From: Mary Horodyski [
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:19 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks
Subject: Written submission to the Budget

I am making my written submission short for two reasons: 1) you have already heard from delegations much more articulate and well-versed than I am; and 2) I no longer feel convinced that the City politicians listens to citizens, although I believe you like to appear that you are listening.

First, the Mayor shouldn't tweet about how he "Specifically raised need to support Canadians incl our most vulnerable residents & businesses" with the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and the "Big City Mayors" when he has a budget that takes away funding from Winnipeg Harvest, Rossbrook House, Main St Project, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Centre, Graffiti Art Programming Inc., and others. We need to support and lift up our vulnerable residents to have a thriving city for all.

Second, the U-Pass should not be cut. You are putting more cars on the road and increasing financial pressure on students. If you cut it, Winnipeg will be one of the few, if not perhaps the only, city in Canada without a U-Pass. How can we be a "big city" without a U-Pass?

Third, you shouldn't be cutting hours from libraries. Since the Centennial Library opened in 1977, it has been open Sundays. Do you really want to be the politicians who break Sunday hours? Even Saskatoon has public libraries open on Sundays.

Fourth, you shouldn't be cutting from the arts. As Gail Asper said, the city can't "suck and blow" at the same time in regard to our arts and culture. As many studies have shown, arts bring in tourists, money and provide employment. In fact, as this article about Boston states, more people attend art events than sports events:
https://www.wbur.org/artery/2019/06/04/arts-boston-economic-impact

Finally, as a transit rider, I have to argue against your cost-saving with reducing even further the cleaning of buses and bus shelters. The buses and shelters are often very dirty as those very few councilors who ride the bus know. This week, as I took buses after they were cleaned for the Covid-19 virus, it was apparent how much more sanitary and pleasant the ride was. I sometimes think that the City's practices are to discourage people from taking the bus. But why would you do that in a time of climate crisis? You need to do everything possible to get cars off the road and to get people into buses.

Please prove me wrong and show me that you really do listen to citizens. Don't make these cuts.

Thank you,
Mary Horodyski