COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, June 17, 2015

The Council met at 9:47 a.m.

The City Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Morantz.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Schreyer and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, I understand you have some announcements today.

Mayor Bowman: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker and good morning everyone. On June 3, over 1600 Winnipeggers pledged to commit acts of conscious kindness. It's kind of the United Way's Winnipeg Wednesdays as I trust everyone is following. A small kindness can make a big difference and often does in our community and I note this morning when you arrived on your desks, from me, was a handwritten random act of kindness. Kindness is a chain reaction, so I ask that each of the Councillors pay it forward not just in this meeting, but afterwards today in the community. And Monday, June 15th, Madam Speaker, was designated Manitoba's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Many of us wore purple ribbons to raise awareness and show support for the cause. Elder abuse can include mental, physical and financial abuse. It's estimated 10 percent of Manitoba's seniors population have sadly experienced it. And I ask that all Winnipeggers make a difference by starting a discussion, encouraging awareness and demonstrating respect for all of us, regardless of our age. Yesterday marked the final match, as you know, of FIFA Women's World Cup in our city. The attendees…attendees…I know many of you attended the games. I attended many of the games, most of the games over the past week and a half. It was an honour to have hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup here in our city and I want to thank everybody involved, especially the volunteers who worked so hard over the last year or two even and certainly over the last few weeks, to help us host the world right here in Winnipeg. As you know, we raised the flags at Portage and Main and banners here at City Hall. And again, I want to thank everybody involved. City Hall, as everyone will know, has raised a number of flags in celebration this past month. And today, we raised the Icelandic flag high in honour of Jon Sigurdsson Day. We've also raised the flags for Philippine Heritage Week, Portugal Day, Special Olympics, Manitoba Awareness Week and of course, the last week, the Pride Festival. And we want to do our best to celebrate the good things that are happening in our community and it's such an easy way for us to be joined by the community here at City Hall. I want to thank all members of Council for their attendance at the flag raisings and encourage it as we go forward and celebrate those who are doing good work in the community. I also want to note that many of us attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' annual conference recently in Edmonton. I want to thank Mayor Don Iveson for hosting the conference and all those that attended. As members of Council will know, Winnipeg will be hosting the FCM conference in 2016. I want to thank Councillor Gerbasi and others for their leadership in getting us ready to host such an important annual conference in Winnipeg next year. This Saturday, the annual walk for ALS is occurring in support of ALS Society Manitoba, happens at Assiniboine Park. I want to encourage all Winnipeggers to join the walk this weekend and Madam Speaker, I also would like to acknowledge that June is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. Close to four percent of Canadians are living with an acquired brain injury. Its cause…they can cause a variety of cognitive changes including hearing and vision problems, poor concentration, memory issues, even seizures, depression and fatigue. The Manitoba Brain Injury Association is dedicated to providing support for individuals and families in our community living with the effects of brain injury. And I want to thank them for their efforts to raise awareness and provide education about brain injuries in our community. I'd like to invite Gladys Hrabi, the program coordinator for the Brain Injury Association of Manitoba as well as Val Bergeron, a brain injury survivor up to speak, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Welcome

Gladys Hrabi: Good morning, Honourable Mayor and all the members of the City Council. My name is Gladys Hrabi. I'm the program coordinator of Manitoba Brain Injury Association. We stand before you to request your help in raising awareness on brain injury as a public health issue. This month of June is designated as National Brain Injury Awareness Month across Canada. As incredible as this may sound, brain injury in Canada is a silent epidemic. In Canada, brain injuries are number one killer and disabler of people under the age of 44. Vehicular accidents, assaults, sports injuries,

cycling accidents, falls, strokes, tumours, aneurysms and other non-degenerative conditions are all leading causes of acquired brain injury. The social, emotional and economic consequences of brain injury are, in fact, devastating not only the survivors themselves, but the family members, caregivers, support workers and the community at large. Everyone involved with working towards neuro-rehabilitation and recovery. And currently, there are no drugs or techniques that can cure a brain injury.

Valerie Bergeron: Good morning Mr. Mayor and all members of City Council. My name is Valerie Bergeron and I'm a past president of the Manitoba Brain Injury Association and a brain injury survivor of two brain aneurysms. Living with brain injury, no matter what your age is challenging and it truly can happen to anyone. Yes, age has no bearing on brain injury. It can happen because of a vehicle accident, a bicycle accident, a boat accident, a fall, a sports injury, an aneurysm, where a blood vessel bursts in your brain, a fight, anything, where your brain, that wonderful mechanism inside of our skull, is injured. Brain injury is real and can happen to anyone at any age. It could happen to you. I want you to think about your own life, what you are good at, the salary you earn, the friends you have, your ability to do the things you do each day, your hobbies, your work, playing with your family and friends. Now, imagine that on the way home tonight or tomorrow, or on that drive to the lake that you so enjoy, imagine that in a moment of time, all of that is taken away from you. In my case, I did not engage in any dangerous driving, did not take risks and engage in any risky behaviour. No. I was born with a blood vessel in my brain that had a malformation on it, an arteriovenous malformation. That's what they told me. And it chose to bleed twice in my life. Once when I was 25, married, and enjoying my career as a teacher. When that happened, it took me six months to recover. And during that time, I had to learn to print again, to write again, to cook again, to do everything again. But I recovered from that injury and was able to return to work and continue in my chosen career as a teacher. And then, two and a half years later, when I was six and a half months pregnant, it happened again. Yes, the doctors had missed finding the source for that bleed and when it happened a second time they found the malformation. I finished the pregnancy and when it came time for our child to be born, she was delivered with forceps only. The doctors did not want to do a caesarian as they felt recovery time would be too long. After our child was born, I was allowed a few weeks to recover and then I had to go in for brain surgery to repair an avm, an arteriovenous malformation. Either from the second surgery or from that bleed, I have been left with a brain injury from that bleed. I have a very short, poor, short-term memory and I have a lot of difficulty with organizing and following up with what I have said because I cannot remember what I have said. My husband thinks he's died and gone to heaven because I can say things and then I forget. Well, because of this, I have been unable to return to my work as a classroom teacher. I have been forced to retire. My daughter, whom I was pregnant with when I had my second aneurysm, turned 31 in April of this year, so I have been retired for that many years. All the dreams I had as a young teacher and in my role as a mother, sure took a different route in my life. My life story is only one of many stories of survival from a brain injury. Because of my association with the Brain Injury Association of Manitoba, I have been able to feel that I still belong and can contribute to helping others who have suffered brain injuries. I can help them and their families cope with how their lives are different and yes, even give them hope that life may be different for them, but their lives are still worthwhile. The technology that has been developed in today's sciences has enabled people who used to die, to survive. But returning to work, sometimes, is impossible and returning to the life that you used to have, sometimes is impossible. But our Brain Injury Association works hard to give brain injury survivors and their family's hope and support each and every day. It is something they need. It is something everyone needs to feel a part of society. I thank you for allowing us to speak today and for your support of the brain injury community in our city and in our province.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for sharing your story here today, for your presence and for helping to raise awareness around Brain Injury Awareness Month. Thank you so much.

Valerie Bergeron: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes, I understand you have an announcement around Manitoba Marathon.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker, yes. Thanks for allowing me to speak here this morning. Much appreciated. We have with us today, Laurie Penton, the Operations Manager for the Manitoba Marathon. Thanks for joining us today, Laurie. Saturday will mark the 37th running of the Manitoba Marathon. I was one of the people there. I drove some friends to run the first one, the hot air balloon blew up on the ground and the day was scorching hot. From that inauspicious start, the marathon found a better route the next year and has thrived since then. It had become really a main stay of late June in Manitoba. A lot of numbers, over $5 million raised by the Manitoba Marathon for people living with intellectual disabilities. Laurie was giving you some numbers. Yes, they had a lot of them had 20 in them. Twenty bands along the course, it's a 26.2 mile course as you know, Madam Speaker. So 20 bands along the course, 200 businesses involved; over 2,000 city volunteers involved. It's a great involvement and also, Laurie went out of his way to thank the City. I was lucky enough last year, the City was given a plaque thanking the City for its support for the marathon over the years. I was lucky enough to receive that on behalf of the City and he went out of his way to say how we have over 55 police officers lining the route and a special mention of Kevin Siziroski of the Police who has worked

with the marathon for years and coordinated that function and so a real success I think of the marathon working together with the City over the years. It's become a great tradition. The theme this year of course is celebrating 20 years since I finished 14th in the 1995 Manitoba Marathon. Actually, sorry that was my suggestion for this year's theme. This year's theme is actually no limits which are the theme to indicate the continued growth of the marathon and continued success. So it's become a father's day tradition. I remember running it. I remember my father coming out to watch me run it and now I'm lucky enough this year to be running the 10 K with one of my own sons. So as 37 years have gone by, it's become an institution and a tradition in Manitoba. And we wish all sun, no rain for the run on Sunday to the Manitoba Marathon. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes and good luck to you and your son this weekend. Councillor Gillingham, I understand you would like to acknowledge the 20th anniversary of HMCS Winnipeg.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes. Madam Speaker, former Councillor Grant Norman brought this to my attention. The fact that this week marks the 20th anniversary of Her Majesty's Canadian Ship that bears the name of our great City. The HMCS Winnipeg was officially commissioned into the Canadian forces on the 23rd of June, 1995. And as I understand it, both a former Mayor, Susan Thompson and one of my own predecessors, former St. James Councillor Jae Eadie were part of that commission in that launch. HMCS Winnipeg is a frigate that serves on Canadian Forces MARPAC Missions protecting Canada's sovereignty in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans and enforcing Canadian laws on its territorial oceans and exclusive economic zone. Just yesterday, I was corresponding with Winnipegger, a retired master seaman, Jon Reyes. He resides in Councillor Mayes' ward. He's served on HMCS Winnipeg from 1994 to 2000 and Mr. Reyes was part of her original commissioning crew in 1995 that took the ship to Victoria from Halifax to the Panama Canal. He was involved in operation pacific rim in 1995 which took HMCS Winnipeg to Japan, Korea and Russia. Later the ship and crew was involved in operation in United America's which brought them to Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico and on this past Monday, just two days ago, June 15th, HMCS Winnipeg set sail again from port in B.C., headed to the Mediterranean Sea on a NATO led operation reassurance in central and eastern Europe to help conquer or pardon me, counter the Russian backed unrest in Ukraine and while travelling to Europe, HMCS Winnipeg will take part in a multinational drug trafficking effort to combat organized crime in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean. This week's deployment celebrates the frigate's 25th year of service and spreading our city's name and values around the world. Madam Speaker, I'm confident that our Mayor, Mayor Bowman and my fellow Council Colleagues will join me in wishing HMCS Winnipeg's commander and crew of 250 personnel a very successful mission and a safe return. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham.

MINUTES

Councillor Mayes moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on May 27, 2015 be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We'll now move on to delegations. We have Mr. Stefano Grande, Executive Director of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone. He is in support of Item 1 of the Downtown Development, Heritage and River Bank Management Committee, the report from April 10, 2015, regarding the pedestrian crossing at Portage and Main. Welcome.

Stefano Grande: Good morning. Good morning, Your Worship Mayor Bowman, City Councillors. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak this morning. Before I start, I do…would like to congratulate the City of Winnipeg for pulling off an incredible international event. We all know FIFA was a tremendous boost to our city in so many ways, economically, definitely stimulating a significant amount of economic development. We've estimated through Tourism Winnipeg in excess of $75 million has been spent in our local economy and in speaking with the managers of Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Bay, the restaurants, I can tell you, very, very high accolades for the event. So thank you very much for your efforts in bringing this event not only to Canada but to our incredible city. So thank you. On behalf of the Downtown Biz Board, I would like to lend support the City's effort to open up Portage and Main to pedestrians. It's widely understood that the opening of Portage and Main would be a good thing for our downtown community. In fact, for the last several decades each and every biz board comprised of 15 businesses and property owners have agreed to support

and advocate for the opening of Portage and Main. Prior Biz numbers survey showing over 85 percent support for the concept of opening up the barricades and in the past a very high majority of property owners at the intersection itself have been open to opening up the barricades. So has there been such a will by the Biz and the business community and the property owners? A majority of our Biz members believe the future of our downtown lies in it being a place for people to walk around from district to district and filling in those in between voids known as service parking lots and obsolete buildings with the great dense developments. The opening of Portage and Main will send development signal to the business and property investors that our downtown vision is to connect the Forks, our waterfront and Ball Park District to the Exchange District, the core on Portage Avenue. Our Winnipeg, the City's guiding policy frame work leads us in this direction and rightfully so. This conversation is more than just about pedestrians crossing a street. It's about stimulating further downtown development and business activity as well. The opening of Portage and Main will make it significantly easier for people to walk around our downtown, getting access to the shops, the restaurants and adding life to our sidewalks in ways only pedestrians really can. But there has not been the will for decades to move in this direction so we ask why. Vehicle time delay has been flagged as a concern. While valid, the reality is opening up Portage and Main won't wreak havoc in the lives of Winnipeg motorists. Adding additional 55 seconds to the trip will be forgotten after the first week of its opening. The same manner which the opening of Chief Peguis Trail on Henderson Highway has added over a minute to the commute time of Winnipeggers at Henderson Highway. So let's not put fear in the minds of people. As we know, great engineers and designers can put best practices and technologies to work to make Portage and Main intersection safe and efficient not only for motorists, but for transit operators; for pedestrians and for cyclists too. Let our city staff dream and let them create. Let's not say this is not possible and that we can't. Numerous studies have espoused the urban renewal development and economic virtues of tearing down the barricades at Portage and Main. A stunt in business growth has also been flagged as a concern. The reality is that there are dozens of shops and services now flourishing in the underground concourse which rely on the underground pedestrian traffic. Some are mom and pop shops…all create jobs in our economy. No doubt the millions in which the Lombard concourse and the shops of Winnipeg Square owners have recently invested in upgrading an underground concourse is meant to attract even more businesses and even more people underground reliance on the same pedestrian activity. But reality is again, that almost a hundred of the property owners have agreed to open up Portage and Main in the past while willing to see if perhaps the opposite will occur, to make the pie bigger for everyone. The cost of removing the barricades is also didn't flag as a concern and rightfully so. We all know that tax dollars are limited, but we also know that the barricades are in need of repair purging and more. So if dollars are to be spent, let's spend wisely and let's tie infrastructure investment to economic development. In many instances, tens of millions of dollars were spent in improving City infrastructure to shave mere minutes off of the traveling time of motorists stimulating no or economic spinoffs. Maybe we need to take a page from the New York Times Square pedestrian makeovers. Several years ago, the local Transcona Biz wanted to create a public space experimenting a public plaza in order to reduce vehicle traffic and better accommodate the pedestrians due to the extremely crowded streets which make it hard to get around that area, widespread opposition was mounted for motorists to concerned businesses, to taxicab drivers and office workers who felt a six minute delay to get through Times Square, it was not acceptable to taxpayers who have to foot the bill. Eventually, there was a compromise and a pilot project was born. If the cheap version did not work, the idea would be abandoned. The last several years, the Time Square Biz has been experimenting with tables, chairs, bulwarks and more including staging performances and creating our events to celebrate the history of that area. All along, they have listened to the feedback and reactions of people, tourist, workers, taxicab drivers, property and business owners. They have worked with engineers, police and public officials, made adjustments from pilot to pilot, from year to year, and the people love the pilot. More came and more business to be had and more tourists to arrive. The pilot has evolved into a final design with a majority the public demanding that the changes proceed. In a few short years, and the idea has become a reality because of the consensus built during this pilot phase. So, what if Winnipeggers, we adopt the same approach at Portage and Main as a means of managing and mitigating the risks, playing with creative designs and showing the public has nothing to fear, but much to gain. What if there was consensus to simply rip down the aging barriers now worry about the final design yet and simply assess different traffic and design options to ensure critical information over a pilot period. Assessing things like how many pedestrians have decided to use the intersection? Is there a change in pedestrian traffic? In particular, how the four million tourists at the Forks decided to venture past this world class light into other downtown districts? Have the sales of numbers dropped below or above ground or have they increased? Have development opportunities of subsequent small business opportunities emerged? Is pedestrian safety compromised or not? Are Winnipeggers supportive and understand this vision for our new downtown? I find when I explain this vision to Portage and Main even the staunchest motorist takes a pause and thanks for explaining the rationale as to why this is important to our City. So let's put this idea to a test and move forward collectively and collaboratively with everyone. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We'll take any questions at this time. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: I just wanted to ask…thank you, Madam Speaker, through you to Stefano, how many years has the Downtown Biz Board been in support of opening Portage and Main and can you speak to that?

Stefano Grande: I think I referred to the word, “decades” in my presentation, going back to the days of Harry Finnegan, the past Executive Director of the Downtown Biz, the past Head City Planner. Very much full support of our board from year to year. Our board changed and in our board, we have small business operators all the way to our largest corporations such as Investors, the Bay, MTS centre, all in support of the concept of making sure that we connect our districts together to give people a great pedestrian experience in our downtown which is our future.

Councillor Gerbasi: And what about the Exchange District Biz if you could just speak to their position maybe?

Stefano Grande: I actually spoke to Brian Timmerman the other day, very much in full support, always has been full support of Portage and Main. They’d love to see those 4 million tourists, you know, the 30,000 people that go to the Ballpark in the Forks area to gravitate into the Exchange District, seamlessly, easily. Right now the barricade is a barrier and, you know, we have spoken to the tourists in our city during the FIFA. Particularly the tourists at the Fairmont and they have expressed concerns, “how do we get across the street, the concourse? How do we navigate the concourse? It's closed in the evening”. And so we have to listen…we have to listen to tourists. A tremendous amount of events have been occurring in our city over the last decade, from the Junos, the Grey Cup to FIFA and this is a huge driver to economic development in our city and so we have to listen to the general business community. We have to listen to the tourists. We have to work with those businesses under the concourse and help them understand the probability, the possibility of making the pie bigger for everyone. We have to make that connection between all those surface parking lots and pedestrian activity, making those connections between the Forks and other parts of our downtown. And so we really want to engage the community in this discussion and not just leave it at opinion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anything further, the delegation today? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Grande, I’m glad to see you here. An evolution both our lives. I went to school in the same classroom as your sister Maria. I recall dealing with you briefly when you were in a similar capacity with Triple S, Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements Development Association. Your evolution is justified. I have confidence in your ability to represent the Winnipeg Downtown Biz and I respect certainly your visions and your ideas and your wish to work with the City on this issue, but I have to be honest with you Mr. Grande, I am not convinced. I’m certainly open to this discussion. It's very important, but, of course, over the course of time, there is going to be some tough questions and answers.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, do you have a question?

