STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 553
Councillor Steen asked about the status of the fire hall on Portage Avenue, and if there was an expected time of completion. Councillor Browaty responded that to his understanding the facility would be open for October 1st, and that commissioning would start prior to that date.

Councillor Havixbeck requested an update on the effectiveness of the new permits process and any improvements in response times. Councillor Browaty responded that as of June 25 scheduled appointments for residential inspections were averaging less than a week, down from about two weeks; service for commercial inspections remained strong with usually same day inspections and waits consistently less than 72 hours; residential plan examinations and permit issuance times were still at about a week, but there was a 50 percent reduction in residential new housing permit issuance times compared to a year ago; five year residential permit programs were consistently averaging less than five days; commercial permit issuance times had been improved with a 30 percent or more reduction in permit issuance times for interior alterations and new commercial permits compared to the previous year, however, despite the improvements, they are not yet where they need to be on those types of permit issuances; the optional professional certificate program was operational, with over 25 projects currently having elected to participate in the fast track program.

Councillor Havixbeck asked if the Chair had consulted with the building community, and what was their level of satisfaction with the current turnaround times. Councillor Browaty replied that there was no shortage of times where people complained that they were not getting information in an expedient fashion, but when complaints were investigated it often was found that the information / requests submitted were incomplete / lacking in information and that was the result of the delay, rather than the City's process.

Regarding the fire station on Taylor, Councillor Havixbeck asked for an update on the land purchased by the City where the station was built, to which Councillor Browaty replied that currently, the fire hall audit report was overdue.