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# Report of the Independent Fairness Commissioner

City of Winnipeg

Report on Compliance – Disposition related to the Proposed Permanent Easement in favour of The Red River Exhibition Association

June 14, 2019

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**INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH FRAMEWORK**
**City of Winnipeg**
**Disposition related to the Proposed Permanent Easement in favour of The Red River Exhibition Association**

To: City Council

**Scope**

We have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement of the proposed real estate transaction described in Section 1 of this report (the "Transaction") to determine whether the Transaction was undertaken by the City of Winnipeg's Planning, Property and Development Department ("PP&D") in compliance with version 1.03 of the framework referenced in Section 1 of this report (hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Framework").

**Management's responsibility**

The Compliance Framework as well as compliance of the Transaction with the Compliance Framework are the responsibility of PP&D's Management. Management is also responsible for such internal controls as it determines necessary to enable City of Winnipeg's compliance with the specified requirements.

**Our responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a reasonable assurance opinion on the City of Winnipeg's compliance based on the evidence we have obtained. We conducted our reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements 3531, Direct Engagements to Report on Compliance. This standard requires that we plan and perform this engagement to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the entity complied with the specified requirements, in all significant respects.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an engagement conducted in accordance with this standard will always detect a significant instance of non-compliance with specified requirements when it exists. Instances of non-compliance can arise from fraud or error and are considered significant if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users of our report. A reasonable assurance compliance reporting engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the entity's compliance with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of procedures selected depends on our professional judgment, including an assessment of the risks of significant non-compliance, whether due to fraud or error.

Our reasonable assurance engagement included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting compliance with the applicable criteria of the Compliance Framework and included: 1) performing corroborative interviews with City of Winnipeg employees and representatives who were responsible for conducting the Transaction; 2) examining documentation provided by City of Winnipeg employees; and 3) reperforming transaction specific calculations, where applicable. We performed our audit procedures based on discussions with PP&D Management and information available as at June 14, 2019. We believe the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Our independence and quality control**

We have complied with the relevant rules of professional conduct/code of ethics applicable to the practice of public accounting and related to assurance engagements, issued by various professional accounting bodies, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour. The firm applies Canadian Standard on Quality Control 1, Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance Engagements and, accordingly, maintains a comprehensive system of quality control, including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the compliance exceptions noted in Section 2, PP&D is in compliance, with the individual criteria of the Compliance Framework (version 1.03) for the Transaction noted above in all significant respects. We do not provide a legal opinion on City of Winnipeg's compliance with the specified requirements.

**Restriction on use**

This report was prepared for the City of Winnipeg and City Council for the purpose of City Council's ultimate determinations related to the above noted transaction, and although it may be made publically available, readers are cautioned that this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Deloitte LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 14, 2019

# Section 1 – Compliance Framework, the Transaction, and Management's responsibility

**Compliance Framework**
City Council ("Council") created the role of the Independent Fairness Commissioner ("IFC") for the purpose of ensuring that real estate transactions and management services ("Transactions") are performed in a fair, transparent and open manner. Under the direction of Council, the City Auditor has engaged Deloitte LLP ("Deloitte") to provide certain services as part of the IFC role through the performance of compliance audits in accordance with the assurance standards of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada ("CPA Canada"). To ensure Council's objectives for the IFC are addressed, a Compliance Framework was developed under the oversight of PP&D (also referred to as "Management") through consideration of applicable City of Winnipeg by-laws, policies and procedures including PP&D's internal Real Estate Transaction Management Framework ("RETMF"). The Compliance Framework is to be used as the basis for the performance of compliance audits of selected Transactions, and can be subject to revision by PP&D based on evolving requirements. Further background information regarding the Compliance Framework is in Appendix 1.

**The Transaction**
The proposed transaction is the permanent easement of property identified in Misc Plan 15454/1 as "Private Watermain Easement Area", to The Red River Exhibition Association, for the purposes of providing water servicing to the Red River Exhibition lands. The scope of the Compliance Audit includes only compliance aspects of the disposition contemplated as part of the Proposed Permanent Easement outlined in the associated Administrative Report, and excludes any prior or ongoing Transaction related activities, where applicable. Management represents that the complexity of this transaction has been deemed to be "low" for the purposes of this compliance audit.