Councillor Schreyer: I certainly do, Ma’am and such was my preamble. And coming to the question, Madam Speaker, as an example, you mentioned something about making the connections and having to explain or communicate with the shops of the Winnipeg Square. Could you elaborate on that issue and how that is a challenge?

Stefano Grande: First, I would like to acknowledge your opinion. I think it’s important that we have this conversation, we have this dialogue. We talk about the issues. You talk about the concerns, but we talk about how we can address and move forward as a community. I think the challenge that we hear from our office workers, the tourists, is navigating our downtown at Portage and Main and having to either have people walk further in opposite directions to cross the street and get back to that destination on Portage or vice versa in the Exchange District or to help those people navigate underneath the concourse to get to their destination across the street. Those are the challenges that we hear from office workers, tourists, visitors on a regular basis. And I know personally, I have meetings all over the downtown. I walk around…in the summer, let’s face it, everyone wants to be outside whether or not there is an underground concourse or a walkway, people will spend time outside for the majority of the summer. And it's a challenge to get from Portage Avenue to visit my BIZ members in the Richardson Building. Had to go underground, spend an extra six or seven minutes walking to get to that destination. So how do we make it more accessible? How do we make it more easy? I think opening up the barricades clearly is a solution that won't impede I believe, we believe, the motorists.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I’m allowed three, is that right, is that true?

Madam Speaker: Pardon me?

Councillor Schreyer: I’m allowed three questions, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: That is not one of them? Perhaps, this isn't fair for you to have to comment on at this time, however, this is one of the questions that…this is the first time for me to be able to ask a question on record on this issue and so I feel obliged to ask this question for the record. This is I think an important question for people. What was the motivation for closing off Portage and Main in the first place? And why would perception have changed among certain agencies or groups in the city?

Stefano Grande: That's a good question. You know, several decades ago, our City forefathers had a vision of creating density at Portage and Main, stimulating development. And part of the deal that was put together rightly so was to create an underground, to create those store fronts to develop the revenue to help to sustain the developments. That was 30 years ago, that was 30 years ago. Our downtown has changed. There's tremendous economic activity downtown today. There's 16,000 residents or 70,000 workers, millions and millions of visitors are coming to our downtown because of the MTS Centre or the Forks. And so, we're in a different place today. And so, we have to…we have to think differently in terms of how people walk around, how to stimulate development, how to stimulate business activity. And so we were 30 years ago having this discussion, we probably wouldn't be having this discussion because I think the vision of our forefathers 30 years ago, we believed was the right one. It did stimulate development. It did create that density. It did create the retail traffic. The workers are taking advantage of all these services that are underground, particularly in the winter time. But I think we have to think about where our city is going in the next 30 years. Do we want more residents? Do you want more FIFAs? Do we want more office workers? Between the Forks and Portage, all the surface parking lots. Do we want more density? Do we want more pedestrian traffic to fill our sidewalks and store fronts? We think we do. And so this is more of a question. What is our vision for the next 30 years? Opening up the barricades is, for us, is more…is more than just allowing people to move across the street safely today. We believe it's a broader vision for our downtown.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Third question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Mr. Grande, before we get a copy of this on Hansard, would it be possible for you to provide me and perhaps the rest of Council a copy of your speech?

Stefano Grande: Absolutely, we brought 10 copies.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz, do you have a question?

Councillor Morantz: For Mr. Grande through you, Madam Speaker. I'm very much in favour of having this analysis completed to see what our options are around this and if it's possible, I'd like to see the intersection opened up. I think it would be very, very good for our downtown. I'm sure this would be a question I'm going to ask for the information will be coming forward and analysis, but to your knowledge, are there any contractual obligations that the City is currently bound by with existing business owner that might be impediment to the removal of the barricades. Does your organization look at that at all?

Stefano Grande: We have. We've asked for information from the City of Winnipeg, and to be honest we're not 100 percent clearly sure in terms of what those legal obligations are, but that seem to be a window opportunity to engage in those discussions. But also, we have property owners that, you know, are interested, are wanting to dialogue and as you are aware, contracts can always be changed even through our obligations, through consensus if they're working together through the issues, through conversations so it's, you know, it's a positive will, it's this positive energy that needs to lead to the change, not necessarily legal agreements which may or may not be changed. I think there needs to be a process which we are more than happy to participate in engaging our business community underneath our concourse, talking about…talking about the issues, talking about their challenges, talking about design solutions and really, you know, empowering our business community under the concourse who have some reservations, to be informed and to make proper decisions. I think it's a very important process that we have go through rather than well, we can't do it because of legal contracts, we can't do it because of issues that we think are real but we're not sure.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We have…time is…our time is done now.

Stefano Grande: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Grande for your time today. Now, we'll move on to the Executive Policy Committee, report dated June 10, 2015, Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JUNE 10, 2015**

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Items 1 through 8.

Madam Speaker: Okay, I'll call the question on Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk, Item 1.

Item 1 - CentreVenture Development Corporation – Long-Term Funding Solution

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce if you wish.

Mayor Bowman: Sorry, this is Report 1?

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Mandate Review Committee for their work today. The committee as members of Council will know consist of Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Lukes and Councillor Mayes. As Council knows, the intent of this mandate review committee is to examine the mandate of CentreVenture and report back to EPC regarding their findings. It's important to take the appropriate amount of time to complete this review and for this reason, I am pleased to support the request for more time to ensure that the committee takes their time, not rush this very important review. That being said, Madam Speaker, I look forward to hearing what the councillor or councillors have to say. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt, you have the floor.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. And I stand this down as an opportunity to speak about the CentreVenture and the importance of the development corporation. I understand there is a mandate review, but there's also, this was a specifically referring to long term funding solution for CentreVenture. CentreVenture, of course, Madam Speaker, came out of the centre plan that was done going back to the time of Mayor Susan Thompson when there was the need to really get focused on downtown. Downtown had gone through a number of decades of decline and the downtown of the city really reflected that in terms of its image and in terms of its presence, in terms of the business community and there was a real concern that the decline was going to continue and that something had to be done. And under the leadership of Council at that time, centre plan made a…quite a number of recommendations. It was an extensive document which was done with Council, with the members of Council, with the Mayor and with the members of the business community as well as other downtown stakeholders, and one of the key recommendations in centre plan was actually CentreVenture, the idea of creating a unique development corporation, somewhat arms-length from the City in downtown Winnipeg. There is….and I'm speaking to this in terms of a long term funding solution for CentreVenture because of the fact that I think we need…before we start looking at mandates with regards to even CentreVenture, the centre plan document is now 20 years old plus. And there is no doubt that the focus of the last 20 years of downtown first which this council, previous council has made has had a very positive impact in terms of the development of downtown Winnipeg and its renewal. One can only see in the last decade alone, all the projects that have been under way, is there more work to be done? Is there a greater need in terms of certain areas? Absolutely. It's far from over. You know, there's still huge issues with regards to the downtown, some of the disconnectedness in terms of parts of the downtown, the need for infrastructure investment, the need for beautification. All these things are still our issues that were issues 20 plus years ago. But, there should be, I would encourage in terms of the long term funding solution, we seem to have a long term funding solution objective here with regards to CentreVenture, and at the same time, we have another initiative going on which is being pursued by EPC, the Mayor, with regards to the actual CentreVenture model and what that mandate or model would be. And I think we really have to encompass that all and take a step back before we throw the baby out with the bath water and that is, let's look at where our direction is going with regards to downtown Winnipeg. Let's look at what the needs of the next 20 years are going to be for downtown Winnipeg, and how best to address those needs. At the end of the day, it still may be at CentreVenture type Development Corporation. It may be CentreVenture Development Corporation with maybe not the same strength or powers or maybe a CentreVenture Development Corporation with this greater strengths and powers to be able to do things that presently they can't do. But at the end of the day, I think Madam Speaker, we need to ensure that downtown first continues to be a strategy and a key component of this council because we are not out of the woods yet with regards to our downtown. And the pressures in suburban communities and the pressures on commercial development and commercial relocation is still there if not greater today in some ways than it was 20 some years ago with the development of suburban malls. Now it's taking different forms as industrial parks pop up in suburban areas. And now,

we have another unique challenge for downtown which is the exurban outside of the City of Winnipeg, the capital region which is now also attracting business and industry, some of which may in the past 50 years or so been located downtown and so this is a challenge that we're facing and to make it more relevant. There's no doubt with the construction of the bus rapid transit system, BRT, it will definitely be a…bode well for the downtown to continue that and make it a more aggressive strategy, maybe that's part of the future plan for downtown to ensure that it's fundamentally healthy and strong. But ultimately, Madam Speaker, we need to take a step back and look at the whole picture and we have an opportunity right now. This is early in the Council term. We have an opportunity to do that and to…whether it be refresh centre plan or start new but to come up with a plan for the next 20 years, 25 years that we can follow. So those are the comments I just wanted to put out there and suggestion, and some food for thought. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, actually I rise on a point of order, Speaker Sharma. Last month, there was a report; it was a referral to a standing committee on ATU, Active Transportation Trail. Today, we have a report here that actually, there's no report coming back, it was referred to an ad hoc committee struck through EPC and administration was charged to follow up and come up with some other things, Madam Speaker. And I don't understand why last month, we were unable to debate a report that was actually on the agenda list and today we are actually sitting here discussing the content and issue of the CentreVenture. I don't understand.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, this one's bit different. Council is deciding whether or not we want to have an extension of time. So it's a different scenario this time around. Anyone else wish…?

Councillor Eadie: I'm sorry. It's a point of order. Could you explain why this time and not last time?

Madam Speaker: As I said, Council is making a decision this time whether or not to grant an extension of time for this item so that's what is before us. Are there any further speakers on the item? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to make a couple of comments for the record. Since Councillor Wyatt did mention this is not merely about long term funding but about mandate. And my comments are about mandate. In our era of openness and accountability, since it's been as Councillor Wyatt said, 20 years since the creation of CentreVenture, it is time to review this and I look forward to that, but in this era of openness and accountability, I want people…I want this council and the citizens of Winnipeg to consider what is the mandate of CentreVenture? What is the purpose of having this arms-length agency of the City that deals with City resources, City land and taxpayers' money for the development of our downtown? It's very important. It's all very well that CentreVenture has been involved in good work in the development of our downtown. And it is true, this province has had a solid economy for over a dozen years and CentreVenture has been part of that in terms of making use of that for the development of our downtown. But this is City lands, City resources and taxpayers' money and people have a right to know what is the mandate of CentreVenture, how does it function? And what are the purposes of it being a separate agency from the government of Winnipeg going about the government's business? And I just think that's extremely important. It comes down to the essence of governance and openness and accountability with taxpayers' money and taxpayers' common property. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers on the item? Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close?

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker and I want to thank through you all members of Council for not only their discussion today but the ongoing discussion with the mandate review committee. Remind members of Council, this motion, while mandate is related and important, this motion is extending time for members of the Winnipeg Public Service to report back with the recommendation on long term funding solutions for CentreVenture. I want to thank members of the Public Service for their ongoing dialogue not only with CentreVenture but with members of Council. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: All in favour of Item 1? Contrary? Carried. Item No. 7, Madam Clerk.

Item 7 - Memorandum of Agreement – Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 500

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, do you wish to open?

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me begin the discussion on this one just by stating my appreciation for the hard work and dedication from all valued members of our public service. The report in front of us today outlines the details of a tentative agreement that has been reached with CUPE Local 500. I'm hopeful that with the support of Council today that the agreement can be ratified. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt, did you stand this down? Yes.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today because I probably symbolically, as a member of Council, will not be supporting this matter before us today. We are entering into a contract for another two years with CUPE with the negotiations that have taken place. Just so members of Council realize or understand, if they haven't had a close look at the report, but the actual cost, the implication to the City in terms of outgoing cost is an additional annualized cost of $9 million a year over the course of the contract is 13.2. This…the reason I stood it down, Madam Speaker, normally these matters, this is not stood down, very rarely has it been stood down. Typically, it sails through Council like a knife, a butter knife through soft butter but in this case, I think it's important to point out that there are outstanding issues, having had the opportunity of being involved with the budget process, with attempting to balance the budget, working towards balancing the budget and us having…have a balanced budget, one of the key areas that we are always striving towards but fundamentally have found frustrating in recent years, is the ability to find new methods and new ways of delivering services, still maintaining services for the public at the levels and the level of service that the expectation or which we as a city in terms of policy have set, but to try to find ways of delivering services more effectively or efficiently in terms of our cost. One of the most fundamental parts of the contract that appears to still be in the contract is not referred to in the report so I'm making an assumption, and I hope I'm right, but I made the assumption that the report…that this contract still includes the job security clause for full time equivalent employees which, as it stands right now, Madam Speaker, is a very unique clause. And I say it's unique because of the fact that it's been around for some 30 some years. It goes back really to the 1980s, to the days of, you know, Bill Norrie and Ed Blackman when he was Head of the CUPE Union at the time and you know, the 1980s I…that's, you know, my long lost youth and, you know, I remember…remember Bon Jovi and we remember double interest rates and inflation and all these other wonderful things of the time, and you know…and then, but of course we rarely remember this. But this actually comes from that era. It comes from the era where previously we have talked about transparency and openness and maybe was not the same as it is today. I think that's fair to say. In terms of fiscal responsibility Council of the time was running massive budgetary deficits in terms of capital spending. There was no sustainable capital plan at the time in terms of long term debt. At the same time, Council was not just increasing property taxes well beyond the rate of inflation. It was actually increasing property taxes double digit in some cases at that time unprecedented, Madam Speaker. And so, I raise this because it's become a bit of a sacred cow so I'm raising it because of the fact that I think it has to be raised and that is, that we have to question our sustainability on this matter and whether we can go forward and continue business as usual. I don't know whether the negotiating committee, which is basically EPC vial our public service whether the mandate was given to our staff to put this on the table. I don't know that. Maybe it was put on the table. Maybe it was part of the negotiations. But outside of this Executive Committee, members of Council will not know that or do not know that unless they have been privy to it or been made privy to it. And that is a concern. So, we are not sure whether that was on the table or not. And, I'm assuming, based on previous mandates given to the Public Service, our negotiating staff, that the mandate…that that was not included. I know this is also a sensitive matter, too, Madam Speaker, because CUPE is not a union which is not active, not a very an active political union. They're very active in the elections and municipal elections. They back candidates. They oppose candidates. They campaign for candidates. They campaign against candidates. And so I know that there are those who have loyalties or allegiance or friendships with those on the CUPE side and the leadership there, but at the end of the day, we're elected to do what we feel or what we know we need to do in term of the overcall good of our city and fundamentally, the financial stability of our city. And that's why I raise this issue. Ultimately, we all want to ensure that we have quality jobs and quality services and that we can do both. Ideally, this is the challenge that we're faced. However, we know also, at the same time as a City, we have not accessed the types of growth revenue funding that we fundamentally need if we are going to have sustainability in the future. In terms of both our infrastructure demands that the public clearly see, declining infrastructure across the city and at the same time the need to maintain existing service. So much so, that we have now gone to the extent, Madam Speaker of having to earmark, not one but two percent on an annual basis of the property tax increase to our roads, to our streets, to our lanes. That two percent, Madam Speaker, represents approximately $10 million which would be a… not going to the bottom line of assisting to balance the budget, not going to the bottom line of this new $9 million annualized cost but going towards paying for the infrastructure of the City. Now, if we decide to raise taxes further beyond that two percent, three percent or four percent, well, now we are gone…we've above the rate of inflation, which I know was an issue in the last civic election in terms of tax increases. We all know that and that is something which is a concern. So we're…here we are trying to balance the infrastructure deficit of our city which is growing and getting worse. I'm not sure…we're not out of the woods there either, far from it. And at the same time, we have our operating costs which are growing as well. And yet, we don't have options as other employers would in terms of looking at efficiencies and finding efficiencies in terms of those operating costs. I would dare say, Madam Speaker, there is not many…very few employers in this country who have given their full time equivalent employees job security. You know, that is unprecedented and it goes back to the 1980s, when there was fundamentally poor management taking place and so I speak to this, Madam Speaker, because of the need to speak to it and put it on the table. I want to say something as well, that I've had the opportunity to work in the city, working with public sector employees, and I want to say that there are so many...

Madam Speaker: Can you wrap up, please?

Councillor Wyatt: …hardworking, dedicated public employees, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes moves extension for two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Wyatt: That…that is beyond question. And before other speakers rise and try to make that an issue or put words in my mouth, I would like to say it very clearly that the work and the dedication and the hard work of these individuals, day in and day out, thankless in many cases is greatly appreciated and been acknowledged and will continue to be. And we appreciate and I appreciate their support on a daily basis in terms of the work that they do in our communities whether it be cutting our boulevards or fixing our broken water mains in middle of winter in -30° or what have you. This is the work day in and day out that we see the employees doing and we greatly appreciate it. The challenge we have at the same time is as managers, we have to manage and balance our operating budget. We're not in the same position unfortunately, Madam Speaker, or fortunately of being able to run annual operating deficits as the Provincial Government has and up until recently, the Federal Government. We have to balance our budget. And so, at the same time, we have to find money for the infrastructure. And it's going to get even more challenging and the chair of finance has spoken passionately about that on the floor in terms of that huge funding gap that's facing us. And in the last budget you will recall, councillors this council voted for the first time that I could remember, for service cuts and overwhelmingly voted for service cuts and I will…specifically with regards to our pools, our rec facilities where we reduce, we have reduced hours. We don't know what those hour reductions are yet. We're going to find out very soon probably in the fall, probably hear from our constituent before we hear from management, but we will no doubt hear about it because we did support cuts in terms of services for the first time and this is the challenge we're going to be facing to maintain our services or have higher than inflation tax increases or we abandon the infrastructure renewal programs that we've initiated. So I rise and symbolically say to vote against it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: I need clarification from Councillor Wyatt on terms of this issue's relationship to a rate of inflation? I can't get that.

