolia Canada as the Sewage Treatment consultant and negotiate the contract. That seems like a lot of money and furthermore we still have no contract and the project is now deferred. Will the Mayor please reassure the citizens of Winnipeg that we aren't throwing money; good money after bad in this negotiation? Is a deal going to be reached with Veolia at all, and if so, in what time frame?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the only money that would be thrown out would be if we spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the removal of nitrogen, that's number 1. Number 2, as I said earlier, we have extremely competent people doing these negotiations. Neither you, me or Councillor Gerbasi are part of these, and I have no doubt in my mind that they will come to a fair deal for both parties. That's what it's all about, Mr. Speaker, a fair deal for both parties so we can move forward and save the City significant dollars. That's what it's all about.

Mr. Speaker: Last question.

Councillor Gerbasi: The Report which recommended supporting this Veolia agreement in the first place promised 10 to 20% savings on the Sewage Treatment upgrades. With the high cost of lawyers' fees and close to $600,000 we spent last year just to procure the deal, my question is, how much will these high procurement of legal costs as well as deferring the project for a year cost to the taxpayers of Winnipeg?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think you have to look at the big picture, okay. We're looking close to a billion dollar project. It's a lot of money that we're looking at. So if you look at that and say how much we spent, we haven't really spent that much. That's number 1. And number 2, sometimes you have to look at an expenditure, is it an investment or not? If these people help us get the right deal, we've spent our money wisely, and that's what this is all about.

Number 2, Mr. Speaker, you have to understand that based on a performance-based contract, the whole idea, we built our own treatment plant. We know what it cost us. It costs millions of dollars a year to maintain it. If they can save us money, is it a good deal, Mr. Speaker? I'd say it is, and we'll reap the benefits. The biggest concern we have right now, Mr. Speaker, is the hundreds of millions of dollars that people are telling us we have to spend to remove nitrogen, which is not necessary. That's the biggest concern we have.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. Lots of demands on the City for money and I'm really appreciative that the Mayor has really set the direction for collaboration with other levels of government in order to deal with crime and preventing crime with this Memorandum to collaborate with others to solve some of the Aboriginal issues that exist in our Inner City, starting hopefully, with the; in the North End and the; also we have a program we looked at Community Services in which early years, trying to prevent, and get involved in recreation, involved with kids who have initially started to be involved in crime but are actually being redirected into getting involved with recreation, and we are, as a City, working with the Province's Turnabout Program to make that accomplished, and you know, kudos as well to the officer who works on this kind of stuff from the Winnipeg Police Services. However, these things have not any; committed any new money towards the prevention of any kind of crime or any kind of problems that may exist, and so, because they're just reutilizing resources that we already have available to us, and I would also note that there is a huge need for other services in terms of money. So my question really; oh, the Mayor had also in his campaign, I believe and I could be corrected but I believe it was $1 million to extend the Openings of Recreation Centre's for Youth to keep them out of trouble, and but really, my question really is this: I don't think that any of that is really new money. In order to come to the table and improve and expand more prevention, can you tell me where we're going to find some actual new dollars to go into prevention programs that are really needed to keep people out of crime in the first place?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you I thank Councillor Eadie for the question. Number 1, Mr. Speaker, I have to disagree. There is new money. It was just mentioned earlier that we're planning to; the commitment made by Councillor Gerbasi to "Just TV", a successful program that takes children who are in gangs off the streets, okay. Basically utilizes the talent that they were given for music and film making, et cetera, and as a result, some of them are moving on to University and getting scholarships; a program that's working. Made a commitment of $150,000 to that program which was mentioned earlier, no longer had funding. That would have to be new money, Mr. Speaker. To keep some of our existing programs running longer hours, that would have to be new money. There is new money that's committed, Mr. Speaker, and I think every Councillor here has already been contacted by me or by my office to meet with me on the Operating Budget and to discuss their concerns and hopefully concerns like that will come out. Mr. Speaker, there definitely is new money, okay. The bottom line is, we don't have a lot of money. So we have to use what we have wisely, just like anybody else working with a budget, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Second question Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Speaker Nordman thanks. The answers are really good. In terms of Aboriginal Strategies and money and that sort of thing, I know that the Aboriginal Youth Strategy started out about ten years ago and a lot of things have been implemented under our current Mayor and I think that's great. But you know, there's other things that we need to look at. The Winnipeg Public Library is always looking at cutting back on staffing and that sort of stuff, and I think there's going to be pressure again this year on them but, can we actually find some more money to ensure that there is staffing to bring literacy, to bring books to the people who live in these very communities that we signed a memorandum on? As was mentioned, Chief Peguis talks about there is no education for these people. They have no literacy when they come here. They can't find jobs. So are we going to be able to find more money for Winnipeg Public Library Services to deliver a better service to them?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you to Councillor Eadie I thank him. Mr. Speaker, in the past we have added funding to the Winnipeg Public Library system. Councillor Pagtakhan was a champion of that and fought hard for that and we will continue to do that. We've extended hours and we will make as many amenities available as possible. That's something we've done in the past and will continue to do in the future. I think it is extremely important, no question about it.

Mr. Speaker: Final question?

Councillor Eadie: Thanks for the answer, I appreciate it. I guess my final question, and thanks for the opportunity to give some input into the Operating Budget, and these are ideas I will be bringing forward.

The final question that I have is about; you know what? Never mind. I'm not going to ask it.

Mayor Katz: I can answer that one. (Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Thanks Councillor Eadie. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Mr. Mayor, I want to ask you a question I think is an emergency situation. There are over 500 reported cases of bed bug infestation; situations to Environmental Health. Have you spoken to the Premier? Have you spoken to the Minister of Health? Have you told them about the urgency of this matter?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker through you I thank Councillor Smith, and I agree. It's an extremely serious issue. I can tell you about at least two weeks ago, I was scrummed by the media on that topic and we declared it a serious issue at that particular point in time, and what I said then is obviously, you know, it's in the realm of the Province of Manitoba but I also felt the City should stand by and basically assist in any way, shape or form that we can. You know lately, I can tell the Councillor that I've been speaking to the Premier almost on a daily basis on many topics, but this is something that, unfortunately, it continues to grow, and there is no question that all levels of government should do everything we can to address that issue, as well as landlords, et cetera, et cetera. There is no question it's going to take money, but the bottom line is we all need to do our part and I agree with Councillor Smith as I did two weeks ago. It's a serious issue.