**Management responsibility and assertion**
Transaction documentation has been prepared by PP&D based on information available at June 14, 2019. The Compliance Framework and applicable criteria is the responsibility of PP&D and has formed the basis of the compliance audit conducted by Deloitte on the Transaction. PP&D is responsible for ensuring the fairness, transparency, and openness of any proposed or completed transactions and the compliance of transactions with the Compliance Framework. Further, as discussed in Appendix 2 of this report, PP&D has made certain representations regarding the information provided to Deloitte to support the performance of the independent compliance audit. Deloitte's responsibility is to express an opinion on PP&D's compliance with the Compliance Framework based on the results of their independent audit procedures performed as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

Yours truly,



**Planning, Property and Development Department**
**City of Winnipeg**

# Section 2 – Exceptions noted and Management's unaudited response

**Exceptions noted**
The criteria within the Compliance Framework was subject to audit procedures performed by Deloitte for the purposes of determining compliance to support our independent auditors' report, as discussed in Appendix 2. Included in the table below is a summary of the exceptions noted in testing the compliance of the Transaction with the Compliance Framework, the associated criteria, and the unaudited responses to these exceptions prepared by Management. The City Auditor has requested responses from PP&D for each exception noted and provided the responses to Deloitte for inclusion in the report. Management's responses are unaudited, and have been included to provide commentary by the City of Winnipeg, to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development ("SPCPDHDD") and/or Council.

A complete listing has been included in Appendix 2 of those criteria for which exceptions were noted, criteria that were deemed to not be subject to audit, and criteria deemed by Management to not be applicable to the Transaction.

| Summary of exceptions noted | | Related criteria |
|---|---|---|
| **File documentation incomplete** | The file documentation was not in compliance with several aspects of the Compliance Framework, such as (but not limited to):<br>• The information circular issued to utility agencies included a seven day deadline, and not fourteen as required by Appendix H of the RETMF;<br>• File documentation did not include evidence that one or more of the four conditions outlined by Council (as defined in the Council minutes of December 6, 2006 - Offers to purchase City-owned property policy) have been met;<br>• File documentation did not include a formal written offer;<br>• Evidence of formal recommendations by the Community Committee and Committee on Parks, Protection, and Culture was not included in the file documentation; and<br>• There was no documentation provided to indicate that the Transaction has been included in the Tracking Database. | 3.01, 12.01, 13.01, 15.01, 20.01 |

**Unaudited Management response to exceptions noted**

Management agrees with the findings of the IFC report.

The seven day circulation period is less than the RETMF recommended, but all utilities replied to the circulation. During the initial development of the RETMF, easements were not specifically considered as a separate transaction type from sales. Through the continuing development of the RETMF, Management will recommend additional changes to the framework's tools and guides. As a result, exceptions 12.01, 13.01 and 15.01 are not reflective of easement transactions, but it is acknowledged that the IFC required some criteria to audit against (and standard sale criteria was utilized). Management expects revisions to the RETMF will occur in the third quarter of 2019.

# Appendix 1 – Scope of services requested

**Introduction**
As outlined in Section 1 of the report, and to address Council's objectives for the IFC, a Compliance Framework was developed under the oversight of PP&D. The Compliance Framework development process also included assistance from Deloitte and the City Auditor in the form of consultation as to the sufficiency and appropriateness of the Compliance Framework for PP&D's ultimate determinations. The version of the Compliance Framework utilized for the purposes of this compliance audit is Version 1.03 dated April 11, 2019 as made available by Management. The Transaction is to be presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development ("SPCPDHDD") and/or Council for approval. Council has adopted the Executive Policy Committee's recommendation that the compliance audit of Transactions will occur prior to presentation to SPCPDHHD and/or Council. Accordingly, Deloitte has been engaged to perform the compliance audit of Transactions while in progress, the results of which will be reported directly to SPCPDHHD through the City Auditor and Deloitte.

**Scope of services requested of Deloitte by the City of Winnipeg**
Deloitte has been engaged to perform an independent audit of the Transaction's compliance with the Compliance Framework noted above as follows:

a. Produce an independent auditor's report on whether the Transaction is in compliance with the relevant criteria outlined within the Compliance Framework;
b. Submit the results of the compliance audit and specific Auditor's Report to the City Auditor.
c. Report specific findings and compliance exceptions within the Auditor's Report based on the Compliance Framework where applicable.
d. Prior to performance of a specific compliance audit of a transaction,
    i. declare any conflict of interest in connection with the specific transaction; and
    ii. obtain management's representation of the complexity rating of the transaction, based on specific guidance retained by the City and in consultation with the Contract Administrator.
e. Attend the SPCPDHDD's regular meeting and/or any agreed upon special meetings in person where the independently prepared auditor's report will be tabled so as to answer questions regarding the report.

Deloitte's audit procedures to determine compliance with the stated criteria within the Compliance Framework included testing on a sample basis of the evidence supporting compliance with the applicable criteria of the Compliance Framework and included: 1) examining documentation provided by City of Winnipeg employees; 2) reperforming transaction specific calculations, where applicable; and 3) performing corroborative interviews with City of Winnipeg employees and representatives who were responsible for carrying out the Transaction.