Madam Speaker: We are moving onto the next set of speakers. Councillor Mayes followed by Councillor Eadie and then Councillor Morantz. Thank you.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to largely disagree with Councillor Wyatt. I do want to commend him for consistency on a couple of points, which were a year and a half ago, we had a former Councillor stand and she criticized that the amount being spent on wages and benefits in the operating budget and Councillor Wyatt quite rightly got up and said you voted for the…you're criticizing Police and Fire remuneration. You voted for the settlement a month ago or two months ago. You can't stand here and vote for settlements and then criticize the very settlements you just voted for. So I think Councillor Wyatt makes a valid point on that. I would disagree though in terms of the causation here of any of our budgetary woes…I don't think can really be laid at the feet of CUPE. It's a settlement that calls for two percent wage increases which is certainly in line with inflation and in line with, certainly underneath…beneath the amount that we increased property taxes this year. It is worth pointing out that Mike Davidson, others, the leadership of CUPE I think is trying to work with the City. We've had some debates in the past. We had a remarkable study prepared from an American firm about our golf services which among other things said that the Employment Standards Act provision should not apply to City golf courses. You know, it can apply to virtually every other employment situation in the Province of Manitoba, but by God, we cannot afford it at the golf course was the conclusion of that study. And I question that and I continue to question some of the conclusions that were made there and that golf debate was an interesting one in that you had a conclusion made that if we could just get rid of the union, it would all be so much cheaper and we wouldn't have these losses. And I got up and said, "Well, Kildonan makes money even though the workers are unionized. And Harbour View, if everybody worked for free, if everybody worked for free at the Harbour View Golf Course, it would still lose money the way we constructed the property tax regime and the amortization of old depreciation." So in short, mathematically just didn't work. You just couldn't say it's the union's fault here that the golf courses were losing money. So I think we moved beyond that debate, but there is a valid debate to be had I think saying that we voted in the most recent budget for the first time for service reductions, one…I would point out we voted to reinstate a five percent reduction in the museum budget so clearly there have been reductions in other areas. I want to commend the Mayor who campaigned on reinstating that reduction to the museum's budget. So, yes, we have voted in the past for reductions, I can't speak to what happened before I got here but I hardly would characterize the 2015 budget as being the first to ever vote for service reductions and that somehow that's a billiard bank shot that comes back to require us to vote against this settlement. There are some things in here that I think we should be proud of. We, as a

city, have paid maternity leave for all of our bargaining agents. So I think that's something you wouldn't see in the private sector, true, but it's something that 30 years on in the public sector and something we should be proud of that we have paid maternity leave for all of our bargaining unit employees across all eight or nine collective agreements. So one could argue, one could quibble with some of the expenditures here, but it's important to remember it's a negotiation process. Is there a job security provision there? Yes. If we gave the workers ten percent in each of two years would they probably soften the language? True, but there would be a huge cost to doing that. So it's a bargaining process, we're sometimes criticized for the wage increases we end up giving to fire, police ambulance. However, that's an arbitrated process. There's no right to strike. Quite often, we've ended up taking a hard line and going to arbitration. Quite often, we haven't done too well in those arbitrations and that the bargaining units have been awarded wage increases above the rate of inflation but frankly, that's the legal regime we are under. It's an arbitrated, interest arbitration regime. This is not that, this is a right to strike environment. We have avoided to strike here for over continuing and over 40 year run of negotiated settlements with CUPE. I don't think two percent is an excessive amount. We are trying to do some creative things, some innovative things with our bargaining agents, Councillor Browaty and I were at an announcement recently with MGEU…people tend to forget the Manitoba Government Employees Union represent some of our workers, our ambulance workers. Great announcement which was: we are bringing in power stretchers for all the ambulances…that should massively reduce back injury and time lost…time lost claims and my thanks to Councillor Browaty for his support for that. It's a great innovative thing we're doing with one of our bargaining agents and with Chief Lane in the Fire Service. So I think we're trying to move forward, work and create a passion with our bargaining agents. You know, you can always criticize some things but at the end of the day, it's…it's a negotiated settlement and for those who would say, "Well, we're giving in too easily here", they're just as many who say, "Why are you taking such a hard line in the ATU negotiations. Why haven't you concluded that yet? So there's always going to criticisms from either side. I think in this case, the union came to an agreement with our staff. We as an EPC don't sit as the bargaining committee of course. We have some very good staff who do that for us. They were able to bring this home. I think it's a reasonable settlement. As I say, you could always find something to criticize but at the package, it's a long negotiation process. Look forward to continuing to work with…with CUPE and they'll have some suggestions. We'll agree with some. We'll disagree with some, but I think it's a sign that we're trying to move forward in a collaborative fashion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. I'm inspired to rise, Speaker Sharma, to speak because of the dialogue that's been going on. I respected actually, Madam Speaker, it's a modest increase that's been put forth here for CUPE Workers who in the past have actually being trying to help the City of Winnipeg, Madam Speaker, in terms of past contracts where they got zero-zero and one, for example, in the tough times of the finance of the City in the last term that I participated in as well as you, Speaker Sharma. So, I wholeheartedly in support of this particular motion, but you know, there's a couple of things I'd really like to speak to because they were put on the table and what I want to start off with, Madam Speaker, is just to say, you know, all our workers within the City of Winnipeg, everything they do, these are important services that the citizens of Winnipeg demand that they get and they demand, Speaker Sharma, that they are done appropriately as all our offices understand it know. We all get the calls. So what we need to understand is, is that Winnipeggers expect these services and you need to pay your employees a decent wage in order for them to be able to take care of their families and, you know, really be able to come to work every day and do their job. And that's what Councillor Wyatt respected that. They do that. They come to work and they work hard and they try to deliver their services and yes, mistakes do happen, but you know, ultimately you need to have enough employees to deliver those services. And I have to say that even though there is no, the clause that Councillor Wyatt referred to, ultimately there's a lot of vacant management happening, there's a lot of things happening that kind of circumvent that anyway. It has been managed by the City since our clause has been in there. Yes, we moved our garbage services away and those workers have the right to find jobs within the City and they did mostly through other areas in Water and Waste, Madam Speaker. And…but you know we never did save money by privatizing it really because one of the things we did is, yeah we save money in the first contract, but then private sector has to pay…they want to hire proper employees to have employees that can deliver appropriate services. So really, private contact goes up. It gets more expensive, Madam Speaker. And so, you know, ultimately, you know like I might even question today's way that the City manages things to blame a council in the past that didn't manage things appropriately or bad management, I don't understand that commentary at all because I think there's been some pretty sad management mistakes made while Councillor Wyatt has been in an office since what 2002? Yes, 2002 I believe. But also, Madam Speaker, what we need to understand, too and what we see in these other bargaining units, you know, the thing is the private sector for equipment operator, let's look at our Public Works equipment operators, they're actually getting paid less per hour. They're more qualified. They're getting paid less per hour than equipment operators in the private sector. Private Sector, in order to keep up to the City's increasing of money spent on local road renewal, regional road renewal, all these infrastructure projects, you know, it's not that our public employees are overpaid, like really. They have some good solid benefits packages. I think that's very important. But, Madam Speaker, we need to acknowledge that. And the last thing I want to point out, it was mentioned about people who have alignments or whatever and, you know, this union will help this elected official, that one. And so somehow, we owe some kind of thing to them that we're just going to vote on because somebody helped me in an

election. What we need to understand here is that the people who voted for me, Madam Speaker, I was out there saying we need to continue to deliver good service, better service because when people are paying money for service, they want proper service. And so that's clearly who I owe my thanks to is the people who voted for me because I talked about maintaining good quality services as a number of people around here did and when we start to talking about the service cuts, you know the reality is, there was mismanagement. The reality is there is inflation and the thing is we spent 13, 14 years not raising property taxes following inflation and it's quite clear in the private sector inflation for equipment operators, for example, for mechanics as well and so on, they get paid better in the private sector. So, Madam Speaker, I have to say, we also appreciate in…I actually come from labour, Madam Speaker, so one of the reasons is I worked very hard as actually a CUPE worker in my life time, worked very hard, always did my job and the thing is, is from my perspective, I'm supportive of those workers because I know what they go through every day, to do their job. And so I appreciate that Madam Speaker. I'll be voting wholeheartedly for ratifying or for us, Council supporting this agreement that has been come to without a strike, I might add. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Morantz. Thank you.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am delighted to rise on this point and I want to thank everyone for their comments today, in particular, I want to thank Councillor Wyatt for raising the issue of a job security which I do wish to comment on. But to start, I want to say I will be supporting this and I think it's probably the best deal we can make in the short time frame that this new administration has been in place. I want to also say that I have a great deal of respect for the Public Service and all of the workers in the City. I think sometimes I think they don't get the credit that they really do deserve and the hard work that they do. But I will support it with some cautionary notes. And I would urge everyone here to simply go on their computer or pick up a hard copy of their budget and flip to Appendix 1 and have a look at the forecasted operating deficit for 2016 which is 70, just over $73 million and then look at the next column and have a look at the forecasted operating deficit for 2017 and you will see a staggering number which is $108 million. And I think, you know, I keep saying this over and over and over again because I'm hoping…and I know it is sinking in, but I think it's time for everybody to wake up to our financial reality. This increase of almost $9 million would represent, if we paid for it solely through property tax, almost a two percent increase in property taxes next year, just for this one item. We have a tremendous, tremendous problem and I would ask…I would plead with every single member of this council to please bring forward your ideas. All ideas are welcome. Don't leave anything off the table because we are going to be struggling with this issue for years to come. Now, I also want to say, you know, with respect to the job security clause, I want to thank Councillor Wyatt for raising it. I don't know…if I had a chance to speak directly, Madam Speaker, to the members of CUPE, I wonder if they have been advised whether or not they understand that this clause actually cost them money. And the reason it cost them money is because in the negotiation, it's a bargaining chip. So the negotiators will say, "We want job security out", and the union will say, "Well, we wanted it in", and then they'll negotiate over the increase. And if you compare the increases in Winnipeg to other Cities that don't have this clause and in fact, I don't think any other cities in the country has this clause, the increases aren't as high so I would say to CUPE members, "Have a look at this. Ask your union leaders how much they gave up in their salaries for this clause." And I would also say that the clause, in my view is not in the public interest. It is in the interest of the members of the union, but it's not in the public interest generally. People who work in the private sector could never hope to have an agreement in their employment contracts that would say that they can't lose their job. It's just not a reality in this day and age. So it is here and so I want to circle back to what I said in the beginning which is that I think this is the best deal we can make under the circumstances in the short time that we had. I want to also say that, you know, the deal that we made is a deal that is not balanced in the forecasted operating budgets. In other words, we haven't identified sources or revenue to pay for these increases. And, I would…I guess basically wrap it up there. You know, those are essentially my comments. And, you know, going forward, I think that all issues with our union agreements must be on the table and I would like to work with the members of the union, and I think we should all be working with the members of the union to try to find a way forward that works for them, for this council and for the city at large. So thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham followed by Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise…I want to echo some of what my fellow Councillors have said, I too appreciate the work that our public service employees offer the City of Winnipeg and I will be supporting this today. But I did have I guess a comment that I will pose as a question just given my ignorance at this point. And it's further to what Councillor Morantz mentioned regarding the financial projections for our city and for our tough budgets ahead. And I'm wondering given that we have eight unions and associations that we deal with and given that four out of the eight I see agreements expired by the end of 2016 so within the next year and a half. I'm wondering if our members of the Executive Policy Committee, if there is a comprehensive target, when it comes to set by EPC that is communicated to our negotiators, comprehensive target or set of targets that will be given well in advance as we project in preparation for each of these respective agreements, kind of one of set of targets that takes into account our financial projections as well and those targets can be used rather than kind of each one dealt with each association or union dealt with kind of one off manner. If there is overall global kind of target that is set, that could assist the City in dealing with

future financial challenges as well. Again, maybe there is an answer to that and maybe the answer is yes and I just don't know that but, I'll communicate that question maybe as a suggestion for the sake of kind of our future budgetary projections.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to point out one thing that was raised, the idea of, you know, if I could, you know, Councillor Morantz talked about if I could talk directly to the union membership, I would have this…I mean, keep in mind our process is that, under the labour laws, that we speak to the union through a negotiation process in the collective bargaining agreement. And if you're trying to save money from these union agreements and these, you know, you have to follow the proper collective bargaining processes and I just think we need to be…I'm not saying anybody is not doing that, but I just think we need to be very mindful of…we are within very specific legal processes to look at these issues and I think that's important to understand that you know it's one thing to stand up and say, "We should get rid of this and do that", it is a negotiating process and we have a number of unions, a lot of them have done a lot better than CUPE without any question. I think Councillor Eadie pointed out, you know, zero, 01. I mean they've taken it for the team quite a bit, you know, I mean maybe everyone will have to take it for the team. It's just the other bargaining units don't end up taking it for the team because they go to arbitration and they get expensive settlements. So I just think to put that into some perspective, I agree with Councillor Morantz that we are in a desperate budget situation. We all know that. But we also have to look for solutions that are realistic. Obviously these things will be discussed in a future negotiation process, but you know…and you know, Councillor Morantz also mentioned that they could probably get bigger settlements if they got rid of job security, but I don't know. As a working person, I think you probably want to know you have a job. So I think I understand why they would want that security. And basically, they…you know, we redeploy people if those contracting out and things occur, but we pretty much need people. We have a much smaller CUPE numbers than we've had. And this idea that you can never lose your job is a bit of a misconception. You can be fired, it happens, it does happen with cause which is appropriate. So I just wanted to make those couple of comments. I think you know, as a member of Council who…I don't know if EPC has much more information and we have or not, I'm not even sure. It's been a while, but the fact is this negotiation was…came through in a fair and proper process and it's pretty reasonable given the inflation numbers. Yeah, we are in tough with our budget but that doesn't necessarily mean we have the power to just simply change that based on sort of an ideological thing, too which concerns me a little. And in terms of the comment about this is the first time we ever had a budget cut, I mean I don't even know how to respond to that. We restored budget cuts in this budget as Councillor Mayes pointed out that were done in the last budget to museums, for example, but there's many more examples. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close? Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: Excuse me.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm glad that Councillor Wyatt stood this down just to have the discussion on budgetary pressures, inflationary pressures. This is something that I guess Council and governments, basically all society deals with that we've been dealing with for generations, centuries and we have to deal with today as it comes to the specific issue of new negotiations with CUPE. I would, regarding the issue of inflation and budgetary pressures, I'd like to make a couple of points that I think are very important as we need to look at this holistically and one is, I'd like to mention as well in terms of inflation, what inflation is. We should recall during the budget negotiation process that Councillor Eadie…most people in this chamber will recall he's done some very good work on explaining certain aspects of inflation that has incurred…that has occurred in middle and lower income households and dwelling renters within the City of Winnipeg that you've had incredible inflation in certain aspects regarding tax assessments over the last ten years. Independent of our pre…of our recent, actual increase of our tax rates, just in terms of property assessment and how that's affected what people who had to pay in property taxes independent of changing the mill rate and that's a form of inflation on people that we cannot forget as we deal with in. What is inflation and how we compare inflation rates. Councillor Morantz asked for all ideas possible in terms of dealing with budgetary inflation pressures. His Worship Mayor Bowman I recall a few months ago during the time of the process of achieving our last budget, talked about the issue of construction inflation and I do not wish to put words in His Worship's mouth or misquote him, but the point was he…my point being that Mayor Bowman was conscious of the fact that construction inflation is an issue that we need to contend with and having worked in the office of the minister of infrastructure and transportation, I've noticed…I'm being aware, cognizant of construction over the decades in this province as an example, Madam Speaker, the issue of dramatic construction inflation that extends our budgets in this sphere into increases of a magnitude. And what I need to do, Madam Speaker, is to offer perspective or at least educate myself before I can offer a greater perspective on the issue of how construction inflation itself has created a budgetary pressure on governments, including the City of Winnipeg. And I do not believe that we can have a pull perspective and deal with this issue, deal with the

issue of inflation and budgetary pressures without dealing with the very real issue of construction inflation and to give you an example, the question, is it issues like CUPE, CUPE's two percent increase, is this the reason for construction inflation? What are the reasons for construction inflation, Madam Speaker? And I don't think we'll do as good of a job in terms of creating our budgets in the years to come without having an understanding of what are the factors contributing to the issue of what Mayor Bowman…we have to deal with construction inflation and on that basis, I bring that forward as well in this debate on inflation and budgetary increases. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further speakers, Mr. Mayor to close. Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank all members of Council who spoke to this matter. The comments by our Finance Chair regarding the pressures that we face right now but also that we are going to face are something that I am sensitive to. I wish to remind Winnipeggers and thank members of the Council for their support to look at our own salaries. As members of this Council will know one of the first acts we took was to support of this Council was to reduce the bonuses that were paid to members of EPC, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker as well as my own salary and we collectively saved in the range of approximately $400,000 over this mandate for taxpayers. We also found in the budget efficiencies in excess of 6 million, $6.3 million. And that was, of course, keeping in mind the best interests of Winnipeggers and the financial realities that we face. What we're voting on today, however, deals with a negotiated collective agreement and while I appreciate Councillor Wyatt's comments on Bon Jovi and 80s music in general. I know this may be bad medicine for you but I would ask all members of this council to support a reasonable and negotiated settlement and I didn't even raise living on a prayer. I was going to work that in. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the question on Item No. 7. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Okay, so noted, thank you. I will now draw your attention to Motion No. 1 moved by Mayor Bowman and seconded by Councillor Gerbasi regarding an Ethics Commissioner. This will be automatic referral to EPC.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Motion No. 1
Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

WHEREAS on December 11, 2013 Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee with respect to the creation of an Office of Ethics Commissioner (the "2013 Motion");

AND WHEREAS the 2013 Motion also requested the Province of Manitoba to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter Act (the "Charter") to provide the Ethics Commissioner with investigative powers to compel witnesses and evidence, which amendments have not as yet been made;

AND WHEREAS the 2013 Motion also provided that the Ethics Commissioner have jurisdiction over investigating complaints and recommending to Council sanctions with respect to members of the Public Service, and it is desirable to obtain further analysis of this issue from a labour relations perspective;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service be requested to report back within 120 days to Executive Policy Committee with recommendations for a process and implementation plan to create an Office of Ethics Commissioner with the maximum authority under the existing Charter, which report shall include;

(i) a review of best practices in other jurisdictions;
(ii) human resource and labour relations implications;
(iii) budgetary implications;
(iv) legal implications; and
(v) all other relevant considerations.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Governance Committee of Council work with the City Solicitor to review the existing Councillor Code of Conduct (the "Code") to develop recommendations for Council consideration with respect to updating and amending the Code to ensure: (i) guidelines for ethical conduct are in line with best practices in other jurisdictions; and (ii) consequences for breaching the Code are clearly defined and articulated.