Councillor Smith: I'd like an answer. Have you talked to the Premier and the Minister of Health about the bed bug situation?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: To get specific, Mr. Speaker, actually we're drafting a letter because quite often its better in writing than it is the spoken word, and I'd be happy to share that with Councillor Smith.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, can you let Council and citizens know when the City is planning to launch an overall communication plan to promote all of the Active Transportation paths and how cyclists, motorists and pedestrians should share them?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think as Councillor Orlikow is aware of, that we are doing everything we can at this particular point in time, to educate the public and enlighten them about Active Transportation. That's number 1. Number 2, as you know, with the significant investment made through Stimulus Funding, there certainly were some missed steps along the way in my humble opinion. I think we are trying to address them and make sure that is not repeated in the future. The scenario is, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Active Transportation, it would be nice if I decided I could ride my bike or jog or blade from my home to Councillor Wyatt's to Councillor Steen's to Councillor Gerbasi's, she is not that far away, to every Councillor here. I think we'd all like that opportunity, and that's what we want to have for the City. The bottom line is, Mr. Speaker, it's extremely difficult for us to accomplish those goals because if you don't do it in the original planning, it becomes very, very difficult, and you never get buy-in from everybody. But I think we know that Active Transportation is a positive step and we want to continue doing that, and we have some wonderful people, volunteers working with different trails organizations that are helping as well and getting funding, so that's something we're going to continue. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you Mr. Mayor. I respectfully don't agree that the fact that we have been doing our best on the education side. It's been asked for, for some time, the date and has been promised that there is a tender out there

presently. That tender doesn't seem to be concluded or there doesn't seem to be any process in place to do that education. Schools have had to step up through promoting in their newsletters. People are asking me, pretty well daily, when we can expect it and I've gone through the proper processes. I've been told to by the C.A.O. and how to lobby and to make sure that happens. However, we're now about 8 months after when I was first told that this would be coming through, so, will you commit to ensuring that the education portion does happen as soon as possible?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, just to clarify something. I never said we were doing our best, I said we made mistakes in the past and we were correcting them. I think Councillor Orlikow is very much aware of that. I guess what really disappoints me, if this is such an important issue to Councillor Orlikow, never got a call, never got a visit. I find it hard to believe if something is really important to any Councillor here, and they want my input or assistance, please call, walk into my office anytime, but the bottom line is, I would be happy to look into it further and get back to Councillor Orlikow.

Mr. Speaker: Last question? Okay. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you to the Mayor. Mr. Mayor just first of all thank you very much for agreeing to meet with some of the non-members of Council after our conversation last night and the request I made to you with regards to myself and five other Councillors interested in meeting with you. Appreciate that. Hope that the February 24th date you sent us gives us good enough time to give you input before the budget is finalized, the Operating Budget, so that is our sincere hope and desire.

My question is, yesterday we had the results come out of the C.P.I. from Georges Chartier. In 2010, the Consumer Price Index reported that Winnipeg's rate of inflation was .8%, so not even 1% in 2010. With that information Mr. Mayor and knowing that the financial challenges we're facing in terms of our Operating Budget, I know the commitment the Mayor has given. We all know the commitment the Mayor has given in terms of a property tax freeze, however, I also know that the Mayor knows that it's probably the best policy if we were able to meet inflation challenges in our City by simply raising at the rate of inflation and knowing how low now, that the rate of inflation is in 2010, could we at least keep the door open as a potential consideration of a .8% increase in property taxes for 2011?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank Councillor Wyatt. Just one clarification. There were nine Councillors not five. That's number 1, that were contacted to have their input. On the specific question that Councillor Wyatt asked, Mr. Speaker, number 1, I like to think that all Members of Council, and I'll speak for yours truly right now, always maintain an open mind. That's number 1. And as for going through the budget process, I've already put myself on the record what my goal is. Councillor Wyatt is very much cognizant of that. That doesn't mean that one does not maintain an open mind and give consideration to what other Councillors come forward with, but the realities are, that every year, every year we face these challenges, Mr. Speaker. Every single year for the last 13 years, and the bottom line is, we were able to accomplish the goal of a property tax freeze so that Winnipeg can be competitive, and that's what we want to maintain. And I've said on many occasions, you cannot expect a property tax freeze to perpetually take place. It's just not realistic, but the bottom line is, it was important for us to get our house in order, so if the good Councillor is asking me would I maintain an open mind, that's an automatic. I do that all the time. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, a .8% increase would raise approximately 3 million. I estimated it was 4 million on 1%. My question, my second question, Mr. Mayor is, in light of the fact that we have these financial challenges and the property; that a potential increase of .8% is less than 1%, of course. Do you agree, sir, that the challenge really facing us in terms of property taxes is not our municipal taxes but education taxes? We have now the most competitive property taxes in all of Canada. Would you agree?

Mayor Katz: I certainly won't disagree Mr. Speaker. I can also tell you that I've actually, you know, my comments have been on the record and I certainly have shared them with people at the "Ledge" that school taxes should be coming out of income tax, and if that were the case, that would give us a void that we could fill and solve many of our problems. And, you know, we always focus on expenses. Every time you hear a discussion you hear it's about this cost and that expense, and so on and so forth, but I think what you have to understand there's two sides to the ledger Mr. Speaker. There is revenue and there is expenses, and we have to explore all the alternatives when it comes to revenue as well which is extremely important, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Last question.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, in light of the fact that you agree that the Education Taxes are the challenge or the problem, why do we persist with a property tax freeze in an area where we can control the budget and control our own resources

and our ability to raise revenues when we know that the problem on the tax bill is not our municipal taxes, it's the education taxes?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think I understand the question but I don't understand what the Councillor is asking about, since he knows by Law, the School Board, through the Province, tells us what they need and that's how the school taxes take place. I'm hoping you would give the Councillor the opportunity to clarify exactly what he was asking me, because I'm a little confused.

Mr. Speaker: Absolutely.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. I'm arguing, Mr. Mayor, that we can control; what we can control is our property taxes. We cannot control the Education Taxes, therefore, why would we want; not want to manage our own resources the best way we can?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think that's exactly what we do, every time we sit down and work on an Operating Budget, on a Capital Budget, we're managing our resources, and not that long ago, Mr. Speaker, the City of Winnipeg got an award for being the best City in Canada to invest in. The reason? Because we're competitive and what we've done over the past many years. We want to maintain our competitive edge. We want more investment in our City. Investment creates jobs. Jobs keep our young people here. That's how your City grows and that's how your City prospers. So from my point of view, Mr. Speaker, it's finding that balance. That's what this is all about. Is it easy? No. But who told any of us our job would be easy? That's why we're here.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I love it when Councillor Wyatt throws a lob ball up like this. It makes my job so much easier.

Mr. Mayor, we constantly have this misinformation being thrown out there, misleading the public to believe that the only source of revenue that the City has is municipal property taxes. In reality, Mr. Speaker, what we have is a very robust catalogue of different revenue sources, and I'd just like to ask the Mayor to confirm that in fact our Budget, even though we froze taxes, our Budget and our revenues and our expenditures went up last year, I think it's in excess of 4% overall. There's some new programs and Plan Winnipeg stuff was in there, and we did that, found that revenue and made those expenditures without raising property taxes. I'd love it if the Mayor could confirm that and we could get the public educated here that this is not a conversation about property taxes. It's a conversation about revenue, and we're winning the fight.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, like every good lawyer, the good Councillor has asked me a question he obviously knows the answer to because yes, we have increased our revenue and yes, we have spent more money and that will continue to happen because we're growing, okay. So there is more revenue and quite often, as I said earlier, the focus should be on revenue not just expenses, and there are opportunities out there, and our City will continue to grow, and as you grow, you bring in more revenues, so bottom line, to Councillor Swandel, yes, we have increased revenues and yes, we have spent more money.

