COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, March 25, 2021

The Council met at 9:43 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Gillingham.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins and Santos.

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We'll now have morning announcements. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Bowman: Good morning, Madam Speaker. And good morning to my colleagues, those of whom are here in person plus you and those that are joining us remote, and all those that are following these proceedings. As Antiracism Week continues, it's important to acknowledge the disproportionate effects of the pandemic in some communities. For example, First Nations communities in Manitoba have been disproportionately affected and public health officials have responded. Canadians of Asian descent have also been the target of hate related to the spread of the pandemic. Let us be very clear, there is no room for that in our city and in our society. Working with partner organizations the City of Winnipeg is hosting Antiracism Week and we thank everyone, absolutely everyone, for all of their efforts to create space for these very tough conversations. Since our last Council meeting, Winnipeg marked a solemn anniversary. A full year since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we mourn. On this sad anniversary, we also gave thanks for Winnipeggers' countless acts of courage, kindness, service and love. Today, great challenges remain, but we have reason for hope. As the distribution of vaccinations and vaccines increases, I want to encourage every eligible Winnipegger to be vaccinated when their turn comes. The City of Winnipeg is already assisting the Province with the logistical support for their vaccination rollout and look forward to supporting further just as we did in facilitating traffic flow around the vaccine centres. The City's efforts to help Winnipeggers get through the pandemic continue. We have reopened arenas, libraries for indoor hold picks up…pick ups, fitness and leisure centres and parks which have seen tremendous upsurge in visits. Our 311 front counter has never closed, and we are continuing to offer temporary permits for restaurant patios. Starting on March 29th, we will begin reopening the majority of our indoor pools and Leisure Guide programming will be offered this spring. In the provision of every service and in every reopening, safety continues to be our top priority. To every Winnipegger, thank you for the courage, compassion and stamina you've shown throughout this crisis. Let us stay focused, stay vigilant, keep supporting each other, keep supporting our businesses, and encourage everyone we know to get vaccinated when their turn comes. Together we'll make it. Together we'll weather the storm. I want to just conclude with a brief updated since our last Council meeting; since our last Council meeting we have seen 800 new cases of COVID-19 in Winnipeg. We have had, sadly, 32 additional deaths in the City of Winnipeg since our last Council meeting, 658 deaths in Winnipeg as of yesterday. And our test positivity rate remains as it was during our last Council meeting, Madam Speaker, at 3.8%. I want to just encourage all Winnipeggers, continue to support local, continue to listen to the advice from public health officials and stick to those fundamentals that will keep Winnipeggers safe and keep our community as safe as possible. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Oh, and I should conclude by passing the baton to our Poet Laureate. Duncan Mercredi is Winnipeg's Poet Laureate for 2020 and 2021. I spoke with Mr. Mercredi recently and requested a poem from him as a way to recognize COVID-19 pandemic one-year mark during this Antiracism Week. For those that are watching these proceedings, we're very fortunate to have Mr. Mercredi providing us with the gift of his poetry. He is a Cree-Métis poet writer and story teller. A long time resident of Winnipeg. He was born in Grand Rapids and grew up listening to his grandmother's stories. His affinity for the wilderness and his sensitivity to the deep cultural prejudices of the broader culture inform his writing. And with that, it gives me great pleasure to defer to our Poet Laureate, and that will conclude my opening remarks, Madam Speaker. Thank you, merci and miigwech.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We'll go now virtual, joined by Mr. Mercredi. Welcome.

Duncan Mercredi: Thank you. Thanks to the Mayor for the invite and also the Winnipeg Arts Council. We've got some great people working in that area. It's been a hell of a year, I'll tell you that, but we've managed to (inaudible). I'm not used

to speaking in (inaudible) so I'm more of an isolationist. I've always been that way, but what we've seen happening over the last year is not just the pandemic itself, but what happens when people are isolated the way we are. The ugliness begins to show up in force. So, I've been living in Winnipeg for over 40 years now. I call it my home, and I've seen the good and the bad of this city. Fortunately, we have a lot of artists in this community that show the love of the city, but also acknowledge this love of the city, but the diversity of those artists are what makes the city what it is. It's very unique, and I enjoy meeting these people. And I wrote this piece a while back, and so this is what I want to share with you. It touches both where we are now with the racism that happens, but also the…what happens with pandemic. We sit in silence, listen to the age of the place where we are, each creek, each whisper the walls make. A voice walks by outside, a child laughs. We sit in silence, watching in fear. Unable to turn the sound off, the visions of chaos, the words full of hate fill the screen. We sit in silence, ignore the cries, unable to turn our face away. We watch, we listen. Even with the sound turned off, we still hear the division. You are them, we are you, a different shade of skin. We sit in silence, hoping it's all a dream, that when we wake, all we will see is sunshine, all we will feel is warmth, all we will hear is a sound of a child laughing. Another joins, we hope and dream that they are laughing together. Remember that we can get rid of racism with a one-week cultural awareness training. We try to wipe away generations of what we teach our children. Thank you very much. Thanks for inviting me. Have a good day.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mercredi, for sharing poetry with Council and citizens today at City Council. We appreciate your presence today. Moving onto other announcements, Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once every 50 years, the WAG opens a new building and we are lucky enough to be here today. We are lucky enough to be in this chamber today as the WAG opens Qaumajuq. We rehearsed the pronunciation beforehand, it can be difficult, but Qaumajuq is opening tonight at 6:30. And of course, we will all make every effort to be done our debates by 6:30 so we can join the rest of the public in watching night one of the of the opening. It's…my appreciation to the Mayor for saying, well, you're the board member from the City Council, so talk a bit about this. It's a historic opportunity. You know, we had a board meeting the other night from the WAG, two nights ago, and Stephen Borys was saying, it is bright, it is lit, it is built. And it's a remarkable achievement by the WAG to get this built. It bears repeating, some thanks are due, I think, to the current chair of the board, Ernest Cholakis. I'll come back to Stephen at the very end. To the previous chair of the board who's here with us today, Brian Bowman who was I think, helped get this idea going when he was Chair of the WAG. We faced a debate here some years ago about whether to give $5 million. I think I was the one who referred to it as the vanity project, and Mr. Borys and some others called and said, come on down, we want to talk to you. We don't think you're quite understanding this project. And he was right, and I was wrong, and I came to support it. I remember when it came to the debate about the $5 million, the Mayor saying…current Mayor saying, this is an important reconciliation project. Former Councillor Gerbasi saying, this is an important downtown project. I said I think it's an important education project and a chance to rework the whole WAG. So, no one really jumped in after that, after you had the people who had both been in favour and the people like me who had been opposed come around. I'm very proud that we did put the $5 million in. I think that was money well spent. I'm proud 14 councillors contributed to the light display that's going on right now. I know, Madam Speaker, you've been a big part of the WAG operations in recent years, some of the shows they've. Former Mayor Susan Thompson had coordinated the opening, and the lead up and was talking the other night, and I was thinking, we should do something to honour Susan Thompson. We should like, name something for Susan Thompson. And then, it occurred to me, you've already done that. We've already done that. It's right there, it's across the courtyard. So, I'm very proud of that too that we've done something to honour Susan Thompson. So this is, I think, something to be very proud of as a city, as a council, our contribution. Each of us brings something. Having heard the…I don't have poet laureate status, but I will bring the country music quote which is from 'Hell of a View' by Eric Church, talked about, "This town's a canvas, baby, let's paint it red tonight." And it's like a canvas having that new building there. The light show has been terrific on there. So, it's been a wonderful journey to get this built, and they really are trying to reach out to all aspects of society and different groups to appreciate the WAG for the first time. So, final thoughts are with Stephen Borys who has been the head of the WAG for some years now. He talked, quite movingly, the other night about the team he had with him, but one other thing he said is, we're going to have a dialogue with the country, and I think that was a very profound statement. It's a great initiative. It's a great reconciliation project. We should be proud of our role in that. And hopefully we'll be…we may not be, but hopefully we'll be done by 6:30, and we can all tune in tonight to see night one. There's another night tomorrow of the virtual opening. So, let's celebrate that and let's celebrate the opening of Qaumajuq. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Rollins, followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to join voices calling to stop Asian hate and support our partners and communities against antidiscrimination. My friend, Madam Speaker, Jen Chen, a school trustee for Winnipeg School Division and member of the Asian Heritage Society of Manitoba started a national campaign, the ACT2endracism Campaign at the beginning of the pandemic, Madam Speaker. It brought to the fore stories like Ms. Fang's, who had the experience of hearing that to be safe, and I quote, "Stay away from China, and stay away from Chinese people", end quote. The hope of the ACT2endracism Campaign was to have…actually call on us as policymakers to consider policy

change, including a post-pandemic recover plan to include antiracism policy. You know, Madam Speaker, I think that in the coming months, we will be doing exactly that, and so I want to stand to join those voices calling to stop Asian hate, acknowledge their fear, their concerns, and to acknowledge that this council has heard them loud and clear, in particular, the advocacy of the Asian Heritage Society and wonderful community leaders like Jennifer Chen.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and kalimera. Today is Greek Independence Day. And in addition to Greece and Cyprus, Greek Independence Day is also celebrated by many Greeks overseas including and especially a large population on the American Atlantic seaboard. Today, reminds us of the contributions that Greece has made to philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, literature, theatre, engineering, architecture, the Olympics, and democracy. We are reminded as well of the ongoing contributions of ex-patriate Greeks in their new communities throughout the world including here in Winnipeg as Greeks have been moving here for generations, especially since World War II, contributing to the development and the well-being of our city and our society. Thank you to them. (inaudible) Miigwech.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer.

MINUTES

Councillor Chambers moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on February 25th, 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now move on to delegations. They will all be joined us via Zoom today. First is Mr. Gerry Ouellette in support of Item 3 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17th, 2021. It's regarding the Welcoming Winnipeg – Henri Constant Field. Good morning.

DELEGATIONS

Gerry Ouellette: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I'd like to extend my regrets from our President, Dan Cox, and Vice President, Russ Shine, as they had wished to be there but couldn't. We're just here to say thank you. Thank you to Welcome Winnipeg, City Council, members past and present as well as the staff from Community Services for allowing us and helping us rename Transcona Stadium. Henri Constant was a long-time volunteer and synonymous not only within the Transcona community but also within the entire baseball...Manitoba baseball community. When you talk about baseball in Transcona, you talk about Transcona Stadium, the Transcona Rangers and Henri Constant. He was a long-time volunteer and example that we really did want to honour when he finally couldn't help anymore. He started in the '70s with his kids as a coach and long-time volunteer for the Transcona Rangers baseball program through the '80s and '90s, and when Red River Valley baseball rolled it up into the Pioneers, he was the caretaker of Transcona Stadium. I, as many coaches, knew we could call him, and he'd walk down from his president courthouse quite happily to open up things. He would never give you the key because he wanted to be there. He wanted to help us, and when we didn't immediately need his help, he would stick around and cleanup the diamond, cut the grass, take care of the building's inventory, the equipment. So, we are quite happy to finally finalize this naming of the field so that we can honour a long time volunteer and hold up his example within the community for a long time to come. And so, we thank you guys very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any questions for our delegation? Seeing none, thank you for your presentation.

Gerry Ouellette: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: We'll now move onto Mr. Jamil Mahmood. He is the Executive Director of the Main Street Project. He is in support of Item 7 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17th, 2021. It's regarding Financial Support for the Main Street Project Van Patrol Outreach Program. Welcome.

Jamil Mahmood: Thank you. Thanks for having me. I just want to say thank you to all the councillors who have reached out to me since starting my role here at Main Street Project at the end of January. It's been great to feel supported. A number of folks have called or set up meetings and so that's been great. And those I have met with, I will be meeting with as well. So, I just want to appreciate the welcome from Council to me in this new position as Executive Director at Main Street Project. So, what I'm here supporting and asking for is we need funding support for our Van Outreach Program.