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, I wish to…

Madam Speaker: Suspend the rules?

Mayor Bowman: Suspend the rules.

Madam Speaker: The Mayor calls for suspension of the rules to deal with this item now. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you Madam Speaker and thank to members of Council for hearing this matter now. The motion before Council right now is to request the Public Service recommend how the City can implement an Ethics Commissioner now until such time that we receive further support from the Province to make additional Charter changes to strengthen the efforts of an Ethics Commissioner. As you're all aware, the Provincial government announced changes to the Charter that added Civic employees to the Whistle Blower Protection Act last week under proposed Bill 39. You will recall that back in February, this council voted unanimously to support the motion I brought forward to request whistleblower protection for City employees in the Charter and I want to thank Councillor Allard for seconding that motion. Through collaboration with our Provincial partners, we've been successfully moving this forward as the first municipality in Canada to have this protection for our public service members when passed by the Legislature and will continue to work with the Province to obtain the support to amend the Charter to include the creation of a Municipal Ethics Commissioner and the abilities for it to investigate. In the meantime, however, there are measures we can take immediately here at City Hall. That's why this motion is before you today. I'd like to thank Councillor Gerbasi for her past leadership on this important issue and her continued support for seconding this motion before us today. It asks that the Public Service review other jurisdictions as well as our existing code of conduct. And it outlines a process we can utilize now to hold everyone here at the City, elected officials as well as the Public Service employees, accountable to our citizens. I started a dialogue with the Premier and the Minister Caldwell and I'll continue to work with them on changes to the Charter, but this is change I feel we can make now. And I look forward to Council's support on this motion today, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie, you have the floor.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Speaker Sharma. I want to…my appreciation to the Mayor and to Councillor Gerbasi. We're debating this now and I think it's actually a really good motion. But I just felt I should speak to it because, you know, there is this impression that all of the former Council was somehow not doing their job, but many of us were, including Councillor Gerbasi, Councillor Wyatt, many of us were doing quite a bit of work, Madam Speaker, to ensure that a level of ethics was here and a whole bunch of issues around the employee code of conduct as well, not just the code of conduct, Madam Speaker, of Councillors but also the implied code of conduct which I moved a motion to try to have some changes made really weren't recommended which is too bad because one of the things, Madam Speaker, when we talk about codes of conduct and so on is that…that we don't actually have similar code of conduct provisions for our senior management like our CFO or CAO, the Auditor and whatever other officers we appoint as Council. The provisions in the Province actually, they have in their employee code of conduct and some other documents, it really says that senior administrators are not allowed to enter into business deals with the senior political people or with the political people, Madam Speaker, which is really…that's a good thing because, you know, that is really a conflict, Madam Speaker. And so I look forward to the future, maybe I should introduce some changes or recommend having some changes made to the employee code of conduct. But I thought I'd mention that because I think that's very important because things are two-sided and the Whistleblower Protection from the Province is excellent. I think that's great because through my time as a City Councillor I know that those employees who have something that's truly problematic, they do need protection. I think that's very important, Madam Speaker. So and yes, it was kind of frustrating that they didn't give us a separate section to go for an Ethics Commissioner, but it's always been my submission, Madam Speaker and I'll say it again when I even spoke to it about the…well, we also don't have provisions for a lobbyist registry as well, which I really think we need to have and move forward quickly is my day to day interactions in…out in the community and stuff I see potential lobbyist conflicts all over the place, but that aside, Madam Speaker, the…I believe that we do have and we always have, through the Auditor and I'm sure our civil service of Winnipeg will look at this and come up with a plan. But in the Charter, Madam Speaker, after going through it, through it and to understand it, our auditor and we're going to be appointing a new Auditor, I'm hoping we're appointing a new auditor that understands how to implement the powers that they are given actually, within the Charter because within that Charter, they do and can call for investigative power. They can't call a full inquiry, but they have the ability to investigate and implement and subpoena records and so on, through a certain section of a Provincial act. And so, that exists there. Madam Speaker, we also have the possibility in the Charter, it says that the Auditor can assign that power by letter to an expert in an area if they feel uncomfortable with undertaking the kind of investigation that might be undertaken. And so I think with this motion that the Mayor and Councillor Gerbasi presented here, there is great ability to be able to at least have some investigative powers through the Auditor's office and so, whoever we hire as an Auditor, it's very important that they understand these kinds of things and that they have or are willing to understand when it's time to implement such investigative powers because that's essentially what it is. You have to be comfortable, Madam Speaker, and if you, the

beauty about actually if they give us a separate sections on an Ethics Commissioner, it would be a lot easier because then you hire somebody who's an expert in ethics and stuff would be so much easier, Madam Speaker. So in terms of the code of conduct, I guess there is at some point, I can throw out some ideas, as my understanding in a code of conduct for us, Councillors and the Mayor, Madam Speaker. It would be within our ability to have code of conduct issues in there that are covered under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. As long as we do not take away from that act, our code of conduct can have things in there like the Mayor shall not have business dealings with senior administration, for example. I think that we can put those kinds of things in there. And I think that is essential, Madam Speaker, to have those kinds of things in there. So I really like this motion. Thanks for it coming. We're voting on it. Hopefully, we can see to implement that I know our legal department has always had a problem with saying, you know, well, it's not specific, it doesn't say that the auditor can invoke those powers of code…under a code of conduct and ethics and but ultimately when somebody is violating the code of conduct or violating a conflict or having a conflict, it usually comes down to a financial fiscal gratification of that councillor and ultimately that is the business of the auditor, ultimately is. And a whole bunch of employee conduct issues are ultimately under the auditor. So I think that this has great promise without the specific amendments to the charter, I think we have great ability to move ahead and ensure that we can enforce a code of conduct once it's established so that you can do those investigative powers like right now, for example, our clerk is very frustrated, not able to do really any of investigation. All they could do is just report what's been reported, so Madam Speaker, we do need to have this investigative power to call for private records and actually, I believe that we need to ensure that they can do it under the employees' code of conduct as well because I think that the way we're managing the employee code of conduct, it's really…it's not working. There is a lot of mays and things in there and there's no power within the employee code of conduct for them to call private records to prove whether or not somebody is making fiduciary…has in…has a serious…making fiduciary gains and so on. So thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be voting totally in favour of this excellent motion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next is Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I'd like to thank the Mayor for bringing this forward. You know, as we know, the ethics and accountability was probably one of the biggest issues in the election and we all have the responsibility and mandate to do whatever we can to address the public's concern and rebuild public trust. Many of us have been trying to deal with these issues for many years without a lot of support and I am pleased that the Mayor is taking such great leadership on this. I'm of…I…it says right in the motion, we do really require those authorities I think to get a full, especially lobby registry and really, really effective ethics commission and the way we would like it to work the way we've seen it work in other places like Ontario where they have provincial legislation that enabled it but having said that, that doesn't mean we should sit back and do nothing. I'm very supportive of looking at whatever options we do have. I tend to believe reviewing the code of conduct is a good thing in itself, even having Council having the discussion and talking about it and thinking about it and having that dialogue, it's making everybody more and more aware of the codes of conduct and the things that we should and shouldn't be doing. So it's…there's…it's a very positive step to be even having that conversation and strengthening the code of conduct however we can. I do think like our opinions have been very clear legally and from our City Clerk about those Charter requirements to go to the full strength of an Ethics Commissioner and it's not always something that's clearly a violation of the actual Conflict of Interest Act, the provincial legislation that we're talking about. Sometimes it's just simply Councillor behaviour towards staff or each other or the work environment we're in. Believe me, there's many things have happened over the last number of years here, and there's been no consequences to anyone, I think…I don't think anybody has seen anybody be publicly sanctioned. And you do see it at Toronto Council, other places that have an Ethics Commissioner that people can go to, to address their concerns. So it's beyond just simply…it's beyond the issue of just conflict of interest and illegal dealings and stuff like that. We do have a criminal justice system for those things, but it's also how we conduct ourselves in terms of our effable behaviour as councillors towards each other, towards the staff, other issues. And there's really nowhere to go as a councillor if you're concerned about something, the Clerk will just say, "Well, I can go talk to that person", and they'll tell me that they have nothing to say to me and that's the end of it right now. And there is no consequence if something does come up. So this is really important, and I thank the Mayor again and I hope that Council will be fully supportive. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further speakers, Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank all members of Council for speaking to this very important motion. The ongoing dialogue with the Province I should add, I want to thank them for their ongoing dialogue. We worked very hard in advance of the announcement that the Province and I made with Mr. Caldwell here on this…on related charges on the Whistleblower Protection. Immediately after taking office, I started work on a number of fronts, Whistleblower Protection Ethics Commissioner and even doing some due diligence on lobbyist registration which, in principle, is something worthy of pursuing but there are obviously cost implications and so, much of that work began shortly after taking office. The motion that I referenced earlier, I'm surprised nobody mentioned or give me a…give me the look but I misspoke. And it was actually Councillor Allard who moved that motion, I seconded it. My memory is now

correct and I was pleased that not only was unanimously supported by this council, but that we got it done and we got it done through collaboration and working with our provincial partners. This motion is important because there are things that we can do without needed changes to…to the Charter and it's up to us to take the steps that we can to restore and strengthen Winnipeggers' faith and trust in their City Hall and this is a very important step in doing this. So, I would ask and urge all members of this council to support this very important motion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll call the question on the item. All in favour or on the motion, pardon me? Contrary? Carried. Now, draw your attention to Motion No. 3. This motion will stand as a notice of motion and it will be considered at the July Council meeting. It pertains to a Council decision that was made on July 9, 2014 regarding the real estate management audit.

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

WHEREAS the will of City Council is to be followed by the City's Administration unless City Council changes its will;

AND WHEREAS at the special meeting of Council on July 9, 2014, to deal with the real estate management audit, the following motion was carried as written in the meetings disposition:

> *Moved by Councillor Eadie,*
> *Seconded by Councillor Havixbeck,*
>
> *That Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated July 2, 2014 be amended by adding the following recommendation to the Ernst and Young LLP Real Estate Management Review recommendations:*
>
> *20. That the City Auditor be delegated authority to acquire an external agency, other than Ernst and Young, to oversee the implementation of all the recommendations from Ernst and Young's report by the Public Service in a timely and efficient manner, to report back to Council on the implementation of the recommendations via the Auditor's Report to Council.*

AND WHEREAS the City Auditor indicated in his report to the Audit Committee (EPC) at the January 21, 2015 meeting that the Property and Development Department undertook Council's delegated authority to the City Auditor to implement the will of Council as per the motion above;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council change the delegated authority to the Property and Development Department with the auditor's office continuing to report on the progress of the recommendations.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READINGS

Madam Speaker: We'll now move on to By-laws for second and third reading for EPC, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Move the following by-laws be read a second time, By-law 5/2015 and 61/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 5/2015 and By-law No. 61/2015.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the By-laws 5/2015 and 61/2015 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. By-laws for all three readings for EPC, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: We have additional by-law as well.

Madam Speaker: Number 62.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, okay.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Proper time to…

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Mayor Bowman: …move By-law 62/2015 and 63/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 62/2015, By-law No. 63/2015.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that By-laws No. 62/2015 and 63/2015 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 62/2015 and 63/2015.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor on the suspension of the rule.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that rules be suspended and By-laws numbered 62/2015 and 63/2015 be read a third time, same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: We'll have now Question Period for the Mayor. Councillor Eadie.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker…Madam Speaker, was it last Council meeting I believe, the Mayor was talking about accountability and this new mayor is very accountable and trying to be very transparent, Madam Speaker and so there was mention in the report that the Mayor is posting transactions money being spent out of his office up on the internet and, Madam Speaker, I sent along some information so I just wanted to make sure that the Mayor got that, that the question really is, is the Mayor now aware that all councillor expenditures are published on the web on and ongoing basis for the last probably three years I think it is.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Yes and thank you. I want to thank the councillor for the information he sent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Mayor? Okay, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Also, all this talk of ethics and stuff and, you know, the treatment of fellow councillors with fellow councillors, I'm wondering if the Mayor is aware that through Governance, there is a mechanism if a…one Councillor has a complain about another through Governance, not through the Clerk, you can deal with those matteRs. Is the Mayor aware of that?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I am now aware, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Mayor? Seeing none. That will conclude Question Period. We'll now move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management. Councillor Mayes.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT DATED APRIL 10, 2015

Councillor Mayes: The shortest Question Period we've ever had, Madam Speaker. I will move the adoption of the report dated April 10, 2015 and I look forward to closing for the first time, I believe in my career as a Councillor since I'm sure there will be some debate on this one.

Madam Speaker: Okay, all right. Councillor, you want to stand down the item? So, Madam Clerk.

Item 1 - Pedestrian Crossing Analysis at Portage Avenue and Main Street

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes, do you wish to make any further comments at this time?

Councillor Mayes: No. I say I look forward to closing and look forward to the comments.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you. Portage and Main is a lot more than an intersection. It is an iconic symbol of Winnipeg, its history and its people. I find when I am talking to people in other parts of Canada and I say I'm from Winnipeg, they often say, "Oh, Portage and Main." The phrase "Portage and Main" has come to symbolize the City of Winnipeg itself. Portage and Main has served as a temporary City square and meeting place for parades and events throughout our history including the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. In 1972, Bobby Hull signed his Winnipeg Jets contract on the windy corner. Even after it was closed permanently to pedestrians in the mid-1970s, it continued to be a place where the most important Winnipeg milestones are celebrated especially when it comes to our Winnipeg Jets. In August 1981, Portage and Main is the place where Dale Hawerchuk signed his contract with the Winnipeg Jets and later was the location of "Save the Jets" rallies in 1995 and 1996. The most recent return of the Jets saw citizens congregating other famous corner to celebrate. There are numerous cultural references to the intersection including the 1992 Randy Bachman and Neil Young song, "Prairie Town". In his song, "Free in the Harbour", Canadian folksinger Stan Rogers referenced Portage and Main as a stop for the Hermitage Bay, Newfoundland fishermen on their way to find oilfield work in the hills of Alberta. In 1974, just a few years before it was cut off to pedestrians, the intersection was featured on an eight-cent stamp, but in 1976, the City of Winnipeg signed an agreement with private developers to open an underground concourse linking shopping malls under the intersection and to permanently close the street level pedestrian crossings. Property owners on the four corners of the intersection have agreements with the City to keep the barricades up until 2019, but there are options available that could see the corners remain closed for another 40 years. This could happen unless the necessary ground work is undertaken and a Council decision made to change the course of this. Back in 1976, the purpose of the closure was to move automobile traffic faster through and to support business development downtown. It was thought that having a climate controlled underground would solve downtown's problems. It failed to do that, but that climate controlled space is there now and will still be there as a refuge for those who want it. We have every reason to believe from the research and best practices that having vibrant pedestrian oriented streets will improve business and consumer spending. The businesses downtown have everything to gain from having more people around to shop, dine and be entertained. Today, there is strong support to open the corner from the downtown Winnipeg Biz as you heard this morning, and the Forks North Portage Partnership who represent business interest in the downtown. Furthermore, in recent times, we've had support of six of seven property owners at the corner and negotiations would confirm the exact support we have today. The barriers at Portage and Main are a barrier to people who wish to move through our downtown. People approach the corner and then many avoid it. The thought of an extra ten minutes at least to walk around in circles to get from one side to the other is a total discouragement for pedestrians. It is confusing to residents, not to mention visitors. The impact is that people do not move freely from the Forks to Portage Avenue and to the Exchange District. Our downtown is divided, cut off and discouraging to pedestrian movement. This is not good for business above or underground. It hurts our Exchange District as well as the different downtown districts that are barricaded apart. This is one reason why the Exchange District Biz also strongly supports opening Portage and Main. Here are some words I wanted to share from the Forks North Portage Partnership regarding opening Portage and Main to pedestrians that they provided for today's meeting. "The Forks recognizes the importance

of improving walkability in our downtown as a means of promoting a healthy active lifestyle. For the future, one of the guiding principles in Forks planning for the rail side lands development is strengthening pedestrian connections between the Forks and downtown including Portage and Main. Finding a solution to opening up the City's famous intersection would support this vision allowing pedestrians to stroll along Portage Avenue and cross the City's famous corner on the way to and from the Forks. The concrete barriers and lack of visible human beings create a feeling of isolation especially at night. Opening the corner up would repopulate the area providing strength in numbers and putting more eyes on the street to establish a greater feeling of safety and security for pedestrians". Things have changed a lot since 1976. Technology has improved for pedestrian safety with innovations such as pedestrian count down signals, not exactly brain surgery but very effective. There is an understanding that transportation planning must include all modes and not focus only on the automobile. Pedestrians, cyclists and transit should be considered in planning our City. In the past, cars were the only mode of transportation that was given priority but most places in Canada and the world are changing this approach. In New York City, for example, major intersections are now gorgeous public spaces that consider all modes of transportation. In London, England, there are congestion fees to discourage car traffic through the core of their downtown. I doubt Winnipeg will need to go as far as that to open this intersection. This really is a baby step that is long overdue. Look down Main Street in either direction. There is one large intersection after another leading to Portage and Main and pedestrians are allowed to cross. Like any intersection, appropriate driver and pedestrian behaviour education, crossing technology and good traffic planning are needed to make it as safe as possible, but surely this is doable. Consider the fact that traffic volumes are similar at Broadway and Main, and Portage and Memorial and no one questions the pedestrians there or how about Confusion Corner? It has higher traffic volumes than Portage and Main. Yet, pedestrians are allowed there. It seems bizarre to say the least that our most iconic culturally significant intersection is the only one that is cut off to people. Many of us including virtually all of the downtown stakeholder groups are confident that opening Portage and Main is the right course of action. That decision is not being made today. Due diligence, further consultation and research must be done to bring Council to a point where decisions can be made. The motion in front of you today has been on the books for a while at the Standing Policy Committee level, but it seems to be stalling. It is clear that there needs to be support from Council in order for the Administration to feel it has the authority to do the ground work and bring something back to Council so we can make a final decision on this. The motion asks the Public Service to initiate discussions with the applicable property owners, engage stakeholders to include consultations and research as applicable, prepare terms of reference for a comprehensive traffic study to assess the impact and explore in more detailed financing options and operation and maintenance costs. I want to thank the Mayor for his leadership on this issue and Council for keeping an open mind, and I urge you to do so. Supporting this clause today simply allows the City Administration to have the conversations with the stakeholders to do the research and studies needed and to do the overall due diligence so an informed decision can be made and options identified. I don't think it is any secret to anyone that I believe we should find a way to reopen this corner. In closing, I would assert that Portage and Main has been closed to pedestrians based on a 40 year old decision from a previous City Council which existed in a very different era. The world of 1976 took a very different approach to downtown revitalization than what is understood…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Gerbasi: …than what is understood today to be effective. Today, we are considering taking the steps required to ensure that we don't stay locked in that bi-gone era for another 40 years. You may not all agree or be ready to make that final decision to open this corner today, but at least allow our administration do the ground work, research and consultation needed to give this idea possibility. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty is the next speaker.