Mr. Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Swandel: That's great Mr. Speaker. Now that we've got that cleared up. One thing that we've all said that Councillor Wyatt left off the table is the inflation rate the year previous which was .5%, and in that year previous our budget also went up. So if you consider the fact that we've been throwing around numbers of inflation at 2 to 2.5% and we've actually only had inflation of .5 to .8%, would the Mayor be kind enough to confirm that that should create some room in the budget given that we've got these new revenues and we have been tracking; spending higher than inflation, there should be some room here for us to get this Budget done and get it done without a property tax increase.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, once again, everything that was said by Councillor Swandel is factual. There should be room there. I think maybe a lot of these problems could be resolved and I'd be happy to pick up the tab for the two good Councillors to have dinner at my expense and maybe they could work it all out because the opportunity is most definitely there Mr. Speaker, and I will limit them to the amount of wine they can consume as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Dim sum? Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Just one final question. Maybe the Mayor can let us know; we've settled on a number of our agreements in the last couple of years, our collective agreements, and they're coming quite a few of them, not all of them are coming up for renewal this year. In the last two years, can the Mayor tell us what those levels of increments were that we got in our collective agreements? Were any of them down in the .5 or the .8 range?

Mayor Katz: To the best of my recollection, in any of those collective agreements, the increase has been significantly more than a .5 or .8. There's no question about that. That's a fact, Mr. Speaker, and once again, you know, we have, you know, City of Winnipeg staff right now who are in negotiations with the different parties, trying to come to a new agreement in the very near future, but very seldom have I ever seen a .5 or .8 increase. It's been significantly more than that, Mr. Speaker.

(Inaudible speaking in the background)

Mr. Speaker: No. We have a minute and 58 seconds left. Any further questions for the Mayor, EPC? Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We move onto the Standing Committee of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Vandal.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED JANUARY 6, 2011

Councillor Vandal: Actually, okay, I thought it was By-laws. I'll move Mr. Speaker, Items 1 to 3 as Consent Items.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

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

Mr. Speaker: And we have some by-laws.

Councillor Vandal: I'll move the following By-laws be read a first time. By-law No. 1, By-law No. 2, and By-law No. 5/2011.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 1/2011, By-law No. 2/2011, By-law No. 5/2011.

Councillor Vandal: I'll move that By-laws No. 1, 2, 5/2011 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 1/2011, 2/2011 and 5/2011.

Councillor Vandal: I'll move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 1/2011, 2/2011 and 5/2011 be read a third time and same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried. And Question Period for Infrastructure Renewal Public Works. Councillor Swandel.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you to Councillor Vandal; we've had quite a bit of snowfall this year already. We're seeing snow piling up on our boulevards. We've got snow clearing policy in the City of Winnipeg and I'd just like to have Councillor Vandal maybe provide us some information on how that policy is reviewed on a regular basis. We know that we've got the highest service of; the highest level of service for snow clearing of any City, I believe in North America, if not in the world, and we do a better job than anybody else. We certainly don't have to call the army in when we get a few meager inches of snow or a few meager centimeters of snow. Is there a review process

for the snow policy so that we can continue to optimize the value that we're getting for citizens? We know it creates a financial burden for us when we get these crazy peaks and valleys. I'm just wondering if the Chair can provide us with some information.

Councillor Vandal: Well Councillor Swandel is right. We do have the best snow clearing policy in the entire country, and I think our constituents are very satisfied with it, although there's always room for improvements. All policy review would occur through the Standing Policy Committee of Infrastructure and Public Works based on recommendations of course by our Administration. I honestly can't tell you when the last time that Standing Committee actually reviewed the snow clearing policy, but if the will is there through Committee, certainly we can do that. I know I can talk to our Director, Brad Sacher, as well as other Council members to see if the policy needs tweaking improvement of some sort. But that's the best of my knowledge at this time and certainly I will talk to the Director.

Mr. Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing a great deal of new trails being built in the City of Winnipeg. Snow clearing on those trails is obviously an issue, not the highest priority when you look at getting people moved around. Is there anything coming from Public Works regarding those trails and Active Transportation routes and the new snow clearing requirements and I guess just general maintenance requirements for those trails in this Operating Budget or somewhere through this next year?

Councillor Vandal: Yes. I know that the priority for our Active Transportation trails are the trails located next to Priority 1 streets, and after that it goes down the trails that are next to the top priority streets. I think the big problem this year is that once they're cleaned, it keeps snowing, so we have to start all over again. So this has been an extraordinary year for snow clearing and certainly with the miles of Active Transportation corridors that have been constructed this year, it's going to be a great challenge for our Administration and let's face it, it's going to cost money, and that's going to be an issue certainly we have to address as the Operating Budget is rolled out. With all these new trails, new roadways and new sidewalks, we have to keep them clean to a City standard and certainly that will be delved into in greater detail through the Operating Budget.

Mr. Speaker: Third question.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just a final question. I wasn't clear from the first answer from Councillor Vandal if we need a Motion here at Council in order to trigger a review of the Snow Policy. In the interest of time, I'm probably going to ask that we suspend the rules because I'd like to make that Motion. It's going to be out of order because we're done the Public Works, but we'll suspend the rules later on if the answer is in fact yes, that we need a motion of Council to review that policy.

Councillor Vandal: Well certainly any Councillor can move any motion they want to review whatever policy that's under the purview of the City of Winnipeg, but I can say that through the communication of the Councillor from St. Norbert, I can speak to the Administration and we can certainly put it on our Agenda for our next Public Works meeting, which is Tuesday, the first of February, and look at it that way, but if the Councillor wants to write up a motion I would welcome that as well.

Mr. Speaker: What's your will?

Councillor Swandel: (Inaudible) I'll just ask to suspend the rules later on and we can deal with it.

Mr. Speaker: Alright. Okay. Thank you. All right. Thank you, Councillor Vandal. Any further questions for Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works? Seeing none. We'll carry on. Finance Committee has no Report. No Motions. Question Period for Finance.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

(Inaudible speaking in the background)

Mr. Speaker: Is that the question?

Councillor Swandel: He's goaded me into asking this question. Through you Mr. Speaker to the Chair, can the Chair let us know how his consultation went last night and how many folks came out to participate in the Operating Budget consultation?