We need about $400,000 of funding to keep the van on the road for this year 24-hours a day, seven days a week on the street all the time. We currently...last year, we were able to piece together the funding from extra COVID pots of funding primarily through the federal Reaching Home Program provided through End Homelessness Winnipeg. So, we were able to get two grants to support that, and we used another federal fund to support the day shifts. So, really, the van runs on three shifts; we have a daytime shift, an evening shift and an overnight shift. As of March 31st, we only have confirmed funding for the overnight shifts. So, starting March 31st…sorry, April 1st, we'll no longer be able to provide calls from WPS, WFPS for volunteer transport during the day and evening times. We'll no longer be able to provide response during extreme weather, we'll no longer be able to provide response to encampments, we'll no longer be able to provide well-being checks to folks sleeping rough during the day and evening. And we'll no longer respond to the bus shacks residents or any other place City of Winnipeg residents call us to respond to. So, this is a quite dire situation. We've been running the van for over two years. To date, the City has funded $90,000 back in 2018 from the Mayor's support fund, and that's all the funding the City has contributed to the Van Outreach Program. And so, we're really looking for the City to step up here and provide the support we need to keep the van on the road. The van directly supports City services. So, we provide, since 2018, the announcement of volunteer transport, we provided…we're the only agency providing voluntary transport to the WPS and WFPS service and also to other City services. So, we're the only ones that are calling and freeing up officers or paramedics or fire folks from those calls so they can get back out on the street or do their other calls. So, it's an essential service that we are providing to the City in partnership. The other big part is we also provide direct encampment support, and that's really important. And we're happy to provide this support, but obviously, we can't do it without the funding to keep our staff in our van, and we need to have staff people who can respond and support folks who are in need or in crisis in a big way. I think one of the great things about this model is if you see other municipal jurisdictions how they respond to encampments, you know, they give a 24-hour notice, go in and bulldoze, and that's it. In our case, we are able to provide a response from Main Street Project, build relationships, build connections, follow up everyday to check in on those folks, make sure they have what they need, figure out alternative solutions for them and then figure out a plan to plan to move them into different accommodations, and then we inform the City when they can come in and cleanup. So, it's a much more humane response and a better supported response to not just displacing the problem, but actually providing a real solution to the problem. So, I just want to talk about briefly kind of what the van looks like. In terms of statistics, since July 2019, we have responded to 439 e-mails from 311. Since February of 2018, we've provided 429 voluntary transports for WPS WFPS. During extreme weather, we were responding to over 100 calls per shift, and in this most recent winter cold weather, we were also coordinating every other outreach service on the street, taking calls, triaging, and making sure everyone got seen immediately on the streets and had a response so no one was left out in extreme cold. In this last year, we've done over 50 referrals to casework and successfully housed folks from our Van Outreach Program, and we've provided $22,000…23,000 harm reduction items and also 11,000 food items distributed through the van this year. Give you a snapshot, February, we provided 80…82 safe rides, 20 transports to shelter, 5 referrals from the Downtown Community Safety Patrol, 5 referrals to our IPDA, 9…transferred 90 people to hospital, 19 community rides to other community partners like One Just City, Salvation Army West End 24-hour Safe Space, and 37 trips were calls from just the general public. In February, the van was on the road for a total of 27 days, eight hours a day, 28 evenings, eight hours a day, and 27 nights, eight hours a night. So, almost every hour of February was covered with our van outreach. Our response daily, I have a list of kind of areas we visit every day, so we visit on a daily basis; St. Boniface, St. Vital, Pembina, West End, downtown, the airport area, Polo Park, North End, Henderson and Regent. So, this isn't just a downtown or core area response, it's an entire city response. So, every one of the councillors can…have probably called us or used our service at some point to respond to an issue in their riding and also residents from your riding are calling us for a response. I just want to say, we also…our van also has a wheelchair lift which is also super helpful. We've had a number of calls, specifically from the WPS, where they had people in wheelchairs stuck in situations where our van could respond and provide a lift to get them in the van and transport them where to they need to go. Overall, we really need the City to step up and support this essential service. We've kind of done it the…work for the last few years, two and a half years without any real direct support from the City while we are directly supporting the City departments from WFPS, WPS, Parks Department, Community Services. So, we're working with every department and providing a real, on the ground, solid response. This program does save lives. I can go through...I have a countless list of stories here which I probably don't have time to talk…get into, but of how many lives we've saved in the van by providing naloxone kit, by being on scene, just by the van cruising around coming across people in distress on the street. We are there to support people and provide direct response. So, just in conclusion, we know this city…the support is needed, and we're asking for the City to support it and provide the funds to do that. I know when I spoke to EPC last week, there was lots of comments about the Provincial Government supporting this. We have made a request to the government and don't have a formal response, but also, this is not a…we don't want to be put as a pawn between the City government and the Federal Government…the Provincial Government, sorry. I think this is a direct ask for the City to look at in terms of how we provide direct support to City of Winnipeg services directly. And that support is an essential service that the city needs, and the fact that we only have one service that is on the street 24-hours a day, providing a response to the whole city is very unique and needed more, but at minimum, we should have at least one, and that's all we're asking is for support so we can keep our van on the road and staffed fully. We are also exploring all other possible levels of fundraising…of funding. We're looking at private sponsorships, donors and all other levels, but aside from that, this is the money needed to keep the van on the street 24/7. Any additional funding we raise or receive will just add to that service. We'll be able to build

casework back into the van service with increased funding. So, there's lots of opportunity and lots of opportunity to expand this to be better, more inclusive and better resource service for our city. So, I hope that you can support this motion today, and that the City can find the money to support our program moving forward. As I said earlier, we're super happy to be able to provide this very supportive service to the City of Winnipeg and direct to…directly to City of Winnipeg services. And this is a city of Winnipeg…this is a service that the City of Winnipeg and the people of Winnipeg need to respond to our most vulnerable and those on streets in crisis. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any questions for our delegation? Councillor Chambers, followed by Councillor Nason.

Councillor Chambers: Jamil, thank you very much for your presentation and congratulations on the new position with Main Street Project and the vital work that is…that you provide to the citizens of Winnipeg that are most vulnerable in our communities. I just want to ask you if the plan that you've unveiled here to us today and in specific reference to the van and the staff that will be staffing that vehicle and providing those resources, are they already trained or does this ask consider training dollars that might be needed to ensure that they have the skills necessary to deliver those core services?

Jamil Mahmood: Yeah, our staff are currently trained. Like, we do have a full van complement right now of staffing, so they are trained. They've been working for the last few years on the road, so we have a pretty intensive internal staff training program to make sure they're trained and have what they need and have all the services. So, this funding…if we brought in any new staff throughout this project, they would be trained, but we don't need the funding for training dollars, we need the funding to keep the staff in their positions and keep the van on the road.

Councillor Chambers: So, this is specifically just for the van operation…van operations, gas, maintenance, supplies and staffing that is delivering these services.

Jamil Mahmood: Yes.

Councillor Chambers: In a nutshell. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The questions I have...and I appreciate the work that Main Street Project does for our city. But I am confused because you have indicated that you are the only provider. And as I understand, St. Boniface Street Links provides services east of the Red for residents. Specifically, you mentioned Regent in your comments. I'm confused. Can you help explain that better as to the interworking relationship because I do have an amending motion to also raise the attention of St. Boniface Street Links.

Jamil Mahmood: Yeah. I think…I think we're the only provider of voluntary transport for the City of Winnipeg, so we're the only group that are taking calls from WPS, WFPS to provide volunteer transport when they're responding to calls, and Winnipeg Transit when they call for bus shacks, we're the only people providing volunteer transport for those folks so that we can transport those folks (inaudible). There's other outreach groups. There's other outreach vehicles on street. They operate different hours and we are totally working in coordination and support with them. For example, during the last cold weather snap, we were coordinating calls, calling every other group between the West End 24, West End West Central Women's Resource Centre, Mama Bear Clan, Bear Clan. We are…we were all coordinating with those groups that are out there doing that work. So, I didn't want to…sorry if I misrepresented. We're not the only group providing outreach services, we're the only group providing 24-hour a day, round the clock, 365 days a year service and providing the volunteer transport to the City of Winnipeg directly.

Councillor Nason: Okay so, so you're…if I'm hearing correctly, you're indicating you're a sole-service provider to the City of Winnipeg, but that is not…you know, the coordinating agency, as I understand, is End Homelessness Winnipeg. And then when I reached out to them as to who provides services for these types of situations that residents of Transcona that are contacting me, End Homelessness Winnipeg did not mention Main Street Project, but they directed my attention to St. Boniface Street Links. So, I'm confused.

Jamil Mahmood: I can't speak to what End Homelessness shared with you. We are part of the Winnipeg Outreach Network. We are connected and collaborative with all the groups. St. Boniface Street Links does good work and does good response. We are out in Transcona. We are at the bus shacks at Kildonan Place Mall almost every day. We're in those areas, so we're also being. And that doesn't say there's not a need for both services or more. Like I said, there's a need for multiple services. One outreach van honestly cannot service the entire city alone for all the work that is needed in our city. So, we work very closely with St. Boniface Street Links. We take calls for them. We do transports for them when they need folks transported to shelters. So, we're working in collaboration with them, but we're the only ones taking voluntary transport calls from the City of Winnipeg directly, and we're also 24-hours a day on the street, which their van is

not. And I would like to see their van 24-hours a day and that doesn't solve the issue to have more than one van on the street at one time. Like, the city is a very large…like, is a large city and the population is huge and the level of crisis is very large as we can see from all the reports I'm sure you come across your desk daily for calls in all the…calls you get. So, it's a…we're not saying we need to be the only one out there or we're going to be the only out there, this just guarantees there's a 24-hour service on the street responding to direct City of Winnipeg calls, responding directly for volunteer transport, and we work in partnerships with those other groups. So, we'll coordinate that and we'll support them everyway we can. So, we do work in collaboration. I don't want this to be a situation where we get pitted against one outreach group against another because we work together very well in community and we have good relationships. We have End Homelessness and we have the Winnipeg Outreach Network that support this coordination. And so, I'm just stating the reality of our Van Outreach Program and the service we provide.

Councillor Nason: Thank you.

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

Councillor Lukes: Stand up. Thank you very much, Jamil for your presentation, and congratulations on your role. I have a question if you could just highlight, where else have you been seeking money for support for the van operation? Have you reached out to foundations, private donors? Just if you could just give us a little bit insight of that.

Jamil Mahmood: Yeah, so we've reached out to kind of a lot of major funders. We have requests in to United Way. We've had conversations with our foundation. We work with End Homelessness, so we're looking at, if it's possible, new funding for COVID, End Homelessness and the Reaching Home Strategy from the Federal Government is providing the overnight funding currently. So, that's kind of a federal stream we had access to. We're working with…we made a request to the Province. We're working on that, but we also have other demands for our other operations including our new expanded shelter operation that we are working with the Province on increased funding there. So, it's hard to tap the Province for so many different needs we have. And then, we also have done a lot of private donor fundraising. We're currently running a fundraiser right now called Into the Cold where we've raised $30,000 in the month of March. And hopefully more, it's growing. It doesn't end until the end of the month. So, folks can check that out and provide support through that fundraiser. And then, we're working on other kind of private donor sources as well. So, we're kind of reaching in every angle and we won't stop doing that, but this is…this appeal to the City is directly to look for funding to support the direct response we're providing to City services. And so, we feel strongly that the City should support this.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you.

Jamil Mahmood: You're welcome.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I already sent my congratulations Jamil, so I'm glad to see they have somebody who knows a lot about what's happening on the streets running the Main Street Project. So, congratulations. Can you…when you…like, you're 24/7 out there to provide assistance and work with people who need transport to various places, is that correct?

Jamil Mahmood: Yes.

Councillor Eadie: Okay. Are you actually providing, like, kind of social work services directly to them at the same time, which is similar to what Street Links does?

Jamil Mahmood: Yeah. We provide full outreach and wraparound services. So, the full model of our program actually builds casework right into the program. So, we actually, this past year, have had two case workers working in the evening shift, so they're providing complete wraparound casework care, so connection to housing, medical support, transportation. But yeah, outreach isn't just a transport service, and thank you for allowing me to clarify that. Our outreach service provides food, harm reduction, supplies, and care and I think that's the biggest piece. Our workers have relationships with folks in every encampment in every area of the city. Everywhere folks are…everywhere there's a pocket of homelessness in our city, we have those connections and relationships. And the thing that we do is, we may get a call for a volunteer transport from the Winnipeg Police Service or the Fire Paramedic Service, and that's a one-time call, but we'll go back to that location everyday and follow-up with those folks to make sure they have the supports they need, they have food, they warm clothes, they have everything they need to be safe in the situation they're in. So, we are much more than just a transport service. We provide wraparound supports on the ground and direct care. And we build relationships and have super strong relationships. Any one of our van outreach folks can drive around and welcome you if you ever want to come

on a ride along, you can see the connection they have with folks and the relationships they have with people. They're their friends, they're their support system, they provide loving care to them wherever they are and whatever situation they're in.