Councillor Browaty: I didn't think I was next. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm opposed to reopening Portage and Main. I have a very good letter. I've been contacted by many constituents, many people all over the City of Winnipeg who are opposed to this. I have a very I thought well-articulated letter from a resident. I just asked for permission this morning if I could ask…if I could give her name. I don't have that yet, so I'm just going to read it without attributing it. "I'm writing to you as I read that you believe that Portage and Main intersection should not be reopened to pedestrians. I completely agree. Portage and Main is not an iconic intersection as many would have as believe. It is merely a place where two large streets intersect to move traffic into and out of Winnipeg's downtown. Having driven when the intersection was open to pedestrians, I can attest to how they slow down the movement of traffic and causes great deal of congestion. I can only be far worse since the corner closed in 1978. City Council has allowed developers to build 100s of homes along north Main Street as well as the East Kildonan-Transcona areas. Hundreds of additional cars will be flooding Main Street and Henderson Highway to converge at the Main and Portage. How does City Council propose to move more and more cars and buses into and out of downtown? City Council allowed developers to build. City Council must take responsibility for the increase in traffic and ensuring that it moves as expeditiously as possible. Winnipeg's iconic intersection. If Winnipeg is looking for an iconic intersection then it need not look no further in the corner of Main and Broadway, it is where the City of Winnipeg was born starting with Fort Rouge, circa 1736 which was erected by La

Vérendrye as was within striking distance of the Forks. Other forts have this site including Fort Gibraltar, circa 1806, Fort Douglas, circa 1815 and the original Fort Garry, circa 1821 later rebuilt by the Hudson's Bay Company and renamed Upper Fort Garry, 1835 and now a provincial park. The area was a marketplace for the European fur trade. It was a military and government bastion when the future of North America hung in the balance. It was the centre of conflict and compromise when Manitoba became Canada's 5th province. Beginning In 1886, this corner emerged as one of the key sites of the early railway road development on the prairies. Winnipeg became known as the gateway to the Canadian West because Canadian Government erected two immigration sheds at this site, each accommodating up to 500 people. Key moments in the history of northern North America took place on these few acres where the Red and Assiniboine River met or still meet I suppose. Many of the original buildings dominate the site, Union Station and has once again become a meeting place under the banner of the Forks market. And one cannot forget the truly iconic Hotel Fort Garry designated in 1981 as a national historic site of Canada. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway built the Fort Garry in 1911 when it completed the link between its east and west lines; chosen for its close proximity to the railway's Union Station. The hotel's early prominence led it to have many famous guests including Nelson Eddy, Harry Belafonte, Charles Laughton, Laurence Olivier, Liberace, Arthur Fiedler, Louis Armstrong, Gordie Howe, Lester Pearson and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Next to this, Portage and Main is just a busy intersection. We have reports from our Public Service. Public Works says there is no need to open it up. Everything works fine as it is and it would be detrimental to the movement of traffic flow through this intersection. From the FIFA's tourists I heard during the FIFA World Cup, they want to see our traffic moving. They were frustrated by construction and delays in traffic not to the handful of people having to stay at the Fairmont". Those residents more so I heard was the fact that they were disappointed that the concourse wasn't open later and that there weren't more shops available for them in that immediate vicinity. So plain and simply, again we heard from our Public Service experts, again there's one historic corner, one historic building at this corner, the of course the Bank of Montreal building, which is a magnificent building. I don't see the need to open this. People can get around quite easily. That's not to say that I don't agree with the idea of improving pedestrian links throughout the downtown and especially towards the Forks marketplace. We've got some exciting ideas for the rail side land and the Parcel 4 land and I think that's a tremendous opportunity. We've great pedestrian amenities as it is right now with the Esplanade Riel and along the Waterfront Drive and the more we can do to tie that in the better. I just don't see the necessity in doing this. I don't see with…I mean, if we were to build a freeway that could get you around the downtown without having to use Portage and Main for a lot of the pass by traffic, great, but the reality is Portage and Main is a major traffic hub, the amount of traffic moving through this intersection is significant and I don't think this is a priority and a good use of taxpayer dollars, but again I think I'm losing this vote. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to thank Councillor Browaty for mentioning FIFA tourist who not only were walking in St. Boniface taking advantage of our amenities in St. Boniface, but they were also showing Winnipeggers how to zipper merge at the construction zones because they know how to do that in the U. S. All joking aside. I think this is a really important issue to look into, it's particularly important for St. Boniface as many of you know, Provencher wants to…well is, but wants to become yet, more of a pedestrian destination. And I think the idea of looking into reopening the Portage and Main intersection would support that type of vibrant pedestrian destination. As you know, St. Boniface is directly connected to our core and in some ways, this intersection may be putting heavy trucks ahead of pedestrians at Portage and Main and on Provencher Boulevard. The restaurant on Esplanade Riel Bridge which depends totally on pedestrian traffic will benefit from an opened up Portage and Main. Now, please envision Winnipeg where someone can walk through this intersection and visit the Canadian museum for Human Rights, have a bite to eat at Mon Amis Louis, the new restaurant on the Esplanade Riel Bridge, walk through St. Boniface's Promenade Tache enhance river walk and check out the tree top lookout before walking back to the Forks. Now I think looking into this idea would benefit Winnipeggers both urban and suburban because it will create a healthier, stronger, safer downtown. Thank you for your time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I do support this motion. I think that change is hard and I think that sometimes we have difficulty with making that change. I would all encourage you to read a book called happy cities from Gregory Montgomery I think it is. And he looks at urban design as a way to create happier cities for everybody. And they say by 2030, we're going to have almost five billion people living in our city centres. We have 80% of our gas emissions coming from our city. We have to look at a different way of moving people around. Most…a lot of people in my area, they walk, they don't own vehicles, right. So being able to walk and cycle and take good transportation is really vital to improving our downtown. We're working at improving our downtown, we're on the mends, but this, if we really want people to want to live, play and work, we need to be able to walk our streets and that is a key component to it so I just want to encourage everybody to think about those things. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Eadie followed by Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have received a number of calls and a number of people in my ward, they really don't…they don't want bus rapid transit, they don't want…they don't want to open up Portage and Main, and I know because…you know, the reality is this, there is a monetary cost. Now it cost money to close it off, cost money to reopen it. A lot of people are concerned about how we're spending our money and questioning whether or not this is a very, really important goal to achieve given that we have financial struggles. But, Madam Speaker, prior to being a City Councillor…well, actually I'll go back to being a young man having used both the Salter and Mountain intersection and the Portage and Main intersection in the 70s, 60s. And, Madam Speaker, I don't know if people know but Mountain and Salter had the most accidents in the whole city. This is in the late 60s moving into the 70s and I think even as far as into 77. Salter and Mountain for some reason seems to be a big place for automobile accidents. I don't know where it ranks now in terms of accidents nowadays, but I just want you to know a simple intersection, Salter and Mountain was actually a place that was more dangerous for pedestrians to cross because of all these car collisions and so on. So but anyway I digress. I wanted to talk about, I have to say, when they created the concourse and I had my eyesight, Madam Speaker, it was great…it was cool, you know. You can go underground especially in the winter, it was great because you could actually go underneath, you didn't have to freeze and whatever, but, you know, for a large number of people who I call, the independent line, and there's a lot them are across Canada, Madam Speaker. We're going to have our convention here one year and one of the things we're going to, Madam Speaker, was we're going to climb the walls and demand that the walls be torn down because it is very difficult for when you're totally blind going down in there and if you're trying to be independent even people who can see who go down there and I know there's signage was changed over the years, Madam Speaker, to make it easier for even people who can see to navigate that complex where do you need to go to get to wherever. You know, but people who can see still get lost down there so you can imagine what it would be like for myself and I often have to walk extra blocks, Madam Speaker, just speaking to myself. But there's are a lot of people who are blind who, you've got to walk many extra blocks to get around. And in the summer, that's nice, you know, it's great, but in the winter, the thing is, and I'm out there walking in -30. It doesn't matter. Isn't that how the Bachman song goes, "30 below"? And I must say it is really cold walking at the base of the Richardson Building at -30. We did that on a Red Scarf Walk actually one…a couple of winters ago, but Madam Speaker I digress. The thing is, is in the winter, I bet you the concourse downstairs and those businesses are much busier than in the summer time. I'd…you know, the FIFA cup people, they were here and they wanted to see more…but, you know, this time of year, I bet you there's not much pedestrian traffic down underneath because people will go for their lunch other places. In the winter, it's a great place to go, you keep warm. It's a good place for…anyway, so really, what I'm trying to say is, is that the underground there is not very accessible, for wheelchairs, either. For wheelchairs, either. There's many situations that are very difficult for a wheelchair user to get from point a to point b and there has been some work done over the years to try to make that better, but really ultimately to make that underneath really accessible, we're talking millions of dollars just like we are talking about with the tunnel over to the Concert Hall here in order for us to make that accessible, it's like a million dollars. So, Madam Speaker, opening up Portage and Main, some people are worried about persons with disabilities getting hurt or pedestrians getting hurt crossing there, but Madam Speaker, those who are independent and those who do walk or use their wheelchairs to get around, it would be great, Madam Speaker, to have that open up. And so, having this study done, I know it's going to cost a bit of money to get the study done, but Madam Speaker, in all good conscience, I have to support this because really there are a lot of problems for pedestrians. There is this whole great idea of creating urban space and it was nice to hear a bit of a history lesson from one of the residents from Councillor Browaty's ward, Madam Speaker, but there is and if one really wanted to examine it there is a lot of history just around Portage and Main as well. It's just a matter of spending some time and doing the research and I'm sure the woman who wrote that letter actually does know of some historical significance at Portage and Main. But, you know, I don't know that it's going to become this wonderful mall or whatever, but I do know that I do as a pedestrian cross at Confusion Corner at times and if you think it's confusing when you can see, try it when you're blind, but the whole point though is, is that it is opening you can do it. I have done it. It's interesting that Broadway and Main is another place where I cross Main Street, much better crossing there than at crossing Main Street at Pioneer I think it is and Main, but that's only because of the way the intersection is designed. So Madam Speaker, I'll be supporting this motion despite, and I do understand my residents' concerns, but really, I think there's a whole bunch of issues that have to be addressed. And if we can really study this and if it is possible, we'll open it up. I think that it would be good for people, good for pedestrians, and I'll just leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham followed by Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise just to indicate that I will not be supporting this motion simply because I've heard from more residents in my ward in opposition to this than in support. Perhaps now that I have said this, the phone will ring, the email will come and it will tip the other way, but I just wanted to assure though it looks like it will pass. I will commiserate with Councillor Browaty.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: I want to say I wholeheartedly will be supporting this motion and I think we really need to explore the possibility of opening up Portage and Main to pedestrian traffic. And listening to the comments in support around the table, I was reminded actually one of my favourite poems by Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken" and there was a paragraph in that poem that I think is particularly appropriate to this debate and it says, "I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence. Two words diverge in the woods and I took the one less travelled by and that has made all the difference." And what he is talking about is taking a bit of a risk and the benefits that can come from that. And I think that removing the barriers, although maybe the road less taken would be a very positive measure for downtown Winnipeg. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly want the debate on this. I certainly want to see what the City is going to report back to us in terms of what the options are so Winnipeggers can consider this. And I can consider it with them. But I'm not convinced by any means on this issue. What I do want is some positive and constructive discussion on this. I've heard words of fear and despair and the last thing I'm going to be doing, Madam Speaker, is making my decisions based on fear or despair. As a matter of fact, I will put forth this idea...there is history to this…this corner, there's history to that area of the city. And in fact, I think it has been pointed out by Councillor Gerbasi that it is Winnipeg's most famous intersection. I dare say that it might still be hard to say, at least it has been at one point in our history, perhaps the most famous intersection west of Toronto. I recall as a teenager, Madam Speaker, since we are talking about history of Portage and Main, being told by I believe he's either Quebecois or Franco-Ontarian from eastern Ontario and he was a veteran in World War II and he was telling me that after they passed the beaches of Normandy and as they were moving into German territory that they had certain strategic positions that they moved through. And there was one I think may had to do…may have had to do with the Winnipeg…Royal Winnipeg Rifles or light infantry. But the code was for all soldiers, when they were talking on the walkie-talkie, they didn't want to say Winnipeg so they said on the walkie-talkie, "Oh, I'm passing by Portage and Main", because all the soldiers wherever they were from Canada knew that was Winnipeg and that's a wonderful story and it tells you about the fame of Portage and Main in Canada's history. And this is just the beginning of the ebb…I guess once could say in terms of the ones perceived development of our city, of the future of our city, the future of our development. The Grand Legislature of Manitoba was built on the idea that we would be a new Chicago. It happened to be by fate that the creation of the Panama Canal would such an engineering feat so far away at the very edge of this continent would have such an influence on the future development of this city and we would not have the same influence or be the same centre of a transportation hub as it would have been without the Panama Canal, but such is the future of…such as the fate of our city and the fate of world trade and continental trade, so be it. Happens to be in my case, Madam Speaker, that I'm not going to be making my decisions based on despair for the reputation of Portage and Main. I just want to make the best decision for the people of Winnipeg. Happens to be I think when it comes to the reputation of our city, one of the best things we can do is take care of what we have, take care of our infrastructure, take care of our streets, our allies, our water systems and grow our downtown. I believe that. But I'm not going to be making my decision based on the despair for the reputation of our city and try to artificially or induce it in ways that aren't to the benefit of Winnipeggers, aren't to the benefit of the tax dollars. The tax issue here is not the issue to me. Primarily for me, it is an issue of safety and it's an issue of traffic flow. We talk about other cities in terms of what they have done for revitalizing downtowns and pedestrian orientations for their inner core and I certainly want to look at these things, but Madam Speaker, we have to take into consideration the fact that we are one of those cities that does not have a freeway system. And we have to take that into account. As councillor Browaty said, wouldn't it be nice if we did, but we don't, and on that basis, we have no choice but to use Portage and Main as a major cargo thoroughfare and as well for the…so many Winnipeggers who want to get through the city, we have to take that into account, Madam Speaker, because we do not have the alternative or a freeway system in this city and that is salient in terms of perspective. Having said that, Madam Speaker, I am not opposed to this. Basically why there's very good reasons why just the idea of opening up Portage and Main isn't good enough unto itself and I want to know my constituents and other Winnipeggers have to say, and I especially look forward to the report from the City of Winnipeg in terms of what the options are and we can get down to further discussion. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, during the recent municipal campaign, this was one of my key campaign pledges and it's a controversial one. People are very passionate about Portage and Main and I really appreciate and I really admire that in our community. You know, can you imagine if we were debating other intersections with as much attention as we are to this single intersection. I know there's a number of intersections in each of your wards that I'm sure we could have debates, but they wouldn't be as colourful as this because this involves the very heart of our city and downtown is unique. It's a community we all share and one that people are very passionate about and I want to thank everybody, not just here in this chamber but in the community for voicing their thoughts, whether they are for or against this, their views are valued. And concerns about pedestrian safety, concerns about traffic flows, those are appropriate questions to be raising and that is exactly why this…this motion is really taking up, you know, tasking the

Public Service to take a further look at traffic flows and even more importantly, stakeholder engagement with the…especially those that are directly affected. I worked for about 14 years at Portage and Main and recently as a part owner in a law firm at right at Portage and Main, you know, I would often go to the intersection and think about what's possible. And this debate, I mean, we're not debating today whether or not we're opening or not. It won't be opening tomorrow. This is something that does take us…does require the City to take a look at the facts as presented now, not back in the 70s, not back in the 80s when Councillor Wyatt was listening to Bon Jovi with me. But it takes a look at the future and you know, during the campaign and now it was…it was and is much easier to oppose something, better for short term headlines arguably, but we have to think about the future and that's what Winnipeggers want and expect us to not only imagine but try to affect that change. Think about what's possible. And we do need to manage traffic flows. We do need to manage pedestrian safety, but we've got an iconic intersection. I think it's the most iconic and the most recognized intersection in Canada and certainly what I hear from other municipal leaders across Canada, this discussion is part of a broader discussion about the kind of downtown, the kind of Winnipeg that we want to build and, it is not going to happen overnight. We're going to have discussions and we're going to have to talk to stakeholders and do traffic studies to manage the legitimate concerns that people are raising about this debate but not surprisingly, I'm supportive of this. I think we need to do our due diligence and I ask members of Council to really focus on the future. Think about the kind of downtown that we want to build. And we want one that traffic flows, pedestrian safety, pedestrian traffic, active transportation all have a place. And it's a question of how do we do that and that's what…that's why we need to take a look at this further. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Wyatt. You wish to speak?