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: First of all, I would like to say that this Council and actually I guess it was last Council we started the budget consultation sessions. We had two sessions for the Capital Budget in the past few months and yesterday we had a sparse amount of people that came out. Councillor Browaty and also one other resident, so we can encourage other people to come out. One other resident. So we can encourage other people to come out on Thursday. The other option of course, if you're more of a preference for that, Councillor Swandel is not to have Council pre budget consultations. My focus, and since I've taken over as Chair of Finance, is to have the pre budget consultations because I think giving people an opportunity to have input into the Budget makes a lot of sense. We've also introduced some on-line petitions for people to come out. We've done the same process that we normally do with any communications process, and I'm not sure if you've had a chance to come out last night yourself Councillor Swandel, but the opportunity is there for you on Thursday to come out, and instead of just Councillor Browaty coming out, then you can come out as well.

Mr. Speaker: Second question. Thank you. Any further questions for Finance? Seeing none, we'll invite the Standing Policy Committee for Downtown. No Report. No Motions. Do we have Question Period for Downtown? Seeing none, thank you. Standing Policy Committee on for Property and Development. Councillor Browaty.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED JANUARY 11, 2011

Councillor Browaty: Thank you. I would like to introduce the Report for January 11 and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 12.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried. We have no Motions. Question Period for Property and Development. No questions for Property and Development. Thank you very much. Standing Policy Committee for Protection and Community Services, Councillor Steeves.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED JANUARY 6, 2011

Councillor Steeves: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, regarding the Report of January 6, 2011, I'd be please to introduce the Report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 3.

Mr. Speaker: All those in Favour? Oops, sorry. Councillor okay, number 2. No further? Then I'll ask the question on 1 and 3. All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

Item 2 - Early Intervention Programs -
Youth Advocate Program

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: I'll be brief and I'll listen to my colleagues comments. I trust and believe this recommendation is going to enjoy the support of the balance of Council. This is of course the Early Intervention Program for the Youth Advocate Program. You'll recall, some time ago the Mayor brought through Executive Policy Committee a request that our public service look at the Halifax Youth Advocate Program that was being run or is being run in the City of Halifax and, of course, Nova Scotia. The program in Nova Scotia is a program that dealt with At Risk Youth, generally young teenagers between the ages of 12 and older. We looked at that program or the Public Service looked at that program and came to the conclusion that even though there is certainly a lot of merit with that program, this particular program might not be the best fit for the City of Winnipeg. If you'll look at the Report, what our Public Service is recommending, is that the focus not be on youth who are older than 12 years old but rather, the focus being on youth who are 12 years old and under. Most of you will be instantly aware that under our system of Criminal Justice in the country of Canada, someone under the age of 12 years old is not to be criminally charged with an offence. Regrettably, it's; we also want to Report that there are too many Youth in our Community who, for whatever reason, do commit crimes under the age of 12 and in some circumstances, pretty serious crimes at that. This Report is designed to target and work with that group. Now, even though our Police Officers and our Police Service are continually apprehending; I shouldn't say continually I should be careful to say, Mr. Speaker, that with respect it Youth in our Community, our Police Service has no involvement with 96% of Winnipeg Youth. It's a very, very small number of our Youth that actually come into; come to

the attention of the Winnipeg Police Service. Certainly don't want to paint the entire City with the same brush. But of course there is a problem with a certain at-risk population with the City of Winnipeg.

The Report makes recommendation that when a City of Winnipeg Police Officer comes across a person under 12 years of age, who obviously cannot be arrested, but in the considered opinion of our Winnipeg Police Service, requires the attention and the guidance and the structure of something beyond a simple sending back to their parents, we have enlisted the help and the support of the Provincial Turnabout Program. This Program is essentially referred to as a kind of a clearing house program, wherein Youth are referred to the program, the Youth is assessed and the Youth is then I guess, administered for want of a better term, farmed out to the appropriate program to hopefully give this young person the best chance of achieving a good outcome through whatever program happens to exists. What we have said is we are not only going to co-operate in terms of our Police Service getting people to that program, but we are also going to set up a bank account, as it were, of $60,000 or so, wherein the program can send these Youth back to the City of Winnipeg Public Service and they can essentially use this amount of funding to access programming for these young people through the City of Winnipeg. So rather a quid pro quo. There has been discussion and some concern about the program, i.e., should people be given a free ride and those sorts of things. On balance though, I think this is a Program that has the requisite social responsibility, in dealing with issues that are of great import to the citizens of the City of Winnipeg. You are aware, unfortunately Mr. Speaker, it is an all too cognitive event in this City that we will actually arrest, not arrest, apprehend people under the age of 12 for crimes that do include car theft, issues involving trafficking of drugs and the like. So, we also suspect by the by, that in some instances the Mayor alluded to earlier, kids under 12, because of the way that the legislation is written across Canada, they are sometimes specifically targeted precisely for the reasons that they can't be apprehended. Those are the broad strokes of the program. I look forward to my friends comments. I'd be happy to close.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Nordman. A very good Report on this initiative that the City is undertaking and it goes to the Mayor's initiative as well, talking about collaborating with other levels of government. I am very much in support of this program and actually, I was really excited to hear that; well excited about; the way we're going to measure the success of this program is also very important to remember that we are measuring the outcomes to find out if we're actually spending money and we're having success and I think that's a good thing. And actually, there is a need expressed as well in that Motion that they look at older kids as well and how we can get involved that way.

As the Halifax Report demonstrated, they are actually working with youth that are somewhat up to an older age and yes; and I wanted to point something out about collaboration. We talked about the Provincial Government, the Federal Government, working with them to solve a lot of the problems happening in our community. People don't know, but we do, do a number of things where we work with School Divisions and Schools. The City works with School Divisions and Schools on a number of items and that are very, very important to helping us solve the problems of the people who live in our communities, and you know, youth getting an education is very important. So, I; you know I always get concerned when we only talk about well, the School Division shouldn't charge property tax or whatever. Well, you know, I think that isn't our business, but I wanted to point out that there are many, many more opportunities where we can work with education. As in Halifax, Halifax was working on education aspects with the youth. Now, I don't believe the City of Halifax is actually paying the money for the education components. Like in Manitoba here, the many School Divisions are doing work and they're the ones who are spending money on the education items. What we as the City of Winnipeg need to do is figure out how we can work with School Divisions to ensure that the full aspects of these youth are addressed. So that not only the recreation component but just the whole part of helping a child not get involved in crime, which is also I talked about our libraries. I would point out there is a high school that is working on a program called Bright, where they work with students who live in a very poor area, where parents and kids have never had success and the School Division is paying the money for that, the Province is paying the money for that. That's a program working with kids, keeping them off our streets and out of crime. But there is an aspect we could get involved in and I'll bring this to the Mayor, I really appreciate; I believe my meeting is February 10 at 2:30. I have 15 minutes and I will try to get as much on the table as I can. But one of the things that we should be doing is working with School Divisions. We, the City, are in the transportation business; we have a public transit system. There are people who can't afford to take the bus and there are people who are not taking the bus. They're not getting to high school, to their classes because frankly, their parents who have addictions and so on, don't have the money, there is no money for them to get their bus passes and contrary to popular belief, social services doesn't always give bus passes to people on employment and income assistance. So I think that the City needs to take further roles at this. And so, we should always remember, that we need to collaborate with people and when we do talk about raising money, we shouldn't dis-other organization's who have raised their taxes because they're trying to deliver a better programs to keep kids out of crime and to ensure that they are able to take part in opportunities. Because the Chief of Peguis, Mr. Chief Hudson will tell you that education is the key and they have a wonderful high school on reserve but the problem is a lot of people are moving off reserve. So we, the City, if we want to work on a holistic manner, we need to continue programs like this; which incidentally we're

