From: Paul Baker <
Date: December 5, 2017 at 6:37:25 AM CST
To: "Gameiro, Carlos" <
Cc: MayorBowman < >
Subject: Re: Waverley West Community Campus

Please include my email as part of the submission to EPC. Thank you

Paul Baker

On Dec 4, 2017, at 10:42 PM, PAUL BAKER < >> wrote:

Good evening Mr. Bowman,

I recognize that that you are a busy man with a lot on your plate. I will thank you in advance for taking the time to read this email in its entirety.

I support the vast majority of the initiatives you and the EPC are spearheading. I honestly believe that Portage and Main should be opened. I respect the push to increase density in Winnipeg's neighbourhoods. Delivery on the transit corridors will jump this city ahead decades from its current state. I find no fault in the fact that people peg you as an "urban-ist" mayor. I understand that this budget was extremely challenging on all fronts. The decisions you are making will lead to the betterment of this city. Maybe.

Unfortunately, I must say, I wholeheartedly disagree with the fact that you and the EPC are disregarding an entire quadrant of our city, Waverley West, in the recently proposed budget. You are willfully choosing to ignore city policies put in place regarding the delivery of recreation. You are accepting millions of tax dollars from this neighbourhood and shirking all municipal responsibilities you have to these residents. Delivering garbage pick up alone is not enough to ensure that these residents feel included in the community we know as Winnipeg.

No one in Waverley West is expecting the delivery of a community complex over night. We all recognize that these things take time and require planning. But you are choosing to toss the good will of the people to the wayside and not plan for the future of forty thousand residents. You are choosing to ignore an entire generation of children and immigrants by not providing them the facilities that are available to the rest of the city. You are choosing to divide residents further and reduce access to the community programs and support mechanisms on which so many people rely. These are tough choices to make. I do not envy you. To be completely clear, I oppose your budget in its current state. In particular, I am concerned with the lack of recreation infrastructure, and planning for said infrastructure, in the Waverley West section of the city. The ship has left port long ago. Waverley West has been built and is here to stay. You do not get a do-over and you do not get to ignore the mistakes of previous administrations. They are yours to solve. You were once up to the task.

I acknowledge that you cannot make everyone happy in your position. And that ultimately that

task is not in your job description. Just know, that you are leaving a legacy whether you like it or not. Right now, I can't say that it is a positive one. I hoped that it would be when I voted for you those years ago. Alas, here we are. I'm once again on the verge of disappointment in a municipal official that once showed so much promise. I implore you to prove me wrong.

Again, no one is asking for delivery of a golden goose overnight. They simply want to know that you care. And part of that caring is showing that you have a plan for our future as residents of this fine city. I ask that you include planning dollars for Waverley West recreation in your five year budget. I could say that you owe us that much. But the truth is, you owe us nothing. You owe it to yourself. Be better than the person you have been. I know you have that in you. I hope to vote for you again.

Sincerely,

Paul Baker