For criteria identified to not be in compliance and related exceptions noted, the report provides these findings and, where applicable, management comments related to the compliance exceptions. Any identified instances of non-compliance in relation to the Transaction are detailed in Appendix 2 of this report. Management's unaudited responses to the compliance exceptions, if any, are included in Section 2 of the report. Responses regarding the cause of non-compliance, where provided, are prepared by PP&D. Observations regarding the impact on the fairness, transparency, and openness of the Transaction, where provided, would be prepared by PP&D and/or the City Auditor.

# Appendix 2 – Findings and compliance exceptions noted

**Background information provided by the Independent Auditor**

The Compliance Framework referenced in Appendix 1 above forms the basis of the criteria for Deloitte's independent audit of the Transaction. The Compliance Framework is presented in two components as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Objectives** | Summarized objectives of the IFC and RETMF as considered and defined in the applicable by-laws, policies, procedures, and the RETMF. |
| **Criteria** | Specific requirements that a real estate transaction is expected to comply with in order to be considered fair, transparent and open. Criteria were developed in consideration of specific statements or requirements within by-laws, policies, procedures, and the RETMF. Management's ultimate determination of applicable criteria is based on the nature of the transaction, property type, and transacting party. |

Our audit procedures to determine compliance with the stated Criteria within the Compliance Framework included testing on a sample basis of the evidence supporting compliance with the applicable Criteria of the Compliance Framework and included: 1) examining documentation provided by City of Winnipeg employees; 2) reperforming transaction specific calculations, where applicable; and 3) performing corroborative interviews with City of Winnipeg employees and representatives who were responsible for carrying out the Transaction. We performed our procedures based on discussions with Management and information available as at June 14, 2019. Any compliance exceptions pertaining to individual Criteria noted by Deloitte during the performance of our audit procedures are identified below.

**Management's representations provided to the Independent Auditor**
As discussed in Section 1 of this report, Management has represented that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the following:

- All information presented to Deloitte has been presented fairly and accurately, and in a manner that would not create judgements requiring interpretation that could result in a change in conclusion as to the compliance of the Transaction with the Compliance Framework;
- All documents prepared and provided to Deloitte for review were prepared in the course of conducting the Transaction;
- Deloitte has been provided access to all relevant documents, information, and City employees or representatives who possess information related to the Transaction, and within the stated period to meet the City's requirements to determine compliance;
- Criteria deemed as not applicable to the Transaction are identified in sub-section C of this appendix; and
- The complexity rating of the transaction based on the review completed by PP&D is low.

**Findings and compliance exceptions noted**
The findings and compliance exceptions noted through the performance of Deloitte's audit procedures have been presented in the following categories:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **A.** | **Exceptions noted** | The table outlines only those Criteria defined in the Compliance Framework that are applicable to the Transaction and for which we have noted exceptions in compliance. The exceptions have been organized in the table by the Objective reference number, and included in the second column are those Criteria where instances of non-compliance have been identified. The third column contains a description of the exception noted. |
| **B.** | **Criteria not subjected to audit** | The table outlines those Criteria that could not be subjected to audit on the basis of Management's representation that the related activities have not been performed based on the rationale provided. |
| **C.** | **Criteria not applicable to the Transaction** | During the course of our test procedures performed, Management has represented and confirmed that the Criteria referenced in this table are not applicable to the Transaction, and have therefore not been included in the scope of our audit. |

It should be noted that Criteria for which no compliance exceptions were noted are not included in the tables below. The Compliance Framework should be referenced for a complete listing and description of all applicable Criteria included within the Compliance Framework as at the date specified above.

**A. Exceptions noted**

**3. Consultation and communication with internal City stakeholders such as City departments, the Ward Councilor, and utility agencies has been solicited prior to the execution of the transaction**

| | Criteria | Exceptions noted |
|---|---|---|
| **3.01** | Prior to undertaking a sale, lease, or declaration of surplus, PP&D issued a circulation to applicable City departments, the Ward Councilor, and utility agencies for a sale or declaration of surplus to identify any requirement(s) for the real property with a minimum 14 day deadline for response in accordance with the requirements stipulated in Appendix H of the RETMF. All correspondence has been retained within the transaction file.<br><br>Departments that are required to be contacted include: Assessment and Taxation, Community Services, Fire Paramedic Service, Local improvements, Planning, Property and Development Department, Public Works Department, Transit Department, Water and Waste department. Winnipeg Parking Authority, and Winnipeg Police Service.<br><br>Utility and service provider entities that are required to be contacted include: BellMTS, Manitoba Hydro, and Shaw. | The information circular issued to and utility agencies included a seven day deadline, and not fourteen as required by Appendix H of the RETMF. |