just redirecting some funds. I think I heard a number and I could be wrong, something like almost $300,000 for the rec. programs. People apply for a subsidy, so their kids can play hockey or they can play soccer or they can play any kind of sport. So, this is no different. So those nay-sayers whose say kids should have to pay some fee or their parents should have to pay some fee, the City has already decided there is a social good involved with this and we need to allow people to participate. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: I don't know if there was a question there or not. (Inaudible) All right, comments. Any further comments? Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm enjoying this. Did I hear Councillor Steeves speak or you can see the lawyer coming out of him, trying to maximize that length of time to get that full billable hour in there, you know and listening to Councillor Eadie, like maybe he's been to law school or got a little of those billing practice lessons? But, actually it was almost reminiscent of our good friend Harry Lazarenko and how he did that quick shift over into transit fares off of this issue. It was almost reminiscent of how the auto bins almost cost Harry his elections but… (chuckles)

I want to make some quick comments here and I hope Councillor Steeves can reply to some of this. We've had some discussions away from the Council floor here, regarding programs, programs, programs and we get stuck in this world of programs, and sometimes we leave the people and we become more about the programs. And we really need to be about people and not just programs. We need to be tracking who the folks are that are accessing these programs and that we're doing something to help these young people stay in their communities and that there is something else going on for those young people, because the issues aren't just with those young people in most cases, they are with their families, sometimes it's single moms that are trying to work and raise maybe two or three kids at the same time. Sometimes there is addictions issues in the family, sometimes there is family violence and there is a lot of pieces. And you know, these programs in isolation, they don't do a lot of good unless you get right down and deal with the people, deal with the families, and ultimately deal with the community. You got to build strong communities. I hope to hear Councillor Steeves give us some sense of where this fits in the bigger picture of where we're going as a City with these people and we're not going to get stuck in the rut of creating programs. And so often what you see happen is these programs just become about propagating the program rather than making a difference for the people that access the program, in the bigger picture. A bit off topic here but Councillor Steeves did mention that children under 12 and the Young Offenders Act, there is something wrong in our society where we just draw an arbitrary line by age, when it comes to crime, and I know it's not our issue, it is a Federal issue, but we should be having a conversation with our partners about whether or not the Young Offenders Act works and if there are changes that need to be made there. As far as bringing something forward that allows us to deal with people and not just draw on the arbitrary line. It's almost offensive to me that someone can commit a crime and just because of their age not have to be held accountable for that crime in front of our justice system. Or, to be given a set of sentencing guidelines before they've even been found guilty of their crime and have had any kind of predisposition report done, our argument on why they should be allowed to have that type of sentencing versus a greater sentencing. The one place we do see a revolving door is in Youth Justice. We've started to see some correction in the adult justice system, but, there is something still wrong in this Youth Justice system that we need to be advocating for to ensure…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt moves extension.

Councillor Swandel: That we're able to make these programs work and with those comments, I look forward to hearing Councillor Steeves response and close on the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Any further comments? Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Thank you to both my colleagues for the comments and the questions. I'll do my best to answer. They're fair. Councillor Eadie and the concept of measurement which I believe actually counts was the heart of Councillor Swandel's comments as well. The perfect question to ask in these instances, precisely because the City of Winnipeg, as you're aware, we don't have any Social Services Department. We don't provide Social Services. Our Police Service is increasingly asked to be a social service agency by virtue of the work that they do, as is our Fire, Paramedic Service and I would even go so far to say, as many of our CUPE workers out there in the field as well who are doing things. We are people who work for us, do a lot beyond their strict job description. We're very proud they do. But, the Police Service in particular, you're aware Mr. Speaker, we get tapped on the shoulder about 2,000 times a day through our 911 system, and we have to respond right now. There is no debate and there is no discussion and there is no time to ask somebody else to do it. Our citizens' expectation is that when a phone call comes, we respond as quickly as we can. The anecdotes about us not getting there in time are; have been mentioned in this Council before but generally speaking, we're pretty darn good at it problem of course is, we don't always have the ability to follow up on the social services aspect of things, in the same way we'd like to.

High School Officer Program, the previous Cadet Program working with Youth in the Community, outreach programs, all exist, but to answer the question as squarely as possible, I'm not sure I can say definitively that the Turnabout Program is going to offer a specific measurement the on the young people that we refer. I don't have that information. I've asked for it and it could be that it exists and it's coming back. The good thing is though, is that our funding is going to be specifically program-based for a young person who wants to utilize a program. We are not paying for staffing outside of our Civic Administration. That's not going to happen. It's only going to be in a referral system back. So, I guess to answer the question again, as squarely as possible, I cannot guarantee there is going to be a lock down system of measurement for the kids that come back. We've asked for that, we don't know what it is going to be. It was discussed robustly at Committee but we don't know what it's going to be. And it is concern, because Councillor Swandel is correct, the two programs that are held up are the Michigan Project and the Harlem Project which do exactly as Councillor Swandel has said, they drill down and they deal with individuals and they track and they measure in a longitudinal way that follows people's success. They are, I should state, very expensive to do. But, it is the only; or one of the only ways, it would appear to definitively track how well kids are doing. The Harlem Project can tell you, for example, definitively, in that 20 block radius in Harlem, who has graduated from high school, which percentage and what is the reading level, how are they testing against control groups across New York State in Mathematics, English, Geography and a range of courses. They test the kids against the mean control groups in the State of New York, so they always know. They know exactly who is going to college and who is not and they list the percentages on a basis each and every year so people can track. Expensive but it is attracted private sector investment in; at a level that is unprecedented in the United States. Precisely, I would suggest, because they are doing the tracking. We've seen successes with tracking in the City of Winnipeg. They talk about the drop at times and the success with the Auto Theft Strategy. My impression, Mr. Speaker, is precisely because when offenders are arrested and invariably, released, we have a method of tracking them by virtue of the ankle bracelet that they wear. Draconian, perhaps. But does it work? Undeniably, yes. Measurement is very, very important. I hope I've answered the questions, I've done my best, I hope that the Council will support the initiative.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Steeves. On Item 2 Protection and Community Services. All those in Favour? Opposed? Motion Carried.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MOTIONS

Mr. Speaker: We have three motions actually. Councillor Wyatt has asked permission that we withdraw Motion 2 and add Motion 3. So I will ask for your permission on that. All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried.