Councillor Eadie: I have no doubt...I don't need to go...I have no doubt that the service Main Street Project with the 24/7 van is providing, and probably there's not enough 24/7 vans out there, given our epidemic in this city. And I don't mean the COVID epidemic, I mean the homelessness and addictions epidemic. Could you just…finally, there's a 24/7 with the Police Service, can you describe…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Eadie: So, I heard you call…that the police will call you for transport purposes and fire paramedics. So, we have EPIC out there, and we have…the police serve does bring people to the Main Street Project. Can you describe the difference between what the Police Service is doing out there versus what Main Street Project is doing out there with the 24/7 and the difference from EPIC as well which is the paramedics?

Jamil Mahmood: Yeah, the police provides a number of response. So, the police will…if people are detaining people for being intoxicated, they'll bring them to our unit, our protective care unit, and they'll be transferred over to the care for us, so that's a direct service, and the police will use that service, and so that's not a voluntary transport situation. The voluntary transport provides, say the police responds to someone in distress, they see they're not needing…you know, they're not needing emergency medical transportation, they will call us and we'll come to that scene, we'll connect with the person, we'll figure out is the best…where is the best place for them if they need a non-emergency ride to the hospital or to the crisis response centre or a ride back to the shelter. Those are kind of the services we provide. So, we give them the opportunity for when they don't need to be transported in an emergency situation and the ambulance is not required or they're not being detained and transported by police, we provide that transport on a voluntary basis to take them either to...back to our shelter or to another location if they're staying at another overnight place to sleep or if they have a place to stay, we can take them to their residence. So, it's an option that frees up the police and fire paramedic service when there's not an emergency response transportation required or the people are not being detained by the police.

Madam Speaker: No further questions? That concludes this presentation. Thank you, Mr. Mahmood.

Jamil Mahmood: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, we have Ms. Eddie Calisto-Tavares. She's in support of Item 9 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development, the report dated March 15th. It's regarding Cannabis Cultivation in Residential Areas. Mr. Clerk, is Ms. Calisto-Tavares with us? Okay. I don't see it on the screen at this time.

Eddie Calisto-Tavares: No, I'm here.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Great. Welcome, and we have ten minutes.

Eddie Calisto-Tavares: Hey, I'm here. Hello?

Madam Speaker: Could you mute the YouTube?

Eddie Calisto-Tavares: I am not on YouTube. I was on Zoom. Somebody needs to let me in on Zoom.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We can see you. So, we'll have…

Eddie Calisto-Tavares: Okay.

Madam Speaker: We have ten minutes on the clock, and welcome this morning to you.

Eddie Calisto-Tavares: Good morning. You can see me? This is all good, and you can hear me. So, my name is Eddie Calisto-Tavares. I am a resident of Amber Trails. I thank you for the opportunity to present today on behalf of hundreds of residents of Amber Trails. I want to thank Councillors Sharma, Eadie and Lukes for their leadership, for their ability to hear the residents, not only from Amber Trails, but from several wards across the city who feel frustrated, who live in fear of the grow ops in our neighborhoods. So often, when a home sells in the neighbourhoods, neighbours like mine who've lived in Amber Trails for 30 years, look forward to welcoming people, seeing families, seeing children. But instead, what we see daily are different cars, different people coming in two, three times a day, sometimes more often if they are harvesting the cannabis. So, for me, it is so sad to see these homes where I knew the seniors that have lived in those

homes for years move out of their homes, and now, their homes are full of oozing hazard materials out of their windows and their garage doors. And we have a nauseating smell in our streets everyday. I am here today representing myself, but hundreds of others from across the city. I often am so surprised how afraid people are to stand up for what is right, to ask our municipal government because those that know me know that I often say, change starts in your streets, and the closest government to you is your municipal government. It is your councils. It is the mayor. So today, Madam Speaker, councils and Mayor, I implore you to continue to move this very important issue forwards, to pass a by-law that prohibits cultivation of grow ops because I am not talking about one or two plants that people need for their own personal use. I am talking about hundreds, 500, 600, and these are facts confirmed by people in Safer Communities and others that have seen this. And yes, I am not going to continue to have Health Canada allow this to happen. And I will continue to work with all levels of government, and I implore you to do the same because this problem is Canada wide. But for starters, Winnipeg is the leader in so many ways, and I need for you to pass and continue to move this very important issue forward. Since we last spoke, and since even I presented to committee a week and a half ago, I've had parents call me, parents of an elementary school in the Maples within Seven Oaks School Division whose playground is in direct area of a grow op. So, for me, it is so frustrating that parents are afraid and I said, what did you do about it? Well, they don't know what to do about it because they have spoken to the principal. Well, the principal is a civil servant, so the principal cannot stand with families. It is incredibly frustrating for me when I hear citizens, residents, feel so powerless and not stand up and have the courage that it takes to stand up for what is right and for what we deserve. So please, if you take nothing away from today and from my passionate plea, take that I want my neighborhood to be back to the diverse, vibrant community that it is. Amber Trails started out with very few families, and our family was the third one in this neighborhood. We are now thriving with diverse people from all over the world who think they're moving to a great neighborhood, and most of it is, but not when it comes to we have dozens of these homes and people that don't belong in this neighborhood selling, growing pot in large quantities. So, I want to thank a group of volunteers who have dedicated hundreds of hours...I'll tell you, this feels like it is a full-time job, to move this very important issue, and I thank you for your time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Calisto-Tavares. If you could just stay on the line, we'll hear from the next delegation and come back to questions for both of you.

Councillor Eadie: Before we hear from the next delegation, I believe you have a list and the Clerk has a list of additional delegates. I'd like to move a motion to hear the additional…additional delegations.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie moves suspension of the rules to hear additional delegations, which would have five minutes, no questions. And the list is…do we have the list, Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two names provided to me; Ed Kolozdiej and Laurie Monk.

Madam Speaker: Okay, Ed Kolozdiej and Laurie Monk appearing on the same item. And it would be five minutes, no questions. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Okay. Ms. Carmen Nedohin on the line and we have five minutes on the clock for you. Thank you.

Carmen Nedohin: Good day and thank you for the opportunity to be here today. Just prior to going into my official presentation, just to remind individuals, that we had a 500 plant grow op in a home directly behind a K to 8 school playground at Ron Duhamel Park in Sage Creek. We were very fortunate to work with Safer Communities and have this grow op shut down. We're one of the very few that has been able to take this to completion sadly. I'm not opposed to marijuana. In fact, I have been a user, but I go to Delta 9 or other facilities and purchase it legally. I'm not opposed to medicinal marijuana, either. What I am very much opposed to is these massive grow ops that are popping up throughout our city. This is now the fourth presentation I've made to either the standing committee or Council as a whole on the issue of large-scale medicinal grow ops in the City of Winnipeg. I am very pleased and hopeful that having come this far in the process, real change is coming. Change that will allow all homeowners in Winnipeg to enjoy their backyards. Change that will ensure the health and safety of school children as they won't have to be subjected to foul and toxic air when they play outside. Change that ensures that our property values don't plummet because of the proximity to these grow ops. Change that reduces the fear of organized crime that many of us have felt living so close to these grow ops. And change that demonstrates that the voices of Winnipeggers have been heard by City Council. I want to thank all of Council for getting to this very point and to Councillors Eadie, Lukes and Sharma for their specific work on the issue. I want to thank the Public Service members who will be tasked with developing a policy and amendments that we so desperately need and want. But I also want to thank the very hard working and dedicated group of volunteers who have spent countless hours of personal time knocking on doors, circulating petitions, meeting with and writing to all levels of government, speaking with media, informing their neighbours on what is happening, writing letters, working with the WPS and Safer Communities. We have called school divisions, developers, fire departments, health departments, MLAs, MPs, city councillors and on and on. We may also…we may appear to be a small group, but we have hundreds of our neighbours behind us, many who are sadly afraid of repercussions if they go public with their experience. They have a fear of retaliation which leads to a feeling of helplessness. In our sage…in our experience in Sage Creek, we were lucky enough to get the grow op on our

street shut down because of the dogged determination of Safer Communities, but the owner of that home has now just moved his operations to other areas of the city. The fact that the number of operations has grown to almost 2,000 known locations is simply shocking. This is a community and city-wide issue. It's not just the immediate neighbours that are affected by these grow ops, the entire community suffers. It's not just small pockets of the city that are affected. It's every neighbourhood throughout the city from small older homes to large homes in new developments. This is a property value issue as well, as there is no doubt our values will be and are greatly diminished because of the proximity to a grow op. I fully support the amendment of the Winnipeg Zoning By-law and the Neighbourhood Liveability By-law to ban any and all Health Canada medical marijuana grow ops within all residential areas of the city. I know full well this is not always been an easy task, but in this case, I believe the only way we can solve this problem is to work together. These changes must include denying any grandfathering of existing grow ops and must also include a short period of time given to existing grow ops to shut down and remediate the properties. To me, this is just as important as the entire by-law itself. In closing, by passing these amendments, you, our elected officials would immediately support the work of law enforcement officers to ensure the safety and well-being of our children, stopping the spread of organized crime in the city, and ensure our property values are maintained. Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to make this presentation.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Questions for our two delegations on this topic? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. I want to thank both our preregistered presenters on the topic. And first, I'd just like to thank them for...I had an e-mail communication with Carmen, oh, three, four years ago, and I want to thank them for putting in all the volunteer time to organize the communities to deal with what has become an unreasonable use of residential property in that the amount of plants they're growing are so huge. My question is, really, with the Sage Creek one, and just for clarification because somebody was accusing me of not shutting one down when a councillor was able to shut one down in Sage Creek, could you please explain to me what the actual means that the Winnipeg Police Service, and I think there was a federal inspector, was able to shut that place down?

Carmen Nedohin: Was that question directed towards me?

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Carmen.

Carmen Nedohin: Okay. I just wanted to clarify. Yes, the home in question actually was owned and operated by an individual who in 2013, was convicted of having three huge marijuana grow ops in Royalwood, Southdale and in Sage Creek. In 2019, he moved back into the premises for a short amount of time and within a few months, moved back out again and turned the home into a medicinal grow op. He had a license. He somehow had managed to obtain a license from Health Canada and was growing for himself as well as three other licenses to upwards of 5 to 600 plants in that one residence. We worked with Safer Communities Manitoba and I give all the credit to Ron Trakalo who was the head of the organization at the time and his team, who worked with Winnipeg Police Service, the fire paramedics, just so many different organizations to get it shut down. And the way they were able to get him shutdown is that he had not taken out any kind of permits to upgrade his electrical panel et cetera. But it was such a fire hazard that when a deputy fire chief came out here, he inspected the property, immediately had the gas line…gas shut off and had the metre actually taken off of the home and said that how it didn't go up in a, like, fireworks was beyond him. He said it was just a matter of time before not only that house, but other homes in the neighborhood and perhaps even the kids that were playing in the school yard would have been affected. So that was how we managed to get him shutdown. There are only two inspectors in all of western Canada for Health Canada, so their ability to go into these grow ops where medicinal licenses have been approved is simply not possible. And so, we have to rely on...on the City Council to make sure that our cities are safe against these grow ops.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, we'll move onto the other delegations. Thank you for your time today.

Carmen Nedohin: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, we'll call forward Mr. Ed Kolozdiej. Oh, pardon me, first, Mr. Ben Raber is a registered delegate, so we'll deal with that one first. He is in opposition to this same item, Item 9. Mr. Raber, we have ten minutes on the clock for you.

Ben Raber: Sorry, it's just not…can you hear me or...

Madam Speaker: Yes, we can.

Ben Raber: Okay. Beautiful. Great. Nice to be here. Thank you very much. I've never spoken to the whole Council before, so this is a first. Let me pull my notes up here. All right. So, I've heard what the previous two delegates had to say and...