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thanks. Just quickly, I want to thank the Mayor for his comments. There is no doubt that this has been a controversial issue from the moment that Portage and Main closed, it became a debate. The famous or the former councillor and he ran for mayor and was well known in the city and the community, Joe Zuken made it a key issue of his also a former attorney who really campaigned on the idea that Portage and Main should've never have closed in the first place when he ran for mayor. And, you know, I know it's…there's definitely…it's controversial in terms of change, there's no doubt about it but we also know that technology has evolved since Portage and Main was closed. There are now being used in other cities, moveable barricades that can either…that can actually come out right over the ground and then be dropped back down again that can maybe find the compromise we need to find in terms of the merchants and the building mean to operate 9:00 to 5:00 and the post hours that where the intersection could be open on weekends. There are the things that we have to explore, but the key component I would suggest in terms of getting this issue resolved has been and the need to have the champion of the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg and that's why I think it's tremendous to hear the Mayor's words and I think it's excellent and I'm optimistic this time that we'll be able to get this done because I think this is a terrific project and just thank the Mayor for spearheading this. So appreciate it very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Pagtakhan.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I recently saw an artwork piece that was advocating for pedestrian activity, Madam Speaker, and the way it was…the way it was…I don't remember the name of the art work or the artist but I remember succinctly seeing the image and I wanted to share it with you here today, Madam Speaker. It was…it showed roads as huge deep bottomless chasms and it also showed the sidewalks, Madam Speaker, as sort of like really thin slender walkways around a huge downtown and when…it also showed that people were sort of like just kind of moving across the buildings and when there were crossings, Madam Speaker, across these huge chasms, it was the artist showed them as sort of planks across each side. And what the artist was trying to impart, Madam Speaker, was how cities are often built around cars. And this was particularly striking for me, Madam Speaker, because it was about a downtown. And I asked the question, really, what really does strengthen our downtown and I'm glad to see that this is under the purview of the downtown planning committee and, Madam Speaker, pedestrian activity, shops, galleries, restaurants and pedestrian activity, residences. There's been a huge change within our downtown, Madam Speaker, with the district condominiums. We've got the avenue building, rental properties on Portage Avenue. We've got the MTS Centre. We have, Madam Speaker, a ton of incredible condominiums on Water Front Drive. We've got the peace tower in Chinatown on sort of the cusp of downtown. And the avenue developments that are taking place on Princess and the new development by the same developers who's doing the D condo on Assiniboine at Alexander and Stanley, Madam Speaker, in the centennial neighbourhood. So there's incredible matter of change that are happening and why I'm bringing that up, Madam Speaker, is because more people are moving downtown, more people are starting to see the benefit of living downtown and, you know what, what better way to appreciate our downtown, Madam Speaker, than to walk it. And this…this whole initiative, Madam Speaker, I want to applaud the Mayor for this and because this is about creating an opportunity for our city to walk it, to walk the downtown, to walk and really, the downtown is the heart and soul of our city. The more that we can do to strengthen our downtown, the more that we can do to encourage tourists and pedestrians and residents to live our downtown to walk it and to engage with each other. You know, that's great. Any time you can create an opportunity for people to say hello on a sidewalk, Madam Speaker,

in our downtown, that's a huge victory for our city. So what this motion does, Madam Speaker, is going to create that dialogue, it's going to open up that door, Madam Speaker, to talk with the stakeholders, to talk with the public, to engage our designers and planners to really show us the best that they can do to make this I think a really, a triple win for the City of Winnipeg. And I just want to put those comments on the record, Madam Speaker, and just thank the Mayor for his exuberance and initiative towards making this a huge issue. Thank Councillor Gerbasi for her words and looking forwards to our Chair of Downtown. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I'll make this very brief. I've been sitting here listening to all my colleagues speak on this issue. I really want to commend the Mayor very much for bringing this forward and showing the leadership because this is truly what we need on this initiative. For 14 years, I've been working in the field of active transportation. And again, it's a very surreal experience to sit here and listen to my colleagues say so many great things with such knowledge on active transportation and the benefits of it and we are a winter city and if this does go ahead and we open Portage and Main, we have the option to walk above ground or below ground. I am very supportive of this. And I just wanted to, again, just express my happiness in hearing these conversations from colleagues here at City Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Back to you, Councillor Mayes to close.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to express my happiness that the Mayor didn't take the "Panama" reference made by Councillor Schreyer and get in another Van Halen reference based on that. So I think that…speaking personally, we've had probably enough 80s music references, but seriously, this is a big ticket stuff, this is a big issue. And I want to thank the Mayor for the leadership on this. Clearly he ran on it, clearly he is trying to do it, he's not backing off of it. We had…there are a number of downtown related planks in the Mayor's platform. This is if not the first one of the first to come forward. We're doing some other exciting stuff around the city with a number of different initiatives, but this for the downtown I think is one of the first things to come forward and is a key plank. It's important for the future. It's important for how we view the city. It is an iconic intersection. I don't think there's any doubt of that and it's something I want to see the study go forward and see if we can reopen. I do want to raise an issue that hasn't been raised by anyone else today though, which is if you look at the transportation master plan and this relates to another commend well I think campaign pledge made by the Mayor which was talk about doing more of the BRT lines before the year 2030. I think, in fact, doing all six lines. One of those six lines goes up Main Street and if you look at the transportation plan executive summary, it goes from Graham Mall up to Burrows, if you look at page 67 of the actual transportation master plan, the talk is the preferred alignment is from Portage right up Main to Jefferson. So it is the cheapest of the lines or mains to be done. It is the shortest, yet it has the highest peak ridership potential and it has the most residential unemployment density within 500 meters of the corridor according to our staff. So shortest, cheapest, but at least arguably getting to the most people. If you look at the example of Cleveland, and people come forward and criticize BRT to us and, you know, I was speaking with the Mayor of Ottawa and some of his folks a couple of weeks ago and they said, "We're doing LRT not because BRT failed", the exact words were, "It's been a spectacular success for 30 years. We've got to over a million people so now we're moving to rail," maybe Winnipeg will follow that arc. We're not at a million people yet. So BRT is not discredited. It's not being taken out of other cities. This one…this one going down on Main Street is on the books. It would be an important addition would be something innovative if we could tie in that BRT line development to our ideas for how do we reopen as, how do we re-configure, how do we allow pedestrians access at Portage and Main. Transit is a big part of this puzzle and BRT I would submit as a part of this puzzle, but what an opportunity, Madam Speaker, to try to pull these two projects together. You know, Cleveland has a BRT line that goes on Euclid over $5 billion of development, a transit-oriented development arising out of that BRT line. It's longer. It's four miles long. This is only I think 1.6 kilometers but it's a great opportunity to revitalize Main Street certainly, but it's also an opportunity to say how do we tie in reopening Portage and Main with a separate vision that we have for building a BRT line. I call this line, the Pagtakhan line not because, not…partly, just to draw attention to it to make people remember that it's there. Maybe we can name it after Dr. Race Pagtakhan rather than the current Councillor, but I know Councillor Pagtakhan has put in a lot of work on this and a lot of work on the Portage and Main issue, and I appreciate his comments earlier. So it's something I look forward to pursuing at the Downtown Committee. We are going to get a study. It's going to cost. We know the Public Works Department has said that. I presume we'll have a budget coming forward and the CAO confirmed that at our most recent EPC meeting. So we won't have a study right away. We're going to have to have a study that will take some time, but I, for one, look forward to that and look forward to moving forward on it. And we had a number of literary references. Well, first if you have a project that can link up Councillor Morantz and Joe Zuken as suggested by Councillor Wyatt. It's got…there's got to be something to be said for this, for crossing partisan lines and ideological lines. There's got to be something to reopening as a vision for the future, but I will quote with the…I'll quote the Irish genius', Bono was in Ottawa the other day and his line from "Still haven't found what I am looking for" which is, "I have scaled these city walls". So here's our challenge. If we have some walls within the city, we may not be able to do this right away. We may not be able to do this till 2019, but I commend the Mayor for putting this on the

table. Let's take a look at it. Let's get a costing. Let's have a debate about it and hopefully, we can scale these city walls together. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will now call the question. All in favour of Item 1? Contrary? Call for recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Dobson, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Schreyer, Wyatt and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Browaty and Gillingham

Clerk: Madam Speaker, yeas 14, nays 2.

Madam Speaker: The item is carried. Is it the will of Council to continue working through our agenda at this time or to...? Continue working through the agenda? Councillor Lukes. Okay.

Madam Speaker: Okay, you know what, we'll take a recess right now and reconvene at say 1:15. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
June 17, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.

Madam Speaker: We were on the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and River Bank Management. Councillor Mayes on the report dated May 25, 2015.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT
DATED MAY 25, 2015

Councillor Mayes: As I think we are just standing that or we're moving that item, we're laying it over; I don't think I have to formerly move the report of the committee.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. There are no motions, no by-laws. We'll move on to Question Period for the Chair. Any questions for Councillor Mayes? Seeing none, we will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development. Councillor Orlikow on the report dated June 2.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED JUNE 2, 2015

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker, I will move items 1 through 5, please.

Madam Speaker: Okay, all in favour? Okay, Councillor Mayes, standing down 5? All in favour of Items 1 through 4? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 5 - Jonathan Toews Community Centre - Fieldhouse

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow, do you wish to make any comments?

Councillor Orlikow: No, I'll allow Councillor Mayes to ask questions or make a statement.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Maybe I should've just let this go through after all the fracas we had a couple Council meetings ago, but I wanted to thank…Councillor Orlikow has been a champion of this as well in the way this project is getting done, this Jonathan Toews project so it seems particularly appropriate. They were talking and this is fifth and God willing final visit to the floor of Council. This project is…probably have more scrutiny than any other project we've dealt with. So this is the expansion of the Jonathan Toews Community Centre. In the past, I praised the current Mayor or the former Mayor for their support, certainly former colleague, Justin Swandel was a great supporter and Councillor Lukes has been terrific. It's in her ward, but I really praise the…it's a great example of Provincial co-operation. Christine Melnick and especially Theresa Oswald, that have been…, have been great on this project, have been after for four years, and spoke with them recently and it's almost disbelief that we're finally at the end of this. We can get to a ground breaking, hopefully, with the actual Stanley Cup and Jonathan Toews, but if not, with the Mayor and the Premier, my Council colleague here, Councillor Lukes and myself because this has been a long time coming and it will be a great project. And I see our translator's here so (Speaking in French).

Translation of French spoken:
Councillor Mayes: Mr. Toews is a bilingual Manitoban and Winnipegger. He can speak both official languages, so the expansion of the Jonathan Toews Community Centre is an important project for the St. Vital Ward and the St. Norbert Ward. Jonathan Toews was the official representative for La Liberté.

Councillor Mayes: When the La Liberté newspaper had its 100th anniversary, their official spoke to him, Jonathan Toews, so he is a great bilingual and a native of a St. Vital so we're delighted to see this project move through. It's been a…it's been a long road, but again, thank you to Councillor Lukes for her support and look forward to the ground breaking later this summer.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt, do you wish to speak?

Councillor Wyatt: I just…I read the report and there is an increase in cost but, you know, this is an example, I think…I want to compliment Councillor Mayes for all his work on this over the last number of years for working to get this project to where it is now. And you know, this is the type of recreational facilities that truly add to the quality of life of our city. Our community clubs do a tremendous job managing these facilities. We are very conscious of course with regards to the loan guarantees. We have not had a community centre fail on…in repaying any loan guarantee to the City of Winnipeg. We don't want to have to start that now. And ensuring that they have the cash flows, I know that Public Service has worked very hard to, to ensure that the business plan is solid, and those cash flows are in place to pay down the loan guarantee that's a part of this. And, you know, it's…this is the kind of, you know, recreation is, you know, so called soft infrastructure. Often we, you know, refer to or think of roads and bridges and, you know, bus rapid transit lines, these sorts of things, but recreation, swimming pools, rec facilities, community centres, they truly are the heart of our communities in terms of a place to meet and a place to be active, and for families, and make a community strong. And so doing this kind of investment is something that we should be looking to do more often. Supporting our existing rec facilities that we have now on renewal with regards to the many things we are doing across the city with regards to pools and libraries. This is something that is extremely important to our City and, you know, we're playing catch up in many ways. A rec facility like this exists in many communities, large Lake Winnipeg, across the country, the vision that's gone obviously into the Jonathan Toews facility is tremendous. The Fieldhouse will be a model I think and it…first of its kind in many ways community centres so congratulations to the Councillors from the southeast and, you know, something that we can work towards across our city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to echo the comments of my Council colleagues. This project has been a long time coming and as Council will know this report sets out the authorization for the Public Service to work with the Dakota Community Centre to make the Jonathan Toews Fieldhouse finally a reality. I also want to acknowledge and thank the participation of the Province of Manitoba in this project. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Orlikow to close if you wish.

Councillor Orlikow: Yeah, no, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. A wonderful project and the great addition to the neighbourhood and to the City of Winnipeg. I do hope Jonathan Toews will come by with the cup at the right time to show it off and maybe house it there for a while, would be great. But again, I think it's fortuitous sometimes things take a little longer to get happening, but what a moment to be able to announce that we're doing this project at the same time

as a good old boy from Winnipeg is one of the best athletes in the world now confirmed. So I think this is a wonderful opportunity.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I will call the question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. There are no motions. Councillor Orlikow on the by-laws for P and D, first reading.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – FIRST READING ONLY

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-laws No. 43/2015 be read for the first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 43/2015.

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

Madam Speaker: Move on to by-laws for all three readings. Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time. By-laws No. 67/2015 and 69/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 67/2015, By-law No. 69/2015.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the By-laws numbered 67/2015 and 69/2015 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 67/2015 and 69/2015.

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker, I move that the rules be suspended and By-laws numbered 67/2015 and 69/2015 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Now moving on to Question Period for the Chair. Councillor Gillingham.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I noticed in the Jonathan Toews Community Centre report, there is reference made there regarding funding agreement to adhere to the City's Sponsor Winnipeg policy which kind of caused me to just ask the question, just…I realized that the Sponsor Winnipeg was an initiative brought in by previous mayor and council to identify hopefully some sources of revenue among other things for the city, and so I'm just wondering if Councillor Orlikow can help me with this. Is he aware…does the City…is it passive when it comes to this sponsorship opportunity and just waits for potential sponsors to come forward? Or does our department actually…are they active and somewhat aggressive is the wrong term, but I guess actively pursuing potential sponsors?

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you. To the question, the issue about the sponsorship program for the City of Winnipeg is actually presently being re-jigged a little bit. Finding a more appropriate space so we can actually be much more actively

going out there with sponsorship. Presently, the most of those requests are coming from the community centre level or from the grass roots level coming up to us to ask for this and there have been attempts in the past to, again with the policy and the web page and trying to reach out. I'll be quite clear it hasn't been that successful as a city basis. It's been pretty successful at the community centre basis up, but as a City basis hasn't been that successful. However, you know, I have heard loud and clear from my neighbour here, Councillor Morantz and from the citizens of Winnipeg that we do need to look for areas for appropriate places where this could be done for revenue generation as well. And also, to honour Winnipeggers in general. So we are in the process of, I still won't say reorganizing it, but generally trying to figure out the best fit for that function within the department.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, with all due respect for the reduction in your salary increase for responsibilities, Chair, Madam Speaker. In terms of the CentreVenture new mandate and work, I appreciated that the chairperson who was also responsible for this effort around CentreVenture, came to ask us questions as Councillors in terms of what our perspective was for CentreVenture and my question, Madam Speaker is about I'm just wondering if there will be a final consultation with Councillors before you propose the new mandate to the Executive Policy Committee.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you for the question Madam…to you, Madam Speaker, through Councillor Eadie. Yes and thank you for that opportunity to explain what the delay is and that is precisely what the delay is. There's two parts of delay. One is trying to match what Council decides the mandate is. That's Council's prerogative and we as a group have to figure that out. We have some ideas that are percolating which we will bring before the report is, brought to Council about some of the ideas from, I think about 50 different interviews I've had with stakeholders including the Councillors who all wanted to participate in that process. So we will be coming back to Councillors either as a group in a seminar format or one on one. I haven't really figured that out. I'm just going right through, right now, presently the committee is going through and betting it to see how it goes, and with their some agreement on that. Then I will be going back to the committee and I'll also be going back to the other people that I have interviewed as well to see if we kind of got the gist of what there's…they want. This is a very collaborative process and as we all know, collaboration does take time but usually ends up with the best results. So I do apologize about the delay but we want to make sure we collaborate with all the stakeholders ahead of time, and that we're all on the same page, but again it'll be Council's job to decide what that mandate is. And that is really important because once we decide that mandate then that helps us with the funding model which is kind of tied towards that. That's why they'll both to be delayed at the same time, but that's why it's this collaboration.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Chair? Okay, seeing none. We will move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works.

Councillor Lukes: I think you missed one here.

Madam Speaker: Pardon me? Okay. Sorry the page was stuck together. That's correct. Protection and Community Services. Councillor Browaty on the report dated June 1.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED JUNE 1, 2015

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker, It's my pleasure to introduce the report of June 1, 2015 and move Items 1 and 2.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in…okay, Madam Clerk, both items have been pulled. Pardon me?