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

WHEREAS the existing bylaws relating to Off Road Vehicles (ORV) is outdated and requires review and revision with regard to the changes in ORV technology and the need to protect the public;

AND WHEREAS the existing Vehicles By-law No. 6726/95 actually still allows ORV usage in some parts of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the existing Vehicles By-law No. 6726/95 does not prescribe a minimum fine structure, nor does it offer the ability to cease vehicles and sell in auction;

AND WHEREAS the Central Traffic Unit's River Patrol is the only police unit to possess snowmobiles and much of their time is consumed with enforcement issues on the city's rivers and issues relating to ice safety;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for a regular Public Education campaign to be conducted by the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, including provincial agencies/crown corporations, such as Manitoba Public Insurance on the dangers of ORV use inside the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS there may be opportunities for the Province of Manitoba to assist the City of Winnipeg with enforcement of illegal use of ORV's through the MPI vehicle registration and licensing process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

a) The City of Winnipeg immediately undertake a comprehensive review of the by-laws governing Off Road Vehicles, including but not limited to, Vehicles By-law No. 6726/95, and make recommendations to Council to modernize the by-laws, that would (but not be limited to):

i) eliminate the ability to legally use ORV's anywhere inside the City of Winnipeg (excluding natural disaster events, such as severe blizzards).
ii) impose minimum fines that would be substantial and act as a real deterrent for by-law violations.
iii) provide authorities the power to cease ORV's and that such vehicles would be offered to auction, with funds being earmarked to Public Education campaigns on the dangers of illegal ORV use within the City of Winnipeg.

b) City Council request an immediate report from the Winnipeg Police Service, that will subsequently be supplied on an annual basis, to the Standing Policy Committee of Protection and Community Services, which will:

i) provide information on WPS enforcement plans with regard to the illegal usage of ORV's, with a breakdown between winter season ORV enforcement and summer season ORV enforcement.
ii) provide the record of success of the previous years' enforcement (ex. Fines, ORV's ceased, etc.)
iii) provide information on public education campaigns which will be directed toward deterring the illegal use of all forms of Off Road Vehicles. Such campaigns will clearly outline the dangers of ORV use within the City of Winnipeg and provide information on areas outside of Winnipeg which are ORV friendly, including existing ORV drop off areas.

c) The Winnipeg Police Service immediately explore means to expand the snowmobile and four-wheel drive Off Road Vehicle fleet beyond Central Traffic's River Patrol Unit in order to ensure adequate and timely enforcement of said by-laws throughout the City of Winnipeg, and that the status of this consideration be reported to City Council.

d) The City of Winnipeg request that the Province of Manitoba:

i) participate in coordinated public education campaigns between the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, including all relevant provincial agencies, departments, and crown corporations, in order to ensure that the strongest and most wide reaching message possible is delivered to the public.
ii) review existing processes for ORV licensing and registration, with the intent of improving the registered owners' declaration, including, but not limited to, a requirement to clearly name all operators of said ORV, not just the usual operators.
iii) ensure, where necessary, our by-laws are supported via existing provincial legislation, including powers to cease ORV's.
iv) develop a system for the licensing of individuals via mandatory individual ORV operator safety courses and written testing.
v) review the minimum age presently allowed for the operation of an ORV, with the intent to raise the age of unsupervised riders from 14 to 16.
vi) That the above request to the province and its successful (or lack thereof) be reported to Council.

Mr. Speaker: And then we'll ask for Automatic Referral on Motion 3 to the Policy Committee on Protection Community Services. Thank you, all those in Favour?

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

WHEREAS the existing by-laws relating to Off Road Vehicles (ORV) is outdated and requires review and revision with regard to the changes in ORV technology and the need to protect the public;

AND WHEREAS the existing Vehicles By-law No. 6726/95 actually still allows ORV usage in some parts of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the existing Vehicles By-law No. 6726/95 does not prescribe a minimum fine structure, nor does it offer the ability to seize vehicles and sell in auction;

AND WHEREAS the Central Traffic Unit's River Patrol is the only police unit to possess snowmobiles and much of their time is consumed with enforcement issues on the city's rivers and issues relating to ice safety;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for a regular Public Education campaign to be conducted by the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, including provincial agencies/crown corporations, such as Manitoba Public Insurance on the dangers of ORV use inside the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS there may be opportunities for the Province of Manitoba to assist the City of Winnipeg with enforcement of illegal use of ORVs through the MPI vehicle registration and licensing process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

d) The City of Winnipeg immediately undertake a comprehensive review of the by-laws governing Off Road Vehicles, including but not limited to, Vehicles By-law No. 6726/95, and make recommendations to Council to modernize the by-laws, that would (but not be limited to):

iv) eliminate the ability to legally use ORVs anywhere inside the City of Winnipeg (excluding natural disaster events, such as severe blizzards).
v) impose minimum fines that would be substantial and act as a real deterrent for by-law violations.
vi) provide authorities the power to seize ORVs and that such vehicles would be offered to auction, with funds being earmarked to Public Education campaigns on the dangers of illegal ORV use within the City of Winnipeg.

e) City Council request an immediate report from the Winnipeg Police Service, that will subsequently be supplied on an annual basis, to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, which will:

j) provide information on WPS enforcement plans with regard to the illegal usage of ORVs, with a breakdown between winter season ORV enforcement and summer season ORV enforcement.
ii) provide the record of success of the previous years' enforcement (ex. Fines, ORVs seized, etc.)
iii) provide information on public education campaigns which will be directed toward deterring the illegal use of all forms of Off Road Vehicles. Such campaigns will clearly outline the dangers of ORV use within the City of Winnipeg and provide information on areas outside of Winnipeg which are ORV friendly, including existing ORV drop off areas.

f) The Winnipeg Police Service immediately explore means to expand the snowmobile and four-wheel drive Off Road Vehicle fleet beyond Central Traffic's River Patrol Unit in order to ensure adequate and timely enforcement of said by-laws throughout the City of Winnipeg, and that the status of this consideration be reported to City Council.

e) The City of Winnipeg request that the Province of Manitoba:

vii) participate in coordinated public education campaigns between the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, including all relevant provincial agencies, departments, and crown corporations, in order to ensure that the strongest and most wide reaching message possible is delivered to the public.
viii) review existing processes for ORV licensing and registration, with the intent of improving the registered owners' declaration, including, but not limited to, a requirement to clearly name all operators of said ORV, not just the usual operators.
ix) ensure, where necessary, our by-laws are supported via existing provincial legislation, including powers to seize ORVs.
x) develop a system for the licensing of individuals via mandatory individual ORV operator safety courses and written testing.
xi) review the minimum age presently allowed for the operation of an ORV, with the intent to raise the age of unsupervised riders from 14 to 16.
xii) That the above request to the province and its success (or lack thereof) be reported to Council.

(Inaudible speaking in background)

Mr. Speaker: We'll deal with the Motion now that Councillor Swandel...

(Inaudible speaking in background)

Mr. Speaker: I'm sorry, who asked for something about Out of Order? (Inaudible speaking in background)

Councillor Swandel: Just asking to have the Order…that we suspend the rules to hear the item out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Thank you. All those in favour? We need two-thirds. All those in favour? Opposed? I think we have the two-thirds. Councillor Swandel, your motion.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS**

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

THAT the Snow Clearing Policy be reviewed by the administration with a report back to Council.