Madam Speaker: Mr. Raber, could you put...there's an item in your hand. Maybe if you could…

Ben Raber: That's my microphone.

Madam Speaker: Okay. It's staticky. So, I don't know why that's happening.

Ben Raber: Is that better?

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: It's not staticky, that's his breath.

Madam Speaker: Well, it's fine now, so I think it was coming from the headphones. Let's continue, thank you.

Ben Raber: So, I heard what the other speakers had to say. You know, it really breaks my heart that people are having these kinds of conflicts with their neighbours.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Raber, could I just ask maybe that you put it a little further away from your mouth? That may help. To the side.

Ben Raber: And perhaps that other delegate would like to mute her mic. Okay, so, it seems like a lot of people have very hardened opinions on this subject already. So, I'm going to say a few other…provide, perhaps, another perspective and maybe let us all kind of take the temperature down, take a breath on this. So, the most potent form of subliminal persuasion is repetition, subliminal persuasion, a.k.a., a form of mind control. For 100 years, the media has expressed only negatives about cannabis, no positive perspectives about cannabis. Everything that…you know, when one lie got too ridiculous, they simply moved onto a new set of misrepresentations. A couple of years ago, the government legalized cannabis or quote, unquote, legalized cannabis, yet, they did this with no mea culpa. They did this with no admission that, you know, putting people in jail for personal decisions taking part in their own home was something wrong. That it was something…perhaps there were some good intentions at one point, but it was something that was an obvious mistake and an obvious human rights violation. Many careers have been made both through politics, politicians, police, certainly in the pharmaceutical world. Julian Fantino would be one example. A fellow who went in parliament to discuss that legalizing cannabis would be like legalizing murder, and then promptly went to go work in a cannabis company right after. So, people are rightfully confused. They have been given a lot of mixed messages. This has resulted in…you know, when you hear this kind of repetitive message that these are people who grow cannabis are part of gangs or they're into guns or just…are just generally bad people, you know, scummy, bad people, however you wish to put it, that results in, really, a garden variety form of intolerance. In 1974, the CBC first reported that cannabis...pardon me, THC, an isolate of THC alone was shown to shutdown cancer cells. That was in 1974. There is a document I will e-mail to all City Council right after I'm done speaking called Dr. Tod's List. This is from a doctor, now deceased, unfortunately, Dr. Tod MiKuriya who from 1990 to 2004 used cannabis on dozens and dozens and dozens of conditions, ranging from, you know, diabetic insulin resistance, diabetic neuropathy, you know, autism, asthma, which is counter intuitive. Perhaps people might not know, they used to sell cannabis cigarettes for asthma. Various forms of cancer, bipolar disorder, bell's palsy, lower back pain. I mean, it just kind of goes on and on and on. We're in the middle of an opioid epidemic. It might be interesting to note that opioid dependence, tobacco dependence, alcoholism as well as amphetamine dependence are all listed on this list as well. So, it's pretty astounding. It's estimated that 66% of people, moving forward will die of cancer. So, you have this substance that since 1974, there's not really any plausible deniability for the media to whip up this kind of frenzy about a plant that they knew was clearly beneficial. You know, you think about how many families have been impacted by this kind of conflict. You know, people getting arrested would have their children taken away. You know, people certainly locked in cages, people not able to get a good job afterwards. So, you know, this community has really gone through a lot. You really can't think of any other community that's really gone through this in my lifetime in Canada anyways. I know we hear a lot about LGBT going through a lot. I've never really heard of them getting locked in a cage for doing LGBT acts since I've been around anyways, but definitely for the cannabis people…

Madam Speaker: If you could pause for a moment.

Councillor Allard: Madam Speaker, I'm finding this speech offensive just for the record.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Raber. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, you're responsible for decorum, and I believe that that was a step too far.

Ben Raber: What did I say that was wrong?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, go ahead. I couldn't hear, there was three people talking.

Councillor Allard: Well, first of all, it's a missed statement that I just heard about the LGBTQ community. And secondly, I don't see how it's relevant to the topic at hand.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Raber, would you like to retract your statement and then continue?

Ben Raber: Well, I only stated a fact that I don't think LGBT go to jail currently. Am I incorrect?

Councillor Allard: You should probably check your history books, Mr…

Ben Raber: No, I said my lifetime, sir. I said my lifetime.

Councillor Allard: You should probably check news across the world.

Ben Raber: But I said in Canada in my lifetime, sir.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. We're going to wrap up this presentation.

Ben Raber: Well, no, excuse me. I'm not done my…

Madam Speaker: Mr. Raber, we are going to continue with your presentation in a moment, and I will be reviewing the tape at a later time. Okay. If you could continue your presentation, there's about four minutes left on the clock. And please know that anything that is said on livestream, it's a matter of public record. Continue. Thank you.

Ben Raber: I honestly don't think I said anything offensive, so...

Madam Speaker: One other…yeah. Mr. Raber, just…

Ben Raber: I'm not concerned with…

Madam Speaker: If I could pause you for another moment. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Sorry, Madam Speaker, just to clarify, how much time was each speaker given? I thought it was five minutes per speaker.

Madam Speaker: These are registered speakers.

Councillor Gillingham: Oh, these ones are registered. Okay, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Yes, thank you. Thank you. Councillor Eadie was just giving us a head's up early, which is appreciated, about the additional delegations. Mr. Raber, four minutes on the clock for you. Thank you.

Ben Raber: Again, I don't believe I said anything offensive. I surely didn't intend to, so. I realize anyone can take offense to anything, but that was not my intention. So, it comes down to…so, when this COVID thing came around and we…the concept of a victory garden was introduced. You know, I kind of looked around, and I go, well, you know, I actually have a victory garden. Last time I spoke before committee I mentioned that I used to have to go to the hospital three times a year, go to the emergency room, be in a lot of anxiety the whole time about my health issue, constant pain et cetera, and that since I've been able to produce my own medication, I've only had to go to the hospital now once in nine years due to being able to produce the exact kind of medications I need, sufficient supply, sufficient quality. So, you know, it's what kind of communities do we want to have? Do we want to have communities of people who are self-sufficient, able to produce their own medication? You know, again, with this COVID, we talk about supply chain breakdowns and the potential for pharmaceuticals to become unavailable for people. Isn't it kind of a nice piece of sort of security to know that, you know, there is someone on your block who's able to provide the most versatile herb in the herbal kingdom, which may indeed in an emergency be able to help you should your kid not be able to get his insulin or, you know, some other sort of medication? I'd say that's something of what a...you know, you want your community to be strong, independent, self-sufficient, and...and well, and having good quality of life so they can live their best lives and continue to build in the community. So, there may be some issues in terms of smell. That really seems to be the big thing. I very...hesitate to say in a very gentle way that I did provide a suggestion the last time I spoke at a committee that if...you know, if it had been

moved forward with, I think would have eliminated some of these issues, and that would have been, you know, if somebody has a smell complaint...first of all, I mean, I'd love to live in the type of community where you actually go and ring the doorbell and say, hi, I'm your neighbour, I live down there. There seems like there's a bunch of smell, is there something that can be done about that? Because I maintain that in a lot of these cases, the person honestly doesn't even know that they've created an issue. They may be desensitized to the smell, totally unaware. So, getting that letter just letting them know, because again, I've heard of a few cases now, but as a broad majority, people don't want to smell beyond attracting unwanted attention to their home, most people want to be good neighborhoods. And dealing with the smell is quite an easy task. There's charcoal filter cans that can be purchased. And you know what, with some genetics, it might be a somewhat stinky genetic that perhaps that person needs to buy another filter can, you know. That is a reasonable thing to request. It is very reasonable for the city to create sort of a best practices which, by the way, I bet you Health Canada would even send out with the licenses to say, okay, if you have X amount of plants, here's what kind of filtration system you can expect to need and please check with…you know, maybe check with your neighbours, make sure they're not being impacted and on and on. There really is no need to throw out the baby with the bathwater. I do find it astounding that one of the previous speakers uses medical cannabis, yet doesn't find it fit that their neighbours should be able to grow their own. I think the City should be putting on seminars and best practices on how to grow similar to how the City puts on seminars with regard to composting and things like this. You know, growing keeps people sharp. It's part of the therapy. There's not very many physical activities I can do. I've gone to the hospital from bowling, tripping on an escalator, playing tennis, and there's not too many physical activities I can do. Gardening is one of them. It's honestly the best hobby.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Raber, the time is done for your presentation.

Ben Raber: Can I make one more point?

Madam Speaker: Thank you for taking the time today to present.

Ben Raber: Can I make one more point?

Madam Speaker: I'm sorry. We have a lengthy agenda. We do need to move on. But I will have…there are questions from our panel here, from our committee. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, and if he chooses to make his final point after my question, that's fine. Madam Speaker…Madam Speaker, you know, many of the people who have problems with this, Madam Speaker, are actually people who voted for the government who did legalize cannabis. So, the issue is not the demonization of cannabis users like the paper industry did back in the '20s, and you know, cannabis users are somehow maniacs. That's not the issue here. And the issue isn't that people don't have a right to use cannabis for medical purposes. It does have application, Madam Speaker. And for some number of years, there have been people who are growing 10, 12, maybe even 14 plants in their homes, and you wouldn't even know that they've been doing it. I have friends who have been doing that, and there's no smell because they did it the right way. They don't have to go out and pay. But Madam Speaker, what I just want...before I ask him his question, I just want to make sure that he understands what we're talking about here. When you're using…growing 400 plants in a home, now you're at the point where that residential property is actually mostly being used to produce medical cannabis, Madam Speaker. And the people who moved into the residential area decided to do that, and it is very hard to have the right systems, and very expensive to have the right systems in place to keep down the smells, to ventilate properly, the cost of electricity, all these various things, Madam Speaker. And so, it's gone beyond reasonable in that...you know, it's…and the point that the one presenter was trying to make is, it would be…it's cheaper for her to go to the medical commercial market who now has good product, quality, and the prices are much lower from when the Supreme Court made their decision. So, Madam Speaker, my question to this fellow, and he has a right to say yes or no, but he keeps presenting in a manner like it's some minimal amount. Would he be able to explain to us how much of his home he's using to grow cannabis, medical cannabis?

Ben Raber: Okay. So, I won't get into anything personal because I don't think I need to, but suffice to say, to assume you need a whole home for 400 plants, when someone says...first of all, I don't know anyone with a script for, you know, 4, 5, 600 plants. I don't know those people. But for…most of those plants are going to be quite small. And so, when you're rooting clones, and you stick it in the thing, even though it doesn't have any roots yet and will likely die because of about half of them are going to die, that somehow counts as a plant. When you're popping seeds, and have, you know, half the seeds aren't going to make it, those are counted as plants. Of course, then a plant is this tall, then it grows…you know, and it doesn't actually become a factor until you start to flower. So, a person might flower 80 plants and have a licence for 200 and maybe not even pass 150 plants in their garden in total but have the ability to, should they need to. One other thing I'd like to mention is that we want people growing in the winter. We want people growing in the winter when the smell's not going to impact people. And to do that, you would actually want higher plant counts so that they can grow their whole year's prescription without impacting people and then be able to take a break during the summer time or work with low odour strains during the summer time, which is an option as well. So, I would just encourage people not to throw out

the baby with the bath water. There's a reason that they courts have granted this right to us. Humans do have the right to self-care, self-sufficiency. And again, to Mr. Allard, you know, I honestly apologize if I inadvertently offended you. I honestly didn't mean to so.

Councillor Eadie: Second question.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, point of order. (inaudible) retract a statement with respect to the LGBTQ community, you asked him to retract, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins, we heard an apology. I'm going to hear from Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I heard an apology to Councillor Allard, not the community, Madam Speaker. I would like the retraction that you sought.

Madam Speaker: As I said earlier, I will also be reviewing the tape. Councillor…Mr. Raber, if you do wish to retract anything, there are some more questions, so you have an opportunity to put some more comments on this public record that is available today and it's historical…it's going to be here for the future as well.