**12. Unsolicited offers for the purchase of City owned property have been pursued only when the conditions established by Council have been met**

| | Criteria | Exceptions noted |
|---|---|---|
| **12.01** | Any unsolicited offer for the purchase of City-owned property is pursued only when one or more of the four conditions outlined by Council (as defined in the Council minutes of December 6, 2006 - *Offers to purchase City-owned property policy*) have been met. | File documentation did not include evidence that one or more of the four conditions outlined by Council (as defined in the Council minutes of December 6, 2006 - Offers to purchase City-owned property policy) have been met. |

**13. Any offer for the purchase of City-owned property was only acted on by PP&D if it was provided in the form of a formal written offer**

| | Criteria | Exceptions noted |
|---|---|---|
| **13.01** | Any offer for the purchase of City-owned property was only acted on by PP&D if it was provided in the form of a formal written offer. | File documentation did not include a formal written offer. |

**15. Specific policies relating to transactions involving property under the purview of the Parks & Recreation division have been observed**

| | Criteria | Exception noted |
|---|---|---|
| **15.01** | Where a developer has approached the City to lease or purchase City-owned land to proceed with a major Parks and Recreation Development, PP&D proceeded with negotiations of the transaction after a formal recommendation or request was made by the Community Committee and Committee on Parks, Protection, and Culture, in accordance with Council Minutes of May 31, 1989, Procedure for the Sale or Lease of City-Owned Property for Major Parks and Recreation Development. | Evidence of formal recommendations by the Community Committee and Committee on Parks, Protection, and Culture was not included in the file documentation. |

**20. The transaction has been included in the Tracking Database**

| | Criteria | Exception noted |
|---|---|---|
| **20.01** | The transaction has been included in the Tracking Database in accordance with Appendix L of the RETMF. | There was no documentation provided to indicate that the Transaction has been included in the Tracking Database, as required by Appendix L of the RETMF. |

## B. Criteria not subjected to audit

**2. An appraisal of the property has been performed by a qualified individual, in an acceptable format, as needed**

| | Criteria | Representations or rationale provided |
|---|---|---|
| **2.14** | Management of PP&D have represented that appraisal documents have not been shared or released to the Community Committees or any other third parties, in accordance with confidentiality requirements. | [NTD: Gord to confirm no release] |

**4. Transaction approval has been granted by an appropriate individual based on the delegations of authority outlined in the Delegation of Authority - January 28, 2009 Council minutes**

| | Criteria | Representations or rationale provided |
|---|---|---|
| **4.01** | Transaction approval has been granted by an appropriate individual based on the delegations of authority outlined in Delegation of Authority - January 28, 2009 Council minutes. | The Transaction has not yet been provided to Council for approval. |

**7. An Environmental Site Assessment ("ESA") was completed as required**

| | Criteria | Exceptions noted |
|---|---|---|
| **7.06** | Under a disposition of land and property, the transaction documentation stipulates that the potential buyer of the land will hold the environmental due diligence responsibility. | The proposed Terms and Conditions of the lease did not include environmental provisions to clarify environmental liability during the lease period or thereafter. |

## C. Criteria not applicable to the Transaction

| Objective | Criteria not applicable |
|---|---|
| **1.** Information reported to Council or delegate with respect to the Transaction was complete. | 1.02 |
| **2.** An appraisal of the property has been performed by a qualified individual, in an acceptable format, as needed. | 2.02, 2.03, 2.05, 2.06, 2.07, 2.12 |
| **6.** PP&D has been authorized to commence negotiations for the acquisition or disposal of land, and completed site inspections as appropriate. | 6.01, 6.02 |
| **7.** An Environmental Site Assessment ("ESA") was completed as required. | 7.01, 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, 7.05 |
| **8.** A competitive procurement process was conducted when prescribed by the RETMF. | 8.02, 8.03, 8.04, 8.05 |
| **10.** Alternative properties and procurement methods were considered in selecting the property. | 10.01 |
| **11.** Where land is to be expropriated, compliance with the Expropriation Act has been considered and verified by City Legal Services. | 11.01, 11.02, 11.03, 11.04, 11.05, 11.06, 11.07, 11.08 |
| **14.** Acquisitions of privately owned property containing dilapidated structures are accompanied by a program of rehabilitation, redevelopment, or improvement. | 14.01, 14.02 |
| **15.** Specific policies relating to transactions involving property under the purview of the Parks & Recreation division have been observed. | 15.02 |
| **16.** Where land declared surplus had previously been transferred by a Developer to the City, that land has first been offered back to that Developer. | 16.01 |
| **17.** Other policies related to the general process for the sale of land have been adhered to. | 17.01, 17.02 |
| **18.** The policies pertaining to acquisitions and dispositions of specific types of property have been adhered to. | 18.01, 18.02, 18.03, 18.04, 18.05, 18.07, 18.08, 18.09, 18.10 |
| **19.** The policies pertaining to specific types of transaction have been adhered to. | 19.01, 19.02, 19.03, 19.04 |