Councillor Swandel: It's Automatic Referral to the Committee, it's just review of the…

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. All right, thank you. Automatic Referral on Motion 4. All those in Favour? Opposed? Carried. Question Period for Protection Community Services. Councillor Steeves. No questions for Councillor Steeves? Having seen none. We have one Item from Secretariat Committee and I will ask Councillor Steeves to put it forward.

**REPORT OF THE
COUNCIL SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE
DATED JANUARY 17, 2011**

Councillor Steeves: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; a caveat before I begin speaking. There may be times during my talk when I refer to disadvantaged groups and minorities throughout history who have engaged in struggles with democracy. I hope people understand I am in no way drawing any parallels between this City of Winnipeg Council and the struggles some of those peoples have gone through and many of which paid with their life in certain circumstances. I'll ask that you give me that boundary.

I'll start with a couple of general beliefs, philosophical beliefs that I hold, Mr. Speaker. The first is that I believe that in terms of democracy, democracy is best served when people can run for elected office as freely as possible. I will accept some limits on that. I know that criminal convictions and the like are sometimes germane and sometimes important. But generally speaking, I think democracy is best served when it's as open as possible and accessible to as many people as possible. I'll state something else that I believe, Mr. Speaker. I also believe that it is it decidedly bad practice to allow any group of politicians to decide who can run against them. I don't think democracy is best served and I think that practice would open up the door to all sorts of mischief that would not be good for democracy. I'm not pointing an accusing finger or anyone in particular but I'm just saying generally, if that practice existed, there would be those who might use that practice to their advantage. I'm also going to state this, Mr. Speaker, I will not be asking for a recorded vote today. I'll ask people to simply vote their conscience as they see fit.

The 20th century, Mr. Speaker, was a great century for democracy. It saw numerous struggles throughout North America and across the world. Disadvantaged people that I referred to earlier, fought to be and were included in the democratic process and often times the price that people paid to do that was very, very high. I think we emerged though, at the end of the 20th century, with a great outcome in terms of democracy. And I think in the end of the 20th century we've reached a place, at least in North America, where we had a very wide open sense of democracy, where anybody could run and these included disadvantaged groups like black peoples and native peoples, women. But they also included groups like civil servants who at times were not allowed to run for elected office in certain circumstances, who also fought for the right to run and were granted that right to run, in due course.

At the turn of the century though in the 2000s, the strangest thing happened at least here in Manitoba and in fact only here in Manitoba. I'm going to suggest that the Provincial Government embarked on a process of going the other way with respect to democracy, and with respect to who can run for what and when. At the turn of the century, some ten years ago, the Provincial Government structured a commission to review the Municipal Council and School Boards Elections Act. Sitting on that Committee was one of our former councilors, Jae Eadie. And they went through their process with people and they made a Report and submitted it to the Provincial Government, which was fine. The Provincial Government took the Report and then introduced a regulation, a change of statute, the City of Winnipeg Charter, that stated quite definitively, that City of Winnipeg politicians in order to run for Manitoba; for elected office and the legislative assembly had to resign their seat. This had never been the case before in history; the Report didn't recommend that. I'll read an email I received from Jae Eadie. "I can tell that you when I was on the working group that wrote the new Municipal Council and School Boards Elections Act, the current election provision was never discussed by the Provincial bureaucrats on this group. This was something that was written into legislation after the working group that completed its work on the opposed new Act. There was absolutely no discussion or dialogue between elected officials from either the City or the Province. The Province simply made the unilateral decision to go ahead and do it."

And we know that because I've spoke; I was on council at the time and I've spoken to Councillor Vandal, Gerbasi and Smith. We were all on Council and none of us were consulted on the changes, but they went ahead.

Interestingly, two years later in 2005, they did it again. They took the Local Authorities Elections Act and they changed it. To not allow rural politicians now, to run for provincial seats unless they resigned their seat. I talked to Joe Massey yesterday and Joe wrote me an email, yesterday. "Hi Gord" -- He is the President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, this is from this morning; "Hi Gord, In checking our records and files it appears AMM was not consulted on the changes with respect to municipal elected officials running for provincial office and the rules surrounding these changes." To show the folie of this legislation in the rural areas particularly, RM of Ritchot**,** Bob Stefaniuk, the Reeve, wanted to run for the provincial seating as Minister Lemieux. Before he could, this legislation was put in place by the Provincial Government, so he had to resign and he did. He ran against Minister Lemieux and was not elected and came; had to come back to his RM. The RM had to organize a brand new election, pay all the money, set it all up, and does all the inconvenience. Bob Stefaniuk presented himself for election again and was elected by acclamation. Interestingly, you folks do not have the same right to run in a By-election. You are still singled out as not being able to come back is my impression and interestingly, the Provincial Government in making these regulatory changes said nothing about the ability of Councillor's run for Federal's office. That's okay. You can go through that whole process.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 3, no less, states that every citizen shall have the right to run for Provincial assembly. This is section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Mr. Speaker. I'll take it as given that our fore fathers and fore mothers thought this was fairly important that they made it Section 3. And you know how it reads it's in the Motion. It's pretty definitive, it's two lines long. You're also aware, Mr. Speaker, that across the country of Canada, this is the only place where municipal politicians are forced to resign in these circumstances. I've canvassed my colleagues across the country. They've all said the same thing. This legislation does not exist. But in terms of making your own mind up on this Motion and this direction, I'm going to ask you just to forget Section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Forget that we're the only politicians in Canada who; the only municipal politicians in Canada that are placed in this position. What I would like you to focus on and what I think is most important, is again, Mr. Speaker, the idea that in no circumstances, should any politician ever be allowed to pick their own opponents. I mean this happens in parts of the world. We know it happens in parts of the world. I would like to think it couldn't happen here.

If indeed this type of thing has to be reviewed and if indeed decisions have to be made, I would recommend some sort of process, roughly akin to the Boundary Review System, where; or, a Politician's Compensation Review System where it's sent out, it's public, there is meetings and consultations and all of those sorts of things. People can react to what's put out on the table; there are lengths of times that exist. That would be my suggestion. But that didn't happen here. And I think it's very, very important this Council send a message that if indeed it is deemed necessary by another level of government to review how, what, when or why a municipal politician can run for alternate elected office. Let's at least stand together and say we wish to be consulted on this. We want to be part of that process. We don't want this done behind closed doors; because we think it's important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Steeves. Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. You know, this is before us because Councillor Steeves wants to run provincially. You know, I don't think we should be deciding issues on that basis. Really, we shouldn't. When I went door to door I didn't hear anyone talk about the injustice of this, not one soul mentioned it and I don't think we should go along with this just because Gord wants to run provincially. I should tell Gord, the Provincial Government will not change things so swiftly anyway so that you can run. Let's not go ahead and do something just for Gord. He is a valuable member of this Council. I would like to keep him here. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Hardy har-har. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you. I don't know what to say any more. I'll start by saying I dare say this will be unanimous, it's such an obvious inequity. I think Councillor Steeves perhaps goes too far to great lengths to point out the Charter and a lot of other things but you would hope that just having started the conversation that the Province would recognize the inequity and perhaps even recognize this was done as a political stunt back in the time it was done. I've read in the paper and heard others say that when this opportunity came in front then of Premier Doer and the Government of the day there were rumours that Glen Murray was going to run for the Provincial Legislature as a Member of the NDP. And that this was Premier Doer's way of keeping then Mayor Murray from ending up in his cabinet or in his caucus. So there is a lot that's been said around this. But it's pretty straightforward. I think Gord's opening line was best we should be as free as we can in this Country to participate in the political process. And unless there is an obvious reason to do it, you need to create some kind of protection for the greater good, that there shouldn't be any limitations like this. Quite frankly, whether Councillor Steeves wants to run provincially or not, I don't think that's the