Councillor Browaty: No,….

Madam Speaker: Item 1.

Item 1 – 2014 Museums Board Annual Report

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Browaty to open if you wish.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's great to have this report here before us today, the great work that there are many museums across the City of Winnipeg are doing. I'd be thrilled to respond after Councillor Gerbasi speaks or any other Councillors.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to rise briefly for a couple of quick points on this first to acknowledge appreciation that Council chose to restore the museum funding cuts that happened the year before. Our museums are often non-profit groups struggling to take care of our own City assets and remember our history. And I…that small amount of money we give them I think really goes a long way. So I wanted to mention that and I also wanted to point out the very happy news about the Dalnavert Museum. This museum was going to be shut down. It was shut down. It seemed impossible. It was one of those things that seemed impossible and today, it is open with a new leadership there. It was open in time for doors open this year and the community came together. And all the…we as a City Council had to do was hang on to their small amount of funding from 2014 and to continue their funding in 2015, which the committee did at the committee level. So I mean, this is…there was a huge number of volunteers involved in this museum. It's right downtown. It tells the really important part of our history, It's a beautiful place to visit. I encourage everyone to visit it and it's just such a positive story of the courage that the community showed to take this on and to take over ownership of it. The museum community took the leadership those…the residents and volunteers and organizations like Heritage Winnipeg, so I just think we should stop for a moment and acknowledge something like that. I think it was really heroic and it's now going to be preserved forever or as long as we can. I'm just really delighted so I just wanted to make those comments on the record. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers on the item? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, and thank you Councillor Gerbasi for those comments. The Dalnavert Museum is a good news story. Also want to recognize all the volunteers and staff of all of our museums across the City's network. They put in a lot of time; a lot of passion because they really want to preserve and have…make sure we have a way to remember the things that have happened in the past. It's…it's really quite exciting. I want to thank the volunteers and the City appointees on the City of Winnipeg Museums Board. We've got two City staff here, Marc Lemoine and Josie Marques that are involved with the committee and thank you for your work on that as well. So again, this January report, a lot of good work being done and you can peruse the report at your leisure.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour of Item 1? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk, Item 2.

Item 2 - Community Incentive Grant – Casa Dos Acores Azorean Cultural Centre Inc.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Chair, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: I couldn't have said it better myself. Thank you, Josie. I will respond at the end of comments here.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Pagtakhan, you stood this down.

Councillor Pagtakhan: Yes. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Councillor Browaty for his leadership in getting the…here thus far. And I want to thank the Mayor and members of Executive Policy and of course my colleagues on LSWK for providing support for this so that it could be considered here today. This is a great news story, Madam Speaker and often we don't get a chance to talk about the Casa Dos Acores, and I really wanted to congratulate them and the entire Winnipeg Portuguese community for the wonderful work that they provide within our city and the citizens of Winnipeg and especially to this area, Madam Speaker. This is often Higgins and it was…it's at Higgins and Acores Street. So a couple of years ago, we moved the motion and we got it here. We changed the street from McFarlane to Acores Street and this centre here is located there and we had a great opening, Madam Speaker, what this project is for. It's, you know, this building, this culture centre is run by volunteers, incredible volunteers and the way they make…the way they can make their payments for their taxes and for the utilities and operational cost and other cost to run the centre and provide cultural programs and feast for the community is they…they have sort of a Fish Fridays, they call them Fish Fridays at the Casa Dos Acores, and I invite everyone here to come down to the centre. They…it's over now for the year, but it's going to commence again in September, but every Friday, you can come and you can mingle with the members of the Portuguese community with anybody there. You'll sometimes…you'll see me there and I have yet to bring Councillor Orlikow, but he promises to be there sometime this year, and hopefully most of you will bring the Mayor down there…I think Councillor Sharma has definitely been there. So you know, this is a great thing. They raise money. They make maybe a dollar a plate and this community has come together to provide $15,000 towards what they're doing is a community hall refurbishment, Madam Speaker, to change their industrial thick uneven indented tile flooring to a sort of an anti-slip brighter colour tone tile. So this is a great project. It's going to…sort of a

class the place up if you will, Madam Speaker, and provide the centre with more opportunities to host baptisms, weddings, birthday parties and the like to help them with their fund raising and their operation. So I just really wanted to say good things about this application and to thank members of Council for the support thus far and to come out and enjoy some of the many activities that the Casa Dos Acores and members of the Portuguese community host at this particular structure when it's done. And the timing of this is very important and I really appreciate both you and Councillor Eadie's patience to have a special meeting to deal with this item so it could be considered here today because they are closed for the Fish Fridays and in summer time, it's very important that they do this work during the summer. So thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty to close.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much. I'd like to congratulate Councillor Pagtakhan and the organization for getting this through. Congratulations.

Madam Speaker: I'll call the question. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. On to the committee on infrastructure…Question Period, yes. We'll let you off the hook Councillor Browaty. We have no motions or pardon me, we do, an important motion. Motion No. 2 I'll draw your attention to and that is moved by myself and seconded by councillor Eadie on illegal dumping and will be an automatic referral to the Committee on Protection and community Services.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MOTIONS

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS illegal dumping is occurring with increased frequency in Winnipeg which represents a cost for clean-up and removal;

AND WHEREAS charges for illegal commercial and residential dumping are extremely difficult to lay without visual evidence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service be directed to report back to Council identifying resources required to run a two year pilot that will utilize CCTV as a technology to assist in identifying vehicles / persons that are illegal dumping in priority sites identified by the Public Service;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon completion of the aforementioned pilot project that the Public Service report back to Council on the impact that CCTV's have made as related to reducing illegal dumping in Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: We have no by-laws and Question Period for the Chair. Councillor Wyatt.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. Just…would it be possible, Councillor Browaty through you to the staff and I guess take the question under advisement would be to obtain a list, I understand staff have been working on a list of the pools that are going to be impacted with regards to reductions in services I believe starting in the fall as per the budget that was passed. If we can get a list of those pools that are going to be impacted as well as the service impacts in terms of hours and what I understand the staff are working on right now.

Councillor Browaty: I thank Councillor Wyatt for the question but my understanding was we in fact reinstated the vast majority of what was perhaps contemplated in terms of a funding reduction for aquatic facilities. Now staff do have the prerogative like to adjust hours and make changes where necessary without impacting service, and in fact, perhaps even enhancing service in many cases. I know our library branches are looking at expanding hours without reducing, without requiring additional staffing resources by in some pieces, operating with less staff and some of our new branches have better sight lines. They don't need to have as many staff on to operate a library branch, for example, but

again, like if there's examples like the Pan Am Pool, where during certain weekdays, there's hours where the pool is not being used, a lap swimming pool, but there's laps, lap swimming available in the main tank for example, maybe an opportunity to reduce hours there and provide additional resources somewhere else. So I do know in the example of the pool that…it's in Councillor Schreyer's ward but it services all three of our wards in the north east quadrant with the Elmwood-Kildonan Pool, Concordia Pool. After the tank closure, there were some reduced hours initially at opening while they ramped up staffing as well as got programming back lined up there. My understanding was it was going back to regular hours two days ago on June 15th, going back to the normal schedule, again not because of the cut backs or anything just in terms of ramping back up from reopening. So if the Councillor has any information about any planned reductions, I'd certainly like know about it.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thank you. It was a recent meeting in the last 30 days with staff where they indicated to me that they are looking at…we had reductions in the budget. We reversed approximately 50 percent of them and restored and put some money towards marketing of facilities, better marketing of the programming but in terms of the actual reductions there. They're indicating to me that they're looking at reductions across the city in terms of programming in pools as part of the decision by Council. So I just wanted…so that we're not surprised by it, that we know it, then we can inform folks about it that there are changes and so we are aware of it. It's more of an are you aware.

Councillor Browaty: I would certainly go and investigate with the department and get back to the Councillor as well as all of Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Earlier today, I heard reference in terms of negotiation and there was mention of our chairperson and some innovative bargaining methodology or something, Madam Speaker. So through you to the Chairperson, I'm wondering, could the Chairperson of Protection and Community Services tell us a little more about this innovative idea because we on the committee haven't heard about it.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: I apologize. I'm not familiar with what the Councillor is referring to.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, could you clarify your question, please?

Councillor Eadie: Sorry, I can't remember Councillor Mayes' specific reference, but he referred to Councillor Browaty and in some kind of initiative to help deal with labour costs in terms of firefighting. Maybe that explains it a bit more, Madam Speaker.

Councillor Browaty: There might be a question from Councillor Mayes coming up in regards to…are you aware type question. Sorry, I will stand up. I'm…again…I'm not exactly…I don't know what he is referring to at this point. So perhaps you need offline or perhaps Councillor Mayes can ask a loaded question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Third question.

Councillor Eadie: Final question, Madam Speaker, slightly a somewhat different topic than Councillor Wyatt but I have some concerns, Madam Speaker, I understand that our North Centennial Facility and transportation to many of our recreation pool facility steams to be a problem for a lot of people out in the community and it's my understanding that the North Centennial operations at one time utilized a van to transport some of these people who have transportation issues to utilize this regional facility that actually exists in Councillor Pagtakhan's ward and I'm just wondering if you are aware of how they…what's happening in terms of Community Service's promotion money, the $50,000. I'm wondering if some of that money can be utilized to help get people to these pools where they say they're not used that much and therefore they want to reduce hours when really the issue is trying to get people there. So maybe, you could explain it if the 50,000 that was used to promote pools if some of that can and will be used to transport people to some of our regional facilities?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I certainly would like to get some more information on the marketing programs that were allocated for in this past budget how they are being used, and if the councillor has some specific

ideas, we can certainly forward those on department for feedback and report. Again, Councillor Eadie is on that committee so he has every opportunity to ask that there.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Question for Councillor Schreyer and then onto Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, as Councillor Browaty is aware, the East Elmwood Community Centre has had some structural difficulties and it's held back the opening of the community centre due…to my understanding of the corruption of the resin involved in the beams. There was meant to have been an opening recently which was then postponed and I would like to ask Councillor Browaty if he is aware or if he could provide us information by our next Council meeting if you... When the…when is the intended opening date for the East Elmwood Community Centre?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you. I had heard that there was a delay, but I was actually aware of what the cause of it was. Again, when it comes to programming, those…that falls under the jurisdiction of Protection and Community Services. However, because it's an actual building issue, it would actually correctly fall under the Chair of Property and Development, my good friend, Councillor Orlikow. So by way, I will refer this onto Councillor Orlikow and he should be able to provide an answer if not at the next Council meeting before that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think what councillor Eadie may be referring to is a matter that I should ask Councillor Browaty to expand on. He was at the announcement May 25th about power stretchers that are being introduced in all the City ambulances. This is after a trial with two power stretchers, $319,000 initiative and a good partnership with the Province of Manitoba. So if Councillor Browaty wishes to expand on that as he eloquently did at the announcement about the impact of this, it's particularly appropriate because Councillor Browaty is also head of the innovation committee, the ASD Committee so this is an innovative thing that we are doing in conjunction with the union and Fire Chief John Lane who's been a former ambulance paramedic himself.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and through you to Councillor Mayes and Councillor Eadie. A definitely a very good news announcement, the City now has a full fleet of semi-automatic and some full lift powered stretchers. Being a paramedic is literally back-breaking work. People do end up leaving the job, end up having long term back and body injuries from the work that they have done serving the people of Winnipeg. So if we can help them be safer in doing their job, they can provide better care to all of us as Winnipeggers. The reality also is, I mean, the levels of obesity in the population have gone up exasperating the problem. So the new semi-automatic and fully mechanized stretchers that we have are certainly making the work a lot easier for our staff and it's a very good news announcement.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: A further are you aware. The…it's kind of like that item and not been discussed at the committee which is understandable and I think Councillor Browaty would be aware of. This was not new money. This was money that the Fire Paramedic Service was able to locate within its own budget and to put toward this initiative in conjunction with the unions. So you can just clarify no new money being spent on, no additional budget allocation, no first call on capital, none of that. So it didn't go through the committee, but it's an initiative that our staff came up with, with MGU to do something innovative to reduce work place injuries.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was aware and it is also very good news to have it funded as it was.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Chair? Seeing none, we will now move on to the Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Lukes on the report dated May 26, 2015.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED MAY 26, 2015**

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to bring forward the two reports dated on May 26 Items No. 1 and 2.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? All in favour of Item 1? Contrary? Carried? Madam Clerk, Item 2.

Item 2 – Results of the Proposed Asphaltic Concrete Lane Pavement Local Improvement Projects

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes, do you wish to open?

Councillor Lukes: I would like to hear from Councillor Wyatt and then I'll respond. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. I stood it down just…you know, this is something that was worked on back in 2013. I want to commend Councillors for that area for pursuing this, and it's a great program. Some councillors may not be aware of it so that's why I stood it down as well or fully aware of it. The…but this was an attempt where we had we…you know, we're wrestling with these back lanes in existing communities that were approved quite often, it predates even Unicity. A lot of were approved predating Unicity, and they are gravel back lanes and improved back lanes and they're constant as you know from your gravel back lanes in your wards, whenever it rains you get calls. Whenever, you know, you have…and then the problem is you send a grader down and then when it rains again, you are back to square one because of the issue of drainage. And residents say bring in more fill, bring in more gravel. You bring in more gravel and then you've got damming occurring in people's back yards and then all of a sudden, you're getting calls, you know, my water, my backyard is going nowhere. It's an endemic problem a in a lot of lanes. Some of the communities are…have more gravel back lanes than others around our city, but you know, this was an issue that Council really wrestled with for many years because of course, paving a lane is always done through local improvements, through LI, residents would have to…they had to petition and then they would pay for it, and so paved lanes occurred across our city through the LI process whether it be paving the streets or water, lighting all covered through LI. So Council in the last term came up with the idea of doing a 50/50, challenging residents, okay, if you…is the back lane truly is a problem, you know, for your neighbourhood, for your street, then, you know, come to the table, you have to have some skin in the game, but we will too, and we will assist. And so the concept was that over a six year program up to a million dollars a year or roughly ten back lanes a year, could be funded this way. And the other creative part of this program was to look at whether or not we could use asphalt instead of concrete. The asphalt estimated as…estimates were savings of up to 20 percent on a back lane. And the key thing though with asphalt verses concrete was doing soil samples determining what the condition of the soil is if you have a lot of silt in the area, you'll be forced used concrete. If you didn't, you could potentially use asphalt. So I just wanted to say there's five lanes here. This is the first report I think I've seen of this kind coming to us or maybe it's the second, but thank you, Councillor and you know I think it's tremendous. If there is a way we can re-advertise this as a suggestion to…we know where all the gravel back lanes are in the city, maybe just to put something in folks send out to their mailboxes to say, "By the way, this program exists, there is still opportunity, there's still room. If you want to, get out, get a petition." This is a process, but there is a window here. We're running this program for six years and hopefully it's a success and hopefully we have a good response because that would determine whether…I suppose whether future Councillor renews it or not. So, I just want to make folks aware of it, but again if there's a way to somehow get Public Works to send something out to residents that would be very useful I think. So anyway, all…right now, there…I know there was a real…there was a big effort. There was a lot of gravel back lanes in the Old St. Boniface and St. Vital. And clearly, we're seeing that response there, but we also know that they exist. I know St. James has difficulty. We've had challenges out in our…some areas of our…parts of the city, so you know if there is a way, we can re-advertise and get the word out again. That would be great. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I think I reached the stage where I could give Councillor Allard's speech in this and he could give mine, and Councilor Lukes wants to refer to us as "the gravel boys", given that…as Councillor Wyatt has, this has been a great success in our ward. This is…this makes it a grand total of 22 of these projects that would be approved. Now at a million bucks a year, 100,000 lanes, you can only do ten a year so we are oversubscribed, the way we always knew we would be and it's first come, first served. So it...then, there's two more coming, I know out of my ward that were approved at the community committee to go out and be advertised. So it's been a great success. I think it's…all the things Councillor Wyatt said, it's capitalizing, it's challenging people to bring forward their own money, it's being creative and I have to say I think it's been a big…it's certainly a big success in dealing with the gravel lanes project. My word has

the most, Allard has the second, Councillor Browaty the third. So it's certainly getting this problem addressed and thank Councillor Lukes for her support of this for ongoing patience listening to us talk about it. It would virtually every community committee meeting, and I should thank our budget chair who have put in an extra million dollars, certainly something I lobbied for, there's an extra million dollars allocated to this program in the final year by 2018, just to make sure if people are signed up and interested, they don't…you know, we try to service many people as we possible can in a pilot project and then see what their results are, but so far, I have to say this has been a…this has been a great success in terms of getting the public interested and getting them engaged. So glad to see it…maybe I said to Councillor Lukes, "Maybe, I'll stop pulling this down because it seems to be well-known in my ward", maybe it's in my self-interest to stop talking about it but Councillor Wyatt to his credit has said we should be advertising it more across the city because it's an ongoing problem and glad to see we're continuing to support it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. Very short, I just wanted for Councillor Wyatt's edification, the Mynarski Ward has one, I wouldn't necessarily call it dirt back lane, Madam Speaker. Regretfully, I don't think the people who live on it want to put out the money to have it done, but anyway I just thought that I point out that there's one in Mynarski.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: I wanted to mention because I don't spend as much energy about as the other three southern councillors do, but Fort Garry has quite a number and we have quite a number of concerns and I'm hoping that some of the residents will be coming forward soon so that Fort Garry gets its share of this program because it needs it, too, and the residents are sort of starting to get active, but it needs to happen for us, too. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes. Do you wish to close?

Councillor Lukes: Yeah, thank you very much. Yes, it just seems that I'm getting St. Vital and St. Boniface inquiries so really good point, Councillor Wyatt, Madam Chair for Councillor Wyatt. I'll get an update from Public Works on what they have done in the past throughout the times and I'll share it with a plan going forward, but I think that's a point well noted. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: I'll call the question on Item 2. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Moving on to By-laws, Councillor Lukes.