Ben Raber: I honestly don't think I said anything offensive, but to those who took offense, I apologize.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, you're responsible for indecorous conduct and you can be…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins, I've mentioned that I'm going to be reviewing the tape. I'd like to move on with the meeting. We are still on this item. Councillor Eadie, and I believe I see a hand over here.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, you have the availability to say that we won't be hearing from this speaker if there's a not a retraction. I just wanted to remind you of that, Madam Speaker, and that would be my preferred course.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Yes. I don't know if I want to rise on a point of order, but Madam…

Madam Speaker: Just Councillor Eadie, before you move on, I want to be clear what is heard, and I'm not sure because there was a lot of static and it is difficult to hear what's being said during this particular delegation. It happens to be fine at the moment, but there was a lot of static. I will be reviewing the tape and that's where I'm going to leave it at this time. Councillor…

Councillor Allard: Madam Speaker, I believe the term was LGBTQ people being put into cages. And…

Councillor Eadie: So, I just want to make a point of order.

Councillor Allard: I mean, that's the comment that I heard.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for that, Councillor Allard.

Ben Raber: I said they weren't put in cages.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, point of order.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, your point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Councillor Eadie: I just wanted to make a point of order that, Madam Speaker, I think you're dealing with it appropriately. And as you listen to the tape, you can…and we have this delegation's contact information. And we can offer to educate him as to how because often people don't understand how they've offended a group, and it's clear to me that this person needs to be educated in some manner. So, I think your decision to review the tape and then get back to them later, he has apologized for…if he was offensive. He doesn't understand why, that's clear. But anyway, I'd like to…I'd just like to ask him my next question, Madam Speaker.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, point of order.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, and then back to Councillor Eadie for the question.

Councillor Schreyer: It might be a point of information or point of privilege or I might wait during my question, Madam Speaker. Stop me if you wish. I just wish to make the point that since we're discussing the issue of put in cages to mean me…I believe he meant incarceration, being put in jail. And I just want to state for the point…state the point that decriminalization of homosexuality at least was in 1969 federally. And I think that is where Mr. Raber is coming from. Having said that, with all due respect to the concerns raised by Councillors Rollins and Allard, it's a very sensitive issue. There's still a lot of discrimination despite the decriminalization of homosexuality, ask (inaudible)

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: In regards to the entire community, there may still have been incarcerations based on other biases by society. This is a touchy issue I don't think we're going to resolve in the next couple of minutes.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, thank you for your comments. And Councillor Eadie, just before you rise on your questions, City Council went through training for a full day this past Monday, so I appreciate, Councillor Eadie, your comments about education where it's appropriate. I will be reviewing the tape at a later time, but we do need to move forward with the meeting at this…now. Councillor Eadie, the question.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, I'm wondering if the delegation is aware that the commercial production of cannabis in this city even with the best filtering systems generates smell. Is he aware of that?

Ben Raber: It may generate smell. You know, and let me just touch on that for a second, so the proposal as I believe would be to have all of us medical growers actually move our plants to warehouse spaces. And so, by the way, I don't believe those warehouse spaces are available because six, seven years ago when the medical companies were starting up, many of us endeavoured to get involved and called many property managers and found that those warehouse spaces weren't available. So, and second, just very quickly, were being…let's assume that they were available just for a moment, you would then be asking large consumers of cannabis, medical consumers of cannabis, to be driving likely at night, likely after a long day at work, perhaps fatigued, back and forth to a production facility instead of simply walking downstairs to their basement. So, that actually gave me a chance to point out that weakness as well.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I'm…this is a, 'are you aware', is he aware that what's happening in this city is people are buying houses for the sole purpose of producing medical cannabis and outfitting them with the appropriate electricity and stuff, it's still problems in that also as part of the issue about warehouses, did he also know there's properties available to buy just like the houses that are being bought nowadays in industrial areas where they could build a proper warehouse and spend their money that way? Because there seems to be no end of money available to these people to buy a half a million dollar house and outfit it.

Ben Raber: So, it seems like you're suggesting that you are aware of why someone purchases a house. I'm not sure, like, let's say I had a family with kids, wouldn't it be prudent to buy a house down the road if I wanted to keep my children away from my garden as we're supposed to do? Do we know that these people don't have family who comes into town and needs a place to stay? Like, it just…it just smacks of a lot of assumption. And your second question, well, why don't they just buy a warehouse, so you're suggesting that instead of buying a $500,000 home, they would purchase a multi-million dollar warehouse. You know, it's a point…I wonder, like, what impact do you think that would have on the black market if you're actually forcing people, which, you know, if you're actually forcing people to scale up to be able to afford a multi-million dollar warehouse, aren't they going to be pressured to…if they weren't in the black market before, wouldn't they feel a financial pressure to do so afterwards? So, that would be my response to those. You're essentially forcing them to step up what they're doing versus just having a private thing in their own home. And by the way, two homes, that means they're paying double the property and tax. And by the way, the fact that the amount of growing has practically doubled in the past two years indicates to me that the cat is kind of out of the bag. People realize this is a great way to…it's a great way to live. Like, it's a great hobby. It's very rewarding. There's really nothing like coming downstairs and smelling the…you know, oh, I've tried this new genetic. You know, it's very therapeutic. It's really quite wonderful. And it's something a lot of us have sacrificed previously to do. Like I mentioned, a lot of us can't get good jobs, et cetera. And so, it's…it really breaks my heart that there's so much conflict on this. And it's so unnecessary and I think if we did a best operating practices or a best practices and the City could create that and I would be…I would be thrilled if they did that because I think 90% of people would be quite happy to follow any recommendations that are given. And may alleviate some of the problems in the past two years since I spoke before at committee had people, you know, gotten that letter in the mail or gotten something with their health care…by the way, with the license, it says we're supposed to be discreet. That's one thing it does say for sure. And so, we should. We really should. We're part of the community. We're part of the neighbourhood. And frankly, you know, people with this kind of competence…like, you can't really be an alcoholic and grow great cannabis.

Councillor Eadie: He's answered the question, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes, I was just getting to that. Thank you. And the time is up as well.

Ben Raber: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation today. Next, we'll hear from Mr. Martino Vergata. He is the General Manager…we shall after. These are still registered delegates, yes. Thank you. Next is Mr. Martino Vergata, General Manager, and Margie Reis, Office Manager of Garden City Community Centre, the Seven Oaks Sports Plex. They are in support of Item 2 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. It's the report dated March 10th, 2021, regarding the development of an Economic Recovery Plan for Community Centres. Welcome to both of you.

Martino Vergata: Thank you, Madam Speaker. His Worship Mayor Bowman and councillors, good morning and thank you again for the opportunity of allowing our delegation to be present before Council. As stated, my name is Martino Vergata, General Manager of Garden City Community Centre, and joining me from our management team is Margie Reis. Our delegation is in support of Item 2 which is the development of an economic recovery plan for community centres which will be debated by Council. On March 10th, Margie and I presented some harsh reality to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks relative to financial concerns impacting Garden City Community Centre. It is safe to say that community centres have all been impacted by the forced closures due to the pandemic which is still with us. We did gather that, frankly, some community centres are in a better position financially due to some of these closures, but the opposite is true for larger multiplexes like Garden City Community Centre. We, again, want to state some facts; total loss in revenue for our centre is $1.325 million. Utilities and maintenance costs are still incurred despite the closure. As an example, six months of utilities during the closure equates to $207,000 for our centre. We had unforeseen maintenance expense of over $40,000 during this shutdown. That's ice plant, HVAC, et cetera. This is over and above the preventative maintenance schedules for our facility. A (inaudible) staff has been in the centre as we have two tenants, a daycare before and after program, resource teachers and phys ed from a local school as well. We are required to have certified staff on site due to the ice plant. We renegotiated the City of Winnipeg and GCW…GCCC loan with RBC twice within the last 12 months. Both the renegotiations were due…were to defer loan payments and extend the amortization period. The interest rate stayed the same for the duration of the term loan. This deferral and extension equates to $1.672 million in added interest charges of which Garden City Community Centre assumes the entire amount and not the City of Winnipeg. We tapped into our reserves which are now depleted, and we had to lay off over 30 part-time and full-time staff. Our delegation here today wishes to express the urgency and importance of finding a solution and a fair working model to assist community centres with the recovery plan. Our centre is not asking for full recovery of lost revenue or expenses, but it is safe to say that assistance is needed. In closing, Garden City Community Centre and the City of Winnipeg are partners in this community centre model. Like the many volunteers, staff and boards that manage these City of Winnipeg assets, we at Garden City Community Centre take the same pride in managing this multiplex. If we did not take pride or have a responsibility, we would not be here before you today. And I'll pass on the mic to Margie.

Madam Speaker: Ms. Reis, if you could unmute your mic and just start from the beginning. Thank you.

Margie Reis: Sorry about that. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning. Further to what Martino mentioned, we're here today to encourage Council to move forward with an economic recovery plan for the community centres in need. As Ms. Fox had previously indicated, not all centres are going to be in dire straits. Many of them, in fact, will be ahead of the game. Unfortunately, ours is not one of them. We would encourage Council to move forward with this plan and when we do need the (inaudible) we would suggest that they take into consideration fixed costs incurred during shutdowns where revenues couldn't be earned. These would include things like utilities, portions of salaries not covered by federal subsidies, additional financing costs like Martino mentioned. In addition to refinancing our loan, we also took out a CEBA loan to the tune of $60,000 and that was to pay utilities during the shutdown. Over the course of the next couple of years, we're looking at having to replace at least one compressor for our ice plant due to wear and tear, purchasing a new Zamboni, installing a dehumidifier, this means capital costs in excess of $200,000.

Madam Speaker: Ms. Reis. Ms. Reis.

Margie Reis: Still be feeling the after effects of the pandemic.

Madam Speaker: Ms. Reis.

Margie Reis: Yes?

Madam Speaker: We're having trouble hearing. If you could speak up or I don't know where the mic is positioned.

Margie Reis: Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, I've been having trouble with mic and we were trying…it…can you hear me now?

Madam Speaker: Sort of. Yeah, just when you sit more forward, it is helpful.

Margie Reis: Okay. Okay. I'll reread the last little bit. Over the course of the next couple of years, we're looking at having to replace at least one compressor for our ice plant and that's just regular wear and tear. Purchasing a new Zamboni and installing dehumidifiers in our arena. This means capital costs in excess of $200,000 during a period where we will still be feeling the after effects of the pandemic. While grants are available to assist with these expenses, and they're always appreciated, in most cases, these are matching grants and a reserve is needed to fund 50 percent of the cost. In closing, we feel that the financial support from the City of Winnipeg is very much needed so that we may continue to service the needs of the users from across the city and province while maintaining their assets. Thank you for your time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Reis. We'll now proceed with any questions. Actually, if you could…we could just pause with that, we're going to hear from the next delegation on the same topic and then we'll come back to questions. Next, Mr. Clerk, is Ms. Michele Augert. She is the CEO of Dakota Community Centre, also in support of the same item. Can we get her on the screen? Wonderful. Welcome to you, and we have five minutes on the clock.