issue here. Councillor Smith is being a bit silly in bringing that up. It doesn't make much sense. The issue is the issue. There is an inequity here and hopefully with Councillor Steeves starting this conversation, we'll be able to correct that inequity and hopefully the Provincial Government, just hearing the conversation, will see the inequity and take it upon themselves to get the job done without any further work being done by bureaucrats or public hearings or public consultations anywhere. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman. I'll just precede my comments by just saying the only government I currently am I member of, I'm a member of City Council, the government of the City of Winnipeg. But I wanted to speak about democracy and how great our democracy actually is in this City, in this Province, and in this Country. We have a lot of abilities. The only non; the only challenge to the democracy that I feel that exists actually in our system, is one of financing; being able to run if you can't find the money to run. Than is the biggest issue because there is a whole bunch of people who would love to run for City Council where I live in Mynarski Ward, who, frankly, weren't running because they couldn't find a source of the funding to be able to run and express their ideas so I think that is probably the biggest challenge to democracy in this whole country as a matter of fact.

But I wanted to speak about democracy and the provisions that a City Councillor must step down if they are nominated in an election. Nomination is not in reference to, I believe, not in reference to a party. Nomination is referred to in the electoral process. We all have it gather signatures and at each level of government's campaigns. We need to seek out signatures of people who say we're worthy to run for and to be on the ballot in that particular level of government. And when we do that, we submit is to, say, I met with Richard Kachur, I believe or Marc Lemoine, I can't remember which one at the time. I sat down and I became a nominated candidate by presenting my signatures and signing off all those papers and my name was going to be on the ballot. That's the nomination that I believe is spoken about and that nomination, frankly, is the final commitment although, although I don't think they have provisions in the Province but at the City level you still have 24 hours to withdraw your nomination. At the Province you don't. At the Federal Government I don't believe you do either. But I wanted to point out something though. At the point of nomination, you have committed to run for another office. The people who elected; say if I wanted to run in St. Johns in this next Provincial Election; what I would be saying to the people of Mynarski is I no longer want the job as City Councillor because I want the job of being the MLA for St. John's, the Member Legislative Assembly. So at that point, it's not unlike a job where you're working in a job and I know that a lot of employers get really upset when an employee looks for another employer, maybe even utilize; at the same time, utilizing their own work time with one employer and finds a job in another place, decides to bail out on that job that they actually sought and have and maintained. So I'm not dissimilar to that, the process that is laid out is simply that; I, Ross Eadie; I don't know what Jae Eadie said but I know that Jae was concerned about democracy to a great level and I really respected him in his perspectives on democracy and running for office, but, I just want to make sure that people understand that, democracy is not lessened by the mere fact that when you have decided to actually go and work in another office, you have to resign your previous office. You make that commitment. If you win or lose that other office, well I don't know what to say but anybody who's looking at running in the Provincial it's like a 31 or 33 day campaign, it's about ten days in, about 21 to 23 days before election day that you have to submit your name to run, to put in your nominations. I'm not sure, but somebody can correct me if I'm wrong, its rumour, but I think a By-election in City Council has to be called within 30 days. There is a difference between the 21 or 23 and 30 days. If a person does lose, I don't think there is any law that says they can't run and seek that office like Mr. Stefaniuk did, or the Reeve of the Rural Municipality of MacDonald.

So Speaker, I don't think that democracy is being; or one's human rights as a matter of fact. If you look at the Human Rights perspective on this and the Constitution and you had to measure whether or not this provision about being nominated in an actual election campaign is violating one's rights, I don't think you can prove that that's any different than they treat other people seeking office. So, thank you for allowing me to make these comments, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Right on the mark. Good for you. Any further comments regarding the Motion? Seeing none, I will call the question. All those in… (Inaudible speaking in background) Oh, Gord, you got to close. I'm sorry, I apologize.

Councillor Steeves: I know this issue has caused some consternation for some folks on Council and I apologize for that. I know there has been some back and forth going on maybe at the Legislature and has caused some stress for folks. I can't say I'm entirely displeased with that but I suppose that's life in the big city. Thanks to Councillor Swandel for offering the comments, but that we should be focusing on the issue and I'll close with this.

What I believe the issue here is, is not at this stage whether or not democracy is best served, if this is the reality or if that is the reality, or if ultimately, society through a collective decision comes to the conclusion that this is the way it should be, that's not the issue, Councillor Eadie. And even though I suppose you supported it at Committee, I get the sense that maybe you are maybe having some questions about it. I would, again, ask that you return to the idea that these

changes were made in the first instance behind closed doors, in direct contravention to a Commissioned Report that was a public process. Now, that is a pretty slippery slope, I would suggest. There is also; if you're concerned about the slippery slope argument, just consider that two years later, the same thing happened again; this time without a Report and with no consultation. There has been, I would respectfully suggest, over the course of the last couple of years, a fair bit of tinkering with the rules surrounding elections provincially that has gone on. A lot of that has not been the source of public fare, I would suggest. So, I would ask my Council colleagues, many of whom, all of whom, are not just people I work with but friends. Let's simply send the message that; to the Provincial Government and before I say this I'll have to acknowledge that probably our Motion as Councillor Smith did say, will have no effect on the decisions that are made at the Legislature of Manitoba, I completely imagine that. But let's send a message that, yeah we may or may not agree with the outcome, but in no circumstances, should changes to the City of Winnipeg Charter Act be made without this Council at least being consulted, without the Association of Manitoba Municipalities of whom we are a member, at least being consulted. I don't know if there are any other changes that are planned. I have no idea. I hope there's not. But if there is, we need to know and we want to be part of that process. That is the issue for which I want your support. I take no umbrage with the idea that we might ultimately feel differently about the grander question, but, let's stand united on the idea that the Provincial Government will not make these types of changes without at least talking to us.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Steeves. Call the question. All those in Favour? Opposed? Motion passed. I will ask Councillor Sharma to move a Motion for Adjournment. Roll-call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal, and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 11:37 a.m.