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

Councillor Lukes: Okay. I'd like to move the following by-laws be read a first time, By-law 71/2015 and By-law 72/2015.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 71/2015, By-law No. 72/2015.

Councillor Lukes: I'd like to move that By-laws No. 71/2015 and 72/2015 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 71/2015 and 72/2015.

Councillor Lukes: And I'd like to move that the rules be suspended and By-law Nos. 71/2015 and 72/2015 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Question Period for the Chair. Councillor Wyatt.

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

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise knowing that next week, I believe it's next week that your standing committee meets and one of the top item I believe on the agenda coming back is the pedestrian bike strategy. And as, you know, a councillor from my ward, Transcona, Transcona like other wards in the city has through the recommendations and the transportation master plan, a lot of recommendations in terms of the streets in the community. I site potential impacts on streets all of Kildare, all of Redonda, all of Ravelston, a good section of McMeans, of Wayota, of Concordia Avenue East. And potential impacts on Regent Avenue with the modal studies that are being recommended and a lot of my constituents just have not wrapped their heads around this, they're busy with their lives and working and everything else in terms of what this really means. And it's not saying that these ideas may not be good ideas, that they may work that residents may want to, you know, see traffic slowing down on the street with these changes which a lot of it, a lot of it's geared towards and making it safer for cycling pedestrians. So, is there a way that I'd ask the chair to entertain ideas of…even though it may slow the actual adoption down, but to give, to do further community-wide consultation because what I've been able to identify so far and I'm sorry for this long preamble is that the downtown, there was meetings held on Sinclair in the North End and to downtown in term of the open houses, but in terms of the actual communities, not a lot of engagement and I realize there was online stuff done, and I know there was…there was…you know, it tends to…folks who're watching these issues tend to be more engaged, but the average folks who could be potentially impacted. You know, or just not plugged in that way. So could we look at a process to allow for that and, you know, who knows, maybe that process is even more recommendations in terms of improving things for pedestrians, cycling would be coming forward.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam chair, just to update everyone on what the process is occurring, at the Standing Policy of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, we passed the pedestrian and cycling strategy document, report, it moved on to EPC. At EPC, what happened at EPC was a request to the Office of Public Engagement to provide information back on what…the amount of consultation that has been done and facts and data around that, and that report is what's coming back to Public Works next week from the Office of Public Engagement. So there will be opportunities to talk more about the pedestrian and cycling strategies when it comes forward again at EPC and at Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: And in terms of potential recommendations, how could the process work? You know, I've been meeting with my trails folks and, you know, they see certain priorities as being higher priorities than others and things that were, you know...

Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Wyatt?

Councillor Wyatt: They weren't caught in the plan. Is there a way to make amendments to the plan based on what we know in our communities and working with our community groups, to make it better?

Councillor Lukes: So what will happen is if and when this plan is approved, the pedestrian cycling strategies plan is approved, when the funding for projects has been identified, at that point there will be community engagement and consultation on the project and if at that point, the community, five, ten, 15 years out, looking at the situation at that point in time if they want to make changes at that point in time, they have that opportunity to make changes.

Councillor Wyatt: Okay, I'll maybe ask you differently. The…if there is something that has been missed in this plan that could be amended now to prevent having to wait for change later, but amended now, is there a mechanism or a way for us to do that now to ensure that we're not spinning our wheels and having to wait for another revision of the plan, knowing what we know in our communities?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I will get back to Councillor Wyatt on that, Madam Chair, but my understanding is and is that when funding has been identified for an action plan that is the time that the community will be engaged and changes, additions and such can be made.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, following up on Councillor Wyatt's questioning. I'll get specific here because I have a great concern. I'd like to know who in the community decided that Pritchard Avenue from the Red River to Main Street crossing Main Street going up to Charles, who decided that that would be the route to cross Main Street and why didn't they choose Magnus which actually already has a pedestrian corridor? Can you please find out for me who in my community made that decision. I don't think anybody who lives in that area made that decision and I'd like to know who made that decision.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Okay, Madam Chair, the…there was extensive consultation that was done and obviously we're hearing there is never enough consultation. I think it would be very difficult to understand who made that decision. I would like to ask my colleague if he participated at all in any of the consultation process on that. And...can I ask that? No?

Madam Speaker: He's heard you.

Councillor Lukes: Okay.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, nobody asked me about that and actually some of the active transportation trails in ward happened before I was elected in 2010. And for the life of me, I don't know who they picked those particular streets, but and it wasn't just somebody…I have an idea who suggested it, but they lived on one part of powers for example, but Madam Speaker, I think that…and I would like…maybe we can hear this when the report shows at Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. I would like to know how I can change that before we go ahead because it's a waste of time because I'm not sure that it will be in the parameter to change moving Pritchard to Magnus, which makes the most sense in the whole world. So I would just like, Madam Speaker, for her to be able to answer the question when I come to Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works how I can change that before we even get to any kind of community consultation because it's ridiculous idea, Pritchard crossing Main. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. Thank you, with all due respect to Councillor Eadie at this point in time today, it may not make sense. At this point in time today, it may not connect to other routes and networks in the larger system. But that being said, I will go back to Public Works and discuss this further with them and we'll have more answers for questions that will come to Public Works Committee next week.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Chair? Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The current draft of the pedestrian and active transportation plan identifies some very specific routes for various projects in the entire city of Winnipeg. I know a lot of that was done based on spacing and to me it appears in many cases, they may not have even actually gone and drove the routes to look at what was being considered for the lines on the maps. Would it not make sense now to perhaps take the time to make the plan…to get a better buy in for the plan going forward and they proposed projects going forward, would it not make sense now to go and review some of the lines like...they're proposing in my ward, for example, and since they already have community green ways identified on residential streets where there isn't even a sidewalk today rather than putting in amenities like those little mini roundabouts circles that everyone hates or the raised intersections. To me, I think a better use of resources would be to start with at least one sidewalk and one side of the street. Could you…do you think it makes sense…my question specifically is do you think it makes sense to install these other round…little mini tiny roundabouts and the raised intersections on streets where there isn't even a sidewalk on one side of the street and these are Priority 2 collector streets in terms of snow plowing.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Chair. At this point in time, what it being recommended in the guide, in the recommendations, our recommendations when funding becomes available, at that point in time the community will be consulted in greater details on what will actually be constructed. This is a very big plan with a 25, 20 to 25 year vision, and when the funding comes available for that particular area. That will be looked at and the community will be consulted and the decisions will be made in conjunction with community buy in and input at that point in time.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: I mean, I very much support the process of going through and planning these things. I mean we had the opportunity in 2010 where money did show up and we had to raise out there to do it. I'm just…

Madam Speaker: Your question, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: I'm concerned that if we have…well, if you look at the budget right now, we have money allocated in the five year budget more than we ever spent on active transportation than it is going forward. Will the Chair of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works commit that we have an opportunity to correct the map or move it entirely before it goes forward.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Chair. If there are any inaccuracies or mislabeling or incorrect information such as the councillor has identified one particular one that will be corrected, but at this point in time to my understanding and in speaking with Public Works, it is what it is.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, third question. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: (Inaudible) if you are going through this planning exercise, if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. But when you have a plan that's a failure on day one, it's still going to be a failure no matter how you look at it. I really want to get this right. Let's take a moment here. Let's take a step back, let's get this right. Can I get that commitment today that we're not going to bulldoze this through? We have opportunity for as each, as individual ward councillor that represent constituents throughout the City. We have an opportunity to get this right.

Councillor Lukes: So I guess I can't ask the question. I just wonder, Madam Chair, where all the Councillors were when this consultation process was under way and the opportunities that they had why they didn't come forward at that point in time. I'm not sure on that. But I will take Councilor Browaty's questions into consideration and I will get back to him on that.

Madam Speaker: Is there anything further for the Chair? Okay, no further questions so let's move on to the Committee…Standing Policy Committee on Finance. We have no report today. No motions and no by-laws. Question period for the Chair. Councillor Orlikow.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm wondering if Councillor Morantz can give us an update on the Innovation Capital Fund.

Councillor Morantz: Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Councillor Orlikow for his question. First, I always...I have to smile a bit when we get to the end here and it says Committee on Finance, no report. It makes it seem like we're not actually doing anything, but rest assured we are. I just…I wanted to answer the Councillor's question by saying I'm very, very excited about the Innovation Capital Fund. It is a new idea for the City of Winnipeg. That is an incentive based program, Madam Speaker, for departments to come forward with new and innovative ideas for investments and efficiencies either in your or in future years, never been done here before. I wanted to update the Council that we did put out a call for ideas to all the department heads and we asked them to submit their ideas to the Clerk's Office to be put on the ASD agenda by the end of June. I'm very much looking forward to saying those ideas come forward and I think we'll get a lot…learn a lot from those ideas and I'm looking forward to Councillor Browaty's committee vetting those ideas. The critical path for the proposals will be ASD and then my committee, the Finance Committee for final determination as to which programs are put forward, you may recall in the…our past and implemented. You may recall in the budget, we set aside the sum of $1 million for this project and I just wanted to update the Council as to where we are at that we have actually started the process and we're looking forward to seeing really good ideas come forward from the Public Service. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Madam Speaker, through to you Councillor Morantz. Can you give Council an update on where we are at with the budget process looking up for next year? Thank you.

Councillor Morantz: Sure. My favourite topic of course. I love talking about the budget and it's the situation is dire, very dire but I'm anyway used to saying that. Okay, humour fell flat. Anyway, so I was saying to Councillor Orlikow earlier that's why we're not stand-up comedians. But anyway, so in terms of the budget process, it the really two elements to it, the one element that I'm pleased to announce today is that and many of you will be aware that in the past, an informal budget working group has been assembled and historically, that's been the Chair of Finance and two EPC members who will sit down with the departments individually and hear their budget presentations in the lead up to the final budget determinations through EPC and ultimately Council. And when I arrived here in the fall, it really wasn't an opportunity because of the bridge time frame for doing the budget to create a budget working group, but in discussions with the Mayor's Office and the CFO, we have decided to assemble a budget working group, but we're going to do it differently this time, different than ever before. For the first time ever, the budget working group will be comprised of myself and two members of Council who are not on EPC. And I'm pleased to inform Council that those members will be Councillor Gerbasi and Councillor Gillingham. They have agreed to sit on the budget working group with me and help me bring forward a budget for the City. And the reason we have done this, Madam Speaker, is to try and open up the budget process and we're responding to very compelling arguments made by Council in the fall that really over many, many years, excluded from the budget process, that it was very hard for them to get information or to make contributions to the process and so, this is really a first step in trying to change the way we do business in terms of how we do our budgeting and so I'm looking very much forward to working with Councillor Gerbasi who's been here for many years and has a great deal of experience and institutional knowledge and wisdom, and I'm also looking forward to Councillor Gillingham who is kind of like me, just learning…learning the routes, but we…I'm optimistic that three of us will get off to a good start and bring forward some hopefully very good ideas in a very challenging environment. The other piece of the process has to do with public consultation and my understanding is that there's still discussions ongoing with respect to the way that public consultations will unfold over the course of the year.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, just on…I understand the Finance Committee is doing stuff so, Councillor Sharma, I was just…sorry, Madam Speaker, I was just wondering if the Chair of Finance had read through the two communications we received today, the annual financial statements and detailed financial statements? So I'm wondering if you looked it over and found any anomaly if he was concerned about.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Well, I…I haven't actually read it over, I've lived it. So I…nothing in there, I have read over parts of it, I have to say. And you know, I don't think I would add anything more than I've already said. You know, we have a structural operating deficit which is a very serious situation. It's occurred over because of decisions made a long time ago that I really don't want to second guess that I'm sure there were good reasons for making decisions around tax freezes and such when they were made, but today it has resulted in a growing gap between our expenses and our revenues which is going to pull a lot of pressure on the budget process, and but having said that, I think you know, the City of Winnipeg is in good financial shape. Our debt ratios are reasonable. Our credit rating is strong. I think we have overall sound fiscal management in place. But that doesn't mean we don't have challenges and I keep talking about those challenges until we all come together as a Council and a community to try to solve them because to do all the things we want to do, whether it's building a bridge for Arlington or whether it's building the Ys or whether it's a new fieldhouse for a community centre or whatever it is. Our ability to execute on those projects is severely inhibited by our financial position and that's what I am concerned about and that's what I would like to see rectified in my time here. So I thank…I thank my colleague, Councillor Eadie for his question and that's about it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, one follow up question. I don't mean to demean decision are very difficult position and I appreciate the answer to that question, but Madam Speaker, with all due respect for my colleagues that are here, it's a difficult question to ask but I want to ask, given the uniqueness of the Police Board in terms of the budget for the Winnipeg Police Service, I'm wondering if the Chairperson of Finance could explain if it's not such a good, if it's good or bad idea to have the Chairperson of the Winnipeg Police Board actually on the budget working committee in terms of potential conflict. It is a very unique situation, Madam Speaker, in terms of the Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board. So with all due respect, I'm just wondering if there was any consideration on his behalf that in appointing Councillor Gillingham on to this working group.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: I want to thank my colleague for the question, very good question. I have that…I've given some consideration to that and I understand that Councillor Gillingham also did raise the issue although it was not directly with

me. I…you know, we're trying something new and maybe it's appropriate that I circle back to that road less travelled. We're trying to change the culture at how…in many ways, so it's…how the City operates and one of them is around budgeting and to open up the process. I think that having Councillor Gillingham on the budget working group will be a tremendous asset for him as he goes to the…as he conducts his duties on the Police Board. The information that he will learn, the issues that he will come to understand through going through this process will be directly related to his ability to successfully navigate…help the board, navigate its way through and will be an extremely difficult budget process.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Third question.

Councillor Eadie: There is a whole host of other new Councillors. Given that difficult situation, I'm just wondering if there is any consideration given to some of the other new Councillors who have no EPC role or responsible role such as the Chair of the Police Board.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Morantz.

Councillor Morantz: Thank you for the question. I guess the honest answer is that we looked around the room, considering different options and we chose the Councillors that we thought would be the most helpful on this committee at this point in time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for the Chair? Okay, prior to adjourning the meeting, I would like to recognize the Mayor, who wishes to make a statement.

Mayor Bowman: Actually, I just…I'll raise the question for Councillor Morantz through you. With regards to the issue of greater consultation of non EPC members, I think this is a positive step and I'd like to commend our Finance Chair for the ongoing work that he's delivering for this Council and for Winnipeggers each and every day. The issue of Councillor Gillingham's role has…there had been discussion about that and I would just wish to remind everyone that this group that will be working with the Finance Chair, ultimately is not speaking on behalf of Council. These are discussions with the administration. Ultimately this Council is supreme and all decisions will be made on the budget by this Council which includes Councillor Gillingham. And so, I certainly don't have any concerns. In fact, I'm really enthused about the…this step. And I would also encourage everybody to work with our Finance Chair throughout the year, whether you're on this working committee or not. Everyone has some good insight and wisdom to bring to the discussion and I would ask they do that. A question for the Finance Chair with that long and very deliberate preamble is have you balanced the budget yet?

Councillor Morantz: Mr. Mayor, I think we're going to have a…we're having a very…a year-long conversation over how we're going to do this, but I think just to clarify, the inclusion of non-EPC members should not be in any way viewed as any sort of usurpment, if that's the right word, of the authority of EPC which is statutorily required to bring forward and deliberate and present a budget to Council. But the sole purpose of it is to try to bring other ideas and to be inclusive and respectful of Council as a whole. It's not perfect. Nothing I guess really is exactly perfect and I guess there are always holes you can try and poke in different ideas, but again, I think it's the road less travelled, trying something new and seeing what grows from that. And I am hopeful that this idea is I think it's a bold idea, and said never been done before and I'm hopeful that it will bear significant fruit when it comes to balancing the budget which I hope to have done by 4:00 o'clock this afternoon. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On this issue of the budget working group and in terms of being helpful, I truly have the impression that every member of this Council wants to be helpful in terms of doing their own job and working collectively towards a proper and fair and open budget process. I would…in terms of who would be most helpful, personally I would like to see Shawn Dobson as an example of someone who is independent but wanting to work with everybody in terms of being a helpful person. On that basis, I suggest to form this as a question to Councillor Morantz, the idea is…this is an excellent idea and it was a road less travelled by. The idea given that there are disparate ideas in terms of who would be most helpful, the idea of rotating as we go along this experiment of having this budget working group because there's other people but I think different people would like to see on this working group. Having said that, I think this is a great idea.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions?

Councillor Schreyer: That was a question.

Madam Speaker: Would you like to comment?

Councillor Morantz: Sure, yeah. I'll respond to that. I am happy to respond to the question. Of course, you know, I think a rotation is a good idea. I think it would have to be done on an annual basis because there is just so much to learn and I can't even begin to describe a learning curve around being involved in putting together a budget for the City that it would be difficult to rotate Councillors out once they've embarked on the process of hearing the departments. Having said that, I want to clarify that I am looking for input from everybody. No one person has all the answers, I know I certainly I don't have them. I think, you know, I've said many, many times that, they and before that, we're going to…we'll have serious budgetary imbalance and that needs to be addressed. So of course to my colleague, Councillor Schreyer, any ideas are good ideas and when I got here last fall, I tried to meet with everybody and then bring forward ideas as I could and this is an extension of that policy. So anyway, thank you for your question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That concludes committee business. Mr. Mayor, do you wish to make a statement?

Mayor Bowman: Sure, thank you. It's been a full meeting and I am pleased that we got some good work done today. I just want to remind everybody that we began the meeting with some opening remarks that I made which included random acts of kindness and so a note was left for you today. It was my gesture to start a chain reaction so that we could each pay it forward and I would encourage all of you when this meeting is concluded for the remainder of the day to please pay it forward and let me know what you do to give somebody a little more kindness in the rest of their day. So I look forward to hearing from each of you afterwards. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Councillor Orlikow will move adjournment today. Madam Clerk or I'll call the question on that. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk, roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Dobson, Eadie, Gerbasi, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Morantz, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Schreyer and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 2:28 p.m.