Michele Augert: Good morning, Madam Speaker and Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this motion. I've shared a fairly detailed account of the impacts being faced by Dakota Community Centre to committee a few weeks ago, but today, this story can be shorter, but unfortunately, not any brighter. With every passing week, the reality gets clearer and more distressing. Our community centre is at our worst case scenario among the forecasted scenarios we had last year when we had no idea what was coming, but generally confident in our ability to survive when we were forced to close our doors to the public last March. None of us would have ever imagined that a successful and established mega centre with nearly a $5 million annual operating budget with multiple solid and diverse sources of revenue would lose more than 75% of our annual revenue in the span of a year. Who would have ever thought we'd face nearly seven total months of mandated closure and the rest of the year was significantly reduced capacity to deliver sport and recreation programs amidst significant and necessary health restrictions. This meant the loss…or cancellation of every single large-scale event including multiple national, regional and local hockey, ringette, basketball, volleyball and other sport tournaments, our 130 team recreational hockey league, the numerous high school convocations that were planned in our large facility, all our seniors and fitness programming, fundraising events like craft sales, our Santa breakfast, countless rentals for wedding socials, showers, birthday parties, meetings and other large-scale events. I think you get the picture. And sadly, as we enter the second year of the pandemic, much of these events have now been cancelled two years in a row and there's little hope in sight unless large-scale events are full…can fully and safely return. To make matters worse this week, the further extension of restrictions not allowing game play until at least mid-April and realistically longer with the threat of variance and the pace of vaccination will require us to refund hundreds of thousands of dollars collected to deliver to nearly 1,500 players in the rec program as hope as run out for the resumption of this league. This was, in fact, the last piece of our revenue generating machine we were counting on to carry us through and never expected we'd get here, but we are here now. While we are exceptionally grateful for the programs like (inaudible) and the Manitoba Bridge Grant and the federal interest-free loans, which we have accessed. Unfortunately, in the long-term, it isn't going to be enough. As you can appreciate, as 160,000 square foot multi-use facility with two indoor ice arenas, acres of grounds and fields are very costly to maintain no matter if we are opened or closed. Roughly 1.5 million in hard operating costs, not to mention the nearly half a million in mortgage payments, have been our reality this past year made up of things like $18,000 a month of utility bills, thousands of dollars in building management, fire, security systems, IT systems to manage payroll, recreation facility bookings, thousands of dollars in leases for fitness and office equipment as well as tractors, ice re-surfacers, audit fees, phone service, IT, professional staff and licensed staff working hard to maintain this mega centre and continually preparing and re-planning the return of services to our community. In addition, the nearly $50 million of assets under our watch, a major break down in our ice plant or major building systems in our fieldhouse would have us facing to repair in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Sadly, our ability to recover from any such incident may no longer be an option. We along with all the other centres in our city exist to serve the health and wellness and sports needs of our community and city. Throughout this pandemic, we remained ready to go when they said we could go, only go kept getting pushed back by two or three weeks until we were at three or four months. For most of what we do, we still can't go or see an opportunity to go there for the foreseeable future. While we are back open now, allowing small groups to practice on ice, walk the track or play pickle ball, we are not in control of the pace of our recovery and we know it's going to take a lot of time, hard work, innovation and determination and some much needed financial support to get us back, better and stronger than ever. Dakota has always been one of the great success stories in Winnipeg's community centre and runs and maintains this much loved asset to the benefit of our city and its residents. Despite our best efforts, this unexpected hit will set our organization back years and recovery will be long and a definite struggle without short-term help. And this is just disproportionately affecting the larger centres who deliver the bulk of the specialized recreation in our city.

Madam Speaker: Ms. Augert.

Michele Augert: We hope you all see and appreciate the value of the centres like Dakota brings to our residents and our city and as you as their representatives will provide the much needed support to see us through these unprecedented and difficult times. Thank you so much for listening.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any questions for our delegation? Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to direct this question to Dakota CEO, Michele Augert. Thank you very much for your presentation, Ms. Augert. As you know, we worked together over the years when I was councillor for the area of your ward. You are an incredible fundraiser and a person who can seek funding from outside sources and not always be calling on the City to support the initiatives that you are taking. I want to ask you, there's been some confusion or maybe there's a need for lack of clarity and hope you can provide it on retained earnings and funding that has been set aside that may or may not be accessible and I'm asking for a bit of clarity on that, please.

Michele Augert: Yeah, and I think if I can just help to answer that. Certainly, for an organization as large as us, we have some retained operating surpluses that we use for capital renewal for, you know, ensuring that we have the cash flow to ensure that we can address every need that a facility of our size has. So, I think in terms of, you know, Dakota having some significant, you know, backing to operate and do the things it has done, obtaining this through donations, you know, operating surpluses and such, this is really where with the long-term impacts of this pandemic and, you know, no sight of us being able to recover anytime soon especially with the larger events because that is really the mainstay of our operating revenue, which again is about 90% self-generated. So, with that, this is where those…the funds that we have in our operating accounts are dwindling quickly and with all of these pending refunds and stuff and we're really at a point where it's going to be very difficult for the centre to look forward.

Councillor Lukes: I have another question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes, second question.

Councillor Lukes: And I guess I'm going to direct this to both parties. I'll start with Dakota first; what happens ultimately if you can't make these payments? Like, what's going to happen? Like, does the City take it over? Do you go further in debt? What do you envision happening? Or I don't know if you've even thought that far ahead. I'd like to hear from both parties.

Michele Augert: Well, I think if…to go first, I mean, we are still working diligently to hope that that scenario is never realized. But again, we operate the facilities that the City is the owner, the registered owner of the facilities. We operate, maintain and program the facilities and the board of directors of Dakota Community Centre and we are separately incorporated do that. I guess in the end, it is, really, we look to our partners to hope that we never get to that kind of situation because again, you know, we can't do…we can't pay our bills if we don't have sufficient money to do so. If we have a catastrophic failure as Garden City had mentioned, we have a chiller that…to be replaced in the next year or so. We'll be in around the $300,000 mark. We can't do that if we have no money to do that. And again, if we plan to fix it, that's one thing. If it breaks in the meantime, we have a huge problem on our hands because that runs what we generate good revenue from in terms of ice.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you.

Martino Vergata: Councillor Lukes, to answer your question fully here, we're in a definitely partnership with the City of Winnipeg. Our loan which is a guarantee loan by the City of Winnipeg as well too, is 50/50 partnership…50/50 loan of which, again, as mentioned earlier, we did extend the terms. And actually, that…Garden City did assume the brunt of that. In fact, 100% full. So, to answer your question being a guaranteed loan, we can't make the loan payments, which, again, we did ask for some deferral which is…we're fortunate to get one year. But again, it comes at a price. Not the business plan that everybody would like. So, we have extended what we can from a business model which typically is restructure any loans, then after that, you basically go to your bank. If your bank account is zero, we know what happens there. So, it's a matter of just the City basically guaranteeing the loan, paying it out if they can or the keys go back to the City of Winnipeg.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you.

Martino Vergata: And to manage the facility.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next question, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Martino Vergata, Margie Reis and Michele Augert, I do want to thank you very much for taking time out of your very busy days to present to us here at Council. It just gives us an overview of the current situation facing the community clubs that are…our community centres that are providing such vital services to the citizens of Winnipeg as we move towards recovery and ensuring that our mental health and well-being is addressed in the physical activities that, you know, we do need to take place from time to time that help us just connect to our neighbourhoods as well as provide some relief and outlet. Michele, I want to pose this question to you with respect to your earning period and, you know, during the pandemic, of course, it shut down a lot of activities in the last year. Can you just explain to us, as a City Council, when is your peak time for generating revenue through the different programs and sports offerings that you have? As well as the different events that you host at the community centre. And then I'll pose the same question to either Martina or Margie.

Michele Augert: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. The…certainly, the peak revenue period usually comes in the winter, especially with those of us who have multiple sheets of ice. Obviously, they are costly to run and these are our much coveted amenities for multiple ice sports. So, again, and with having such large facilities, you know, multiple international ice hockey tournaments, ringette tournaments, figure skating, it has a home at Dakota as well, generally hosts the western Canada finals in our facility as well. So, it is all of these things that generally happen in the winter as well into the spring. Again, this pandemic and as we are starting to see some glimmer of recovery, everything that we would have done last spring and this spring, which is very heavy tournament season, it has now been…it's gone. The convocations, our fieldhouse can host convocations for many of the local high schools that can have excess of 1,000 people attend those facilities, those will not be happening. Again, so there is so much of this. We were to be host to the first ever televised RBC training ground national event in Manitoba this past spring, that has gone. It's just a small example of so much of the large-scale events that we do and so much of the large-scale events that are going to lag. This impact to us will lag on for a long period of time because the recovery of so much of this will not happen for at least 9 to 12 months and that's just the beginning of the recovery. I will defer now to my colleagues at Garden City.

Margie Reis: Thank you, Michele. Yes, Councillor Chambers, to echo what Dakota has said, our peak periods would be in the arena year-round. Year-round. We're host to many specialized hockey camps in the offseason and host everything from minor hockey to MMJFL games. So, our rink has definitely felt an impact (inaudible) shut down affecting us. Our gymnasium for social rentals felt the brunt of the first shutdown and now, of course, we're in a second one where gathering sizes just won't allow for it. Our indoor turf felt it right through this last shutdown as indoor soccer was not allowed. And that's a huge revenue generator for us. We were lined up to host Hockey Helps the Homeless again, which is a great program which helps homeless in Winnipeg. We were lined up to the host the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships this year, which we were very much looking forward to, but again, that too has gone by the wayside, and that's just one of the many tournaments that we hold in the spring and summer.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Question period for this item has concluded. We thank you for your presentation today, to the three community leaders from our community centres. Thank you.

Margie Reis: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Martino Vergata: Thank you.

Michele Augert: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, we're now going to be back to the additional delegations that Councillor Eadie suspended the rules for. First up is Mr. Ed Kolozdiej. There will be 5 minutes and no questions. Welcome to you. And this is on the medical cannabis being grown in residential neighbourhoods item.

Ed Kolozdiej: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I owe a debt of gratitude to Councillors Sharma, Lukes and Eadie for their tireless efforts on this issue. I'm also very honoured to be speaking to all of you today. I'm confident that after hearing the delegations before you today, next steps will be taken to remove large-scale cannabis operators from residential to industrially zoned areas where they belong. My name is Ed Kolozdiej, I am a proud Winnipegger, husband and dad to three teenagers. It would be much easier to ignore what is going on in my community and say, not my problem. But after the events of the last two years of watching several homes in the area fall like dominoes from places where people live and thrive to vacant, poorly maintained, large-scale industrial grow ops attracting nefarious individuals at all hours of the day with no concern for the community, enough is enough. We need a by-law, and we need it soon. The report that is here before us is a very well-written document. The report highlights that in Manitoba there are approximately 2,000 medicinal licenses. Individuals are required to obtain a prescription and then they can grow their plants. The average cannabis prescription in Canada is for 2.1 grams a day. That will allow a prescription holder to grow 10 plants. However,

the report indicates that the average license is for 22.4 grams a day or 112 plants. Worse yet, you can have up to 4 licenses at one location. So, you can have almost 500 plants growing in one home and it's all legal. Health Canada does not require individuals to occupy a home where you are growing cannabis. This has resulted in individuals purchasing homes for the primary purpose of cannabis production. These large-scale operators have an affinity for large suburban bungalows, detached garages. In May of 2019, a motion came before Council on this exact topic, at that time, there were two large-scale medicinal grow ops within 300 metres of my home. Today, there are 7. The problem has more than tripled in less than two years. So, what do I tell my kids? This is not just a problem in my neighbourhood, over 60 large-scale cannabis grow ops have been identified in 9 different wards throughout the City of Winnipeg. They include St. Vital, St. Boniface, Elmwood-East Kildonan, Transcona, North Kildonan, Waverley West, Mynarski, Point Douglas and Old Kildonan. The City of Winnipeg did not create the situation, but the City of Winnipeg can create a by-law to regulate it. Safety is my primary concern. A 2016 report in Surrey, BC on the hazards of commercial-scale grow ops found that all 314 residences had problems including mold, dangerous wiring, and the holes in fire break walls. In 2019, a power transformer behind a Garden City home exploded and caught fire. Luckily, fire crews arrived before the cause…the fire caused any damage to surrounding homes. Large-scale grow ops use a tremendous amount of energy to produce cannabis, incidents of power surges and power outages have increased dramatically in my neighbourhood in the summer. On the evening of September 26th, a medicinal grow op in my neighbourhood had a blown electrical panel. Multiple Hydro trucks and Hydro excavating crews were deployed to restore service to the home. A grow op is 24 times more likely to have a fire than a non-grow op. Would you like to have a grow op next door to you? Grow ops attract crime. On June 12th, a home invasion of a medicinal grow op occurred in the City of Winnipeg. The two occupants, a 17 and 20-year-old were bound and gagged. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police have also raised concerns about cannabis being grown in residential areas. Clearly, we're talking about more than smell. Even if a by-law is eventually passed, process will take time. If this process is delayed, operators can conceivably go on a buying spree. Many of you have been watching the real estate market recently, very tight supply, low-interest rates and the cost of construction has exploded. It is in this environment that these operators can go along and buy more properties, thus, forcing people out of the possibility of home ownership, another consequence. And so, here we are in Winnipeg. We're experiencing a glorious early spring after a COVID winter. People will soon start to emerge from their homes in a jovial…

Madam Speaker: Mr. Kolozdiej, if you could wrap up your sentence. We have one more delegation. Thank you.

Ed Kolozdiej: Mayor Bowman and Council, I urge you, I implore you to take the next steps required. Please support the notion before you today and give people hope. Hope that they will be able to go outside, enjoy the fresh air and be in safe communities. Please take the next steps to put communities and people first. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ed Kolozdiej. That concludes your presentation. There'll be no questions. And we'll now move on to Ms. Laurie Monk.

Laurie Monk: Good morning. I'm Laurie Monk. I'm a resident of Garden City in the ward of Old Kildonan and McPhillips constituency. Thank you for having me here today. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Councillors Sharma, Lukes and Eadie as well as a small group of citizens, excuse me, Ed Kolozdiej whom you just heard from, Carmen Nedohin, Eddie Calisto-Tavares, Gail Katz and Ron Dare who have worked tirelessly to bring this issue before Council. We have submitted a petition for your consideration that's been signed by over 400 citizens from across Canada. The issue of Health Canada licensed medical cannabis grow ops is a concern that is shared by many, and I thank you for giving it the time and consideration it deserves. I would like to share with you a personal story that, actually, is a wonderful segue from Ed's presentation. My elderly neighbour, Safara lived next door to me for 20 years. We shared produce from our gardens. We celebrated the birth of grandchildren. We had the type of supportive relationship that makes up the fabric of a community. Safara's house was sold last summer when she entered a personal care home. I like my neighbours, so I was really excited to meet and get to know the new family that I thought was moving in next door. And I hoped that we would be able to build the same type of friendly relationship that we had enjoyed with Safara. Well, that didn't happen. Instead, a grow op moved in next door. So, how…so now, the home that Safara loved and tended with so much care for years has become a shell. It used to house a family and now it holds a burgeoning cannabis production factory. Instead of a neighbour, I now have a water boy who comes twice a day for an hour to look after his crop. I've attempted to reach out to him and find out, you know, who he is and to build those bonds, he doesn't live there. He doesn't live next door to me. He is someone who comes to tend a commercial grade grow op. So, this is not a home. You know, contrary to Mr. Raber's statements, I appreciate the points that he was making, but I think he's a little either misinformed or chooses to ignore the experience of those of us living next door to these grow ops. I personally am not opposed to cannabis use in any form. I have celebrated and supported Health Canada's decision to legalize personal use as well as medical use. I have no issue with it at all. But homes and neighbourhoods, in my opinion, are not the appropriate growing location for large-scale facilities. So, I thank Council and I urge you to enact a by-law to move these large-scale Health Canada licensed facilities out of residential neighbourhoods and relocate them to commercially zoned areas where they belong. So, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Monk. That concludes all of our delegations for today. We'll now move on to reports. Mr. Mayor, the report…okay, just one moment please. Thank you. Mr. Mayor, the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17th, 2021, noting there are a few amending motions.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 17, 2021

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 24. I'll ask for a recorded vote for the consent agenda items, please.

Madam Speaker: There is an amending motion with Item 7. So, that will be pulled. That is the Main Street Project Van Patrol. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Five and 13, please.

Madam Speaker: Five and 13. Councillor Klein. Item 4, 16. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'd like to be…can I…when we do vote on consent agenda, can I just ask to be recorded in opposition to one of them?

Madam Speaker: No, because that is the system that was created recently. The new system.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, so I'll pull 19 then, please.

Madam Speaker: Any other items? Councillor Santos, 13, yes. I'm just going to look virtually. Okay. I'll call the question on Item 1, 2. It will be a recorded vote on 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21, 22, 23, 24. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise. Okay, those opposed…none opposed, Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Okay, and Councillor Gillingham absent if it could be noted as per our practice recently. Councillor Rollins, yes. Thank you for that, Councillor Santos. Okay, two absent, and those items pass. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4 – Policy for Referendums / Plebiscites

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk. Item 4, yes. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to introduce Item 4.

Mayor Bowman: I will wait to hear from my council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Any speakers on this item? Councillor Klein, followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I realize this is really nothing more than a report, but you know, I've said this a few times and I'm going to continue repeating it because it bears repetition. We have more important things to do right now than more reports, 87 murders in 24 months, major morale issues within the Winnipeg Police Service that we're hearing about in the media, internal issues with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, community-run centres facing financial challenges. Not all of the Winnipeg's first responders being added to the early vaccination list. It really is time to consider what's the best use of our resources and I don't see doing this report at this particular point in time as a best use of our resources. I would prefer that we allocate and focus on…allocate our resources to focus on residents needs and

streamlining processes here at the City of Winnipeg. The time now is to get things done. This will not benefit the residents of Winnipeg that are undergoing a very stressful time and will not solve the problems that I had mentioned earlier.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thanks, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm going to start off by saying, I voted to do a plebiscite on Portage and Main. I thought it was a whole city issue in that most people in this city transport through downtown and end up either taking Main Street or Portage Avenue. Not everybody, of course, ends up right at that intersection, but there's a good portion of the city that does. But you know, I'm going to say, I was probably wrong in supporting that plebiscite. One of the things is since that one at election time, and you know, at election time, you know, there's a platform and in a way that is a way of finding out if they support what you're saying. So, as long as the winning candidates were being truthful about what they support and what they don't, Madam Speaker, you know, the plebiscite is done. They won. So, they provide that information. What I've listened to California and plebiscites. And you know, it's really sad, Madam Speaker, to hear and then you have to set up all these rules. You know, I hear the Provincial Government's trying to set up plebiscites, so if you're ever going to try to sell hydro, you got to go to a plebiscite. Well, you know what, Madam Speaker? You know what the problem is with that? The belief of the wealthy win out, not the people of the city or who use these facilities, Madam Speaker. I heard in California, Uber, that wonderful corporation and their friends spent $200 million promoting a plebiscite that said that the workers in those vehicles are not employees, Madam Speaker. Why? You know what, the wealthy want that. They want those little individuals in cars being self-employed because you know why? Because the big bully can run it. People who are getting rich…rich off the industry are there. And that's just one example of why plebiscites don't necessarily work all that well. You know, how many…what do you want to have…and you know, whether you want to study it or not, I think that it's not productive really to be able…to doing plebiscites. And as Councillor Klein has mentioned, ultimately…and whether they're binding. But ultimately, we could be spending more time trying to resolve issues. You know, should we go to a plebiscite that we should help people to prevent missing and murdered women and murders, the drug addictions and so on and so forth. Madam Speaker, I would have great concern that maybe the general population doesn't get it or they can be influenced by again like I said, the wealthy people who have lots of money to spend to make sure that they get the outcome they think should happen. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know…you know, I want to thank Councillor Gillingham who seconded this motion to go forward. Yes, there are many things and Councillor Klein is always consistent in his comments that he makes pertaining to work and challenges that we have in this city. But having, you know, just heard Councillor Eadie speak to this, I believe the intent is to have some rules around it. What is important? What do we need to bring forward as a referendum question? What amount of money is allowed to be spent so that big wealthy corporations, as Councillor Eadie alluded to in California, don't control the narrative? You know, in 2018, Portage and Main, yes, it was a major topic. Was it a…was it a two candidate position, one for, one against it? It could be said that it was. 2014, our municipal election was by de facto a plebiscite or a referendum on EPC where one candidate indicated very strongly that they would support to eliminate it. Here we are, fast forward, 2021, that didn't come. That was non-binding. You know, that was part of the question with regards to Item E in the report of the Executive Policy Committee, is whether these results are binding. This stemmed out of my quest with regards to stopping the 30 or 40 kilometre an hour residential speed limit. I'm not shy from weighing in on that. I brought it forward as an opportunity…as a city-wide opportunity to have a referendum on that. I believe that 50 kilometres is our de facto speed, if it should change, let the Province make that decision, let the Province educate drivers provincially on that change. But I do hope that the majority of Council here today will support this to go forward for a report. I believe the City Clerk's are well empowered to go through this and do diligent work to prepare us for the upcoming election in 2022. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good discussion on this so far. I want to thank Councillor Nason. Good to work with him on this and glad to second his motion. I agree with what's been said by others that yes, there are more pressing issues than developing a policy for referendum and plebiscites, however, the time to do the work of developing and bringing forward recommendations for a policy would be now rather than, you know, kind of on the eve of another election. I think what's important, too, is that the primary body at the City of Winnipeg that will be doing this work is the Clerk's Department, most likely. They'd be doing the analysis on that. So, they are not directly involved with some of the other issues that have been mentioned as matters of concern here today. I think it is important that City Council have some sort of guiding…some sort of guidelines as Councillor Nason has said, to give us indication, direction, advice, whether we choose to take the advice or not…recommendations, whether we choose as a council to take them or not. But advice around when, how, rules around the use of plebiscite questions. You know, in some cases, it's certainly seen as an opportunity for direct democracy that the people get to vote directly on a particular issue, a specific item that is placed on the ballot. Others have said, no, they're an abdication of elected officials responsibility, it's an easy out for

councillors. I think we need to have the opportunity as a council to look at how other jurisdictions use plebiscite and referendum questions and learn some best practices because most likely, the matter will come up at Winnipeg City Council again at some point in the future. It would be good to have some sort of guiding principles that we could reference as a Council to make our determination. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to say a few words on this. I'd like to see what we're going to come up with. I'd like to see some advice. I'd like to see…I want to see the process by which the Clerks will provide that…their cross jurisdictional analysis, the consultation that takes place in preparing this. Also, they can provide us what has happened in other municipalities. The States is a little different, just given their tradition of the use of plebiscites and I want to see what's going on in the rest of Canada regarding referenda and plebiscites, but also because…for three reasons I'm thinking of right now. One is the public consultation that goes into this report. The other one is, the…what will be mentioned in terms of public consultation when it comes to issues that are going to be so important that they will come to referendum or plebiscite or that it might be recommended by Clerk's that it go to referendum plebiscite. Then what will be the obligations of City Hall, of government to have a public consultation on these issues before we're asking the public to make such an important decision. After all, we do have some form of official public consultation with the public before an election and referenda are sort of in a substitute to elections. You can elect our representatives to make these decisions, or we can have independent decisions that are directly by plebiscite or referendum. Therefore, they're a substitute for elections. And in that respect, we know we've got some form of public consultation during elections, what would be the form of public consultations before a referendum and plebiscite decision or vote? Whether we…again, Councillor Nason said, whether we accept the advice of the Clerk's on whether we implement this. But also, the binding nature of how binding is the plebiscite or the referendum. And the issue to me is public consultation. I'm very worried about how we utilize our office of public consultation at the City of Winnipeg. How it is…how we pick and choose what issues are up for utilizing the resources of City Hall for public consultation. And I'm going to be very specific for one because it's the biggest one. I've been trying to get the administration and City Council, and thus, the administration by directive of City Council to officially recognize certain aspects of the budget. Certainly, some they do. We talk about, and City Council's consistent or City Hall's…in talking about how…officially on the record, saying how the police budgets are causing budgetary constraints, budgetary problems. This is an official record of the administration, okay. Bear in mind, but it's not the biggest one. It's not close. So, I'm trying for years…I mean, it's going to happen. We're getting closer. More and more people are getting into this. The fact that, if we're willing to talk about that from the administration perspective, why aren't we talking about the ones that are bigger, more important, more dangerous? And that is essentially, officially in reality, construction contracts. Much more and yet, when have we discussed that through the resources of the office of public consultation? How can we have public consultation on budgets only referring to the police budgets as if that is the major one that's going to have the major impact on solving our budgetary problems. Don't pretend I'm making this up. The administration has saved it. Why we're dealing with the admin…with the police pensions. How much we could save by dealing with police pensions, why we're willing to put all the resources of City Hall into what…they were warned not to do, including by me, not to try to change the police pensions in between…in the middle of a contract and sure enough, guess what happens when it goes to court? But we're willing to do this and it's not the most important issue. So, how is this not…how is this being brought up by public consultation? I know we brought up police pensions and stuff like this. So, bear in mind, you know, I'm not exaggerating. I'm not sensationalizing. These are just facts, okay? Brought through a perspective that I think more and more people are agreeing with because there's not much of an option when reality stares you in the face. So, I want to see where the role of public consultation lies in this process because the role of public consultation, I'm going to state, this is my perspective, is just one of manipulation of just picking and choosing the ones that are to political advantage for whatever agendas have the greatest power at the moment. And that's not real democracy. It's not as effective because we end up making bad decisions. And while I've been on Council, we've made bad decisions and primarily, I'd say because of lack of consultation on the issues where we have to lead. Hey, oh, I'm sorry, we made a mistake officially. We implied that the police budgets or the police pensions are the major cause of our budgetary problems. We've officially implied that, and it's not true. So, I'd like one day for us to sort of say that and not throw everybody under the bus when it's not fair and not true. And I believe this process of looking at how we might do referenda and plebiscites because to me it plays right into public consultation. Maybe we will have, one day, a more upfront, objective and more successful approach to dealing with the big one, our budget because if you want to be a progressive person, and put money into this and that and progressive issues, which is important, we can't and we're not. Just take a look at history, how little we're doing today in terms of progressive issues and resource allocation. It's getting so bad that if we do something like build four houses, build four affordable houses, we celebrate. In what time in my lifetime did we ever celebrate building four houses for affordable housing? But that's where we're on our budget. That's where we're with our consultation. We're desperate to celebrate progress in this day and age, we'll grab at anything. That's where we're at. These are the ramifications. I believe this. This is a perspective. But what I just said, we celebrate building four houses for affordable housing, we…that's not…that's a fact. We celebrated that. What I'm saying is we wouldn't have celebrated that 30, 40, 50 years ago because that's not enough. That's ridiculousness on the perspective of other people who are…well, they know what progress is, and this isn't it. Now, if you have a conservative approach to budgeting and you would like a more traditional approach to maintaining

that which is we've built in the first place, the most important stuff that built this city, the stuff we have to maintain; our streets, our parks, our bridges.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: We're not doing a very good job, are we? Guess why? We've messed up with our budget because of the way we vote, the Council votes because the public…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, the clock is up. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. Seeing no other speakers, okay, we'll now have the vote on…or Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close?

Mayor Bowman: I will be brief. I want to thank Councillor Nason for his leadership on this in doing some policy work. I want to thank Councillor Gillingham for collaborating with Councillor Nason and all others that are bringing this forward. I'm open to having some policy work developed and considered by Council. I agree with Councillor Klein that this should not be our priority and as a result, I will not talk for far too long on the subject. So, I'd welcome the vote. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, it's Item 4. All in favour?

Mayor Bowman: Recorded.

Madam Speaker: All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Eadie and Klein

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Item 4 passes. Seeing the hour, we'll now take a recess and reconvene at…pardon me? Are folks going off-site because I think we usually go to the 1:15 mark. So, there is no food service here, so I'm going to say 1:15. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 25, 2021, at 1:26 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of March 25th, 2021. We are on Item 5 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17th, 2021. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to introduce this item.

Item 5 - Creation of a Report Tracking System

Mayor Bowman: I'll wait to hear from my council colleagues, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, this is report 5 on publicly available reporting system. I'm actually going to be…well, I guess…well, anyway, first off, Madam Speaker, I just wanted to thank the Clerk's Department for putting together the new pending items category on our decision making information system, and that really helps us understand to some degree what's

outstanding and what's yet to come and it's publicly available, I think that's great. And actually, the reporting information system that's internal and that's used by the City, it's an important tool to have, Madam Speaker. And you know, I appreciate that exists. It helps a large organization manage its reporting system, especially as a public entity. But it's…that is not open, transparent and accountable, Madam Speaker. And I think by far, this is a much more important, open, transparency and accountability issue in that while reports are generated because of Council, and sometimes though, the City's administration as they operate the day-to-day activities and provide the services and manage everything, there are…I can't cite one, I can't remember. But there are administratively generated reports that Council didn't necessarily ask for. But you know, I'll give you an example in terms of need of a by-law change, for example. Some of the need for by-law changes I don't know that were knowledgeable by all 16 of us members of Council, but you know, they pointed out that there's errors and this needs to be corrected and you know, that comes up through the risk system as well. Which still, to a large degree, is a private operation. But it really, you put it into the risk, and it has a status and gets prioritized and comes forward. That is not, as far as I know, have ever found is publicly available. Now, I'm not going to pretend…a former colleague on Council wanted to know and have every report. Well, I don't have the ability even if I could read, I don't have the ability to synthesize the…there's a lot of reports, Madam Speaker. So, but when we're voting on them, we have to review them. That's for sure. But just to know what's coming up the pipe because quite often, sometimes, I know I've been caught off guard and it would have been good to know that it's in the system and at some point, it's going to come forward so that we understand what the issues are. And so, Report 5 here is to accept it as information. And I'm not going to just receive it as information because I think if you want us to be open and public...now, there are reasons not to have legal reports, which I'm fine with and those can be made private with a tag or a marking or whatever, that's fine. I understand that. But when there are reports that are meant and will affect the public, we really should know that they are there. So, I won't be voting to just receive this as information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This was a motion that Councillor Sharma and I brought forward, Madam Speaker and I. And as it turns out, the Clerks were working on this initiative anyways. I had seen a model similar to it in Toronto, I believe it was, that was very handy, very useful. So, I'm not sure, maybe Councillor Eadie is mistaken, but this…I'm very happy that this has been accepted and that it is occurring and that the Clerk's have implemented this. So, my motion came at a timing, I guess, that the Clerk's are doing the same thing that I had made a motion on…you and I had made the motion on. So, this is very positive. It's implemented. It may get refined a little further. And therefore, that's why this report is being recommended to be received as information. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was a point of information. There are three definitions of received as information with three distinct actions based on being received as information. Can we in this case be…be it recalled exactly in this case…in this case particularly, what it means to be referred…referred as pass as information.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Clerk, I'll have you respond. When Council receives an item as information, can you just clarify for Council what that means?

City Clerk: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It simply means that Council is acknowledging that the item has come forward and acknowledging it has been on their agenda and read.

Councillor Schreyer: So, that means, in no cases, when we receive something as information, that the administration then actively pursues the content of that report, in no cases, then?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, you're correct, but do you have an amending motion?

Councillor Schreyer: No ma'am.

Madam Speaker: Would you like to speak to the item? Would you like to speak to the item at this time?

Councillor Schreyer: Sure, I'll speak to the item.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We will start the call...the clock, pardon me.

Councillor Schreyer: If I'm next in line. I'm not sure what the order is.

Madam Speaker: You are next. Go ahead.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, it's my understanding when it comes to procedure if I may in terms of what's going to happen with this. If the administration recommends something, and we receive it as information, they thus go and act on that. They act on the recommendation. So, that's a different form of receiving something as information. So, in this case, we're not doing that. The administration would not act on it because it's not their recommendation, it's the recommendation of the elected representatives, not the administration. And therefore, in this case, they would not act on it, is my understanding. So, we'll get to that on another day, I guess or deal with that another time. In this case, I've got no problem with the creation of a report tracking system. Councillor Lukes, Councillor Sharma, have brought this forward. Councillor Lukes just said it's not necessary. All right, but Councillor Eadie, regardless of that, made the point that he's not voting to have it merely received as information, given that there would be no action taken. But my understanding is, there's more than one action depending on…when we do receive something as information, depending on the source of the report. If it's a Council administration, this is my understanding. Anyone can stand up and correct my point of order. If the administration has a recommendation, we receive it as information. They thus can go act on it as if we said we approved it. That's my understanding from hearing Council. So, I'm a little confused as to why we're saying what happens when we have something received as information, is that we just acknowledge it and we don't act on it.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, could I pause a moment? Because you did ask a question earlier. There's a large volume of information that comes here to us as City Hall, but it is live. The Clerk's actually implemented this system and it's live. And I believe we as Council got an e-mail on it recently. So, I didn't say that earlier, but it's actually implemented, it's live.

Councillor Schreyer: Okay, okay. That's fine. And I've got…so, the report item is irrelevant?

Madam Speaker: Sort of, I guess, it...yes...well, not irrelevant as Councillor Lukes spoke earlier. It was being worked on at the same time, but it is live, and I just wanted to get that information to you.

Councillor Schreyer: Okay. Fine. I'd like to get from my fellow councillors what kind of consensus agreement we're going to get on this.

Madam Speaker: Could you please turn the clock back on?

Councillor Schreyer: With the intent of it, and the fact that we're doing it, I acknowledge that. I'm wondering what we're going to do with this motion. Anyway, in the…just to speak to the intent of this, the fact that it's being done, that's good. Yes, it can be confusing to those of us on…through our community committees, standing committees and then ultimately to Council in terms of, you know, the timeline for things, and it can take us by surprise. I have to admit, though, just in terms of my deep concern over even dealing with priorities, really important issues, just getting an erective to the administration for them to follow in the first place is more important to me. The fact that they're often acting on things, but they have delays that can happen for different reasons, and I guess that we will have a tracking system can assist in that. Bear in mind, I honestly believe given how our budget's been...we've got some enormous pressures on our budget, some we didn't have before decades earlier, even 10, 15 years ago. We are taxing our administration, excuse the pun, but we are putting time pressures on administration that has a lot of work to do, and I think it's unfortunate, and it causes time delays. And I dare say...and no offense to anybody, but the system and thus, the responsibility of the decision makers that it causes substandard work, and that is not the fault of any individual. That is the fault of no longer being able to put the resources where we need them. We say we talk about having too many reports. I don't know what to say. Like, yes, that can be the case, and yet, there are cases where we need reports and we do not get them, let alone…let alone they're delayed. We're delayed in creating the directive or for administration to be somehow in a position to sort of not be pressured to acknowledge it officially, which is sad. So, in the whole pattern of this all, I do look forward to, you know, working with a report tracking system and seeing how this does benefit the process in general. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers? Councillor Nason. Could you unmute, please? Thank you.

Councillor Nason: I'm usually paying attention to that. Thank you, councillor…or Madam Speaker. I'm sure Councillor Eadie will probably reflect on Councillor Lukes' update following his speaking notes, but from a perspective of received it as information from Executive Policy Committee, I share Councillor Schreyer's concerns pertaining to…you know, without watching the video of any dialogue, a lot of times EPC runs through these pretty quick, but without any substantial dialogue to go no that, there is no report from the Public Service in this matter. Received as information basically does appear to be somewhat dismissive, so I'm hopeful that maybe we can work on that language that, when things are implemented as they were in this case, that perhaps the person responsible for the section, which was the Mayor, he could have introduced

the item and advised that this item was actually implemented by the Public Service, and therefore, is a (inaudible) of the report. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, just a point of privilege. (inaudible) and I just want to make clear, I acknowledge the work of the Clerk's Department for their pending link which gives you pending reports that would come, but I explained what it more than likely won't be telling you what's pending. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? I'll call the question. All in favour, please rise, Item 5.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillor Eadie

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 1.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 5 passes. Moving onto Item 7, and we have an amending motion with that item, I believe. That would be amending Motion No. 1, moved by Councillor Nason and seconded by Councillor Klein. Mr. Mayor, to introduce the item, and then we'll hear from Councillor Nason.

Item 7 - Financial Support for the Main Street Project Van Patrol Outreach Program

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to begin just by thanking Main Street Project for their valuable services to our residents in their time of need. I know many members of Council have expressed similar sentiment, not just today, but for all the years I've been in this chamber, and I want to take the opportunity to thank them. I'll take some time, I'm just seeing this motion now, so I'll be reviewing the amendment, which I appreciate acknowledges the good work of St. Boniface Street Links. And so, look forward to just reviewing this and hearing from my council colleague in a minute. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Nason, your opportunity to speak to the item and your amending motion, No. 1.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS the Main Street Project's Van Patrol mobile support services unit provides emergency shelter warm clothing, blankets, water, coffee and food to unsheltered community members in the western part of the city;

AND WHEREAS St. Boniface Street Links also provides similar mobile support services to the community in the eastern part of the city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Recommendation 1. of Item 7 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 25, 2021 be amended to read as follows.

"1. That the Winnipeg Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, as well as the St. Boniface Street Links mobile community support unit, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba."

Councillor Nason: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And it was great to hear from Main Street Project this morning. It would be my wish that we didn't have these challenges in the City of Winnipeg or anywhere. We've got to move towards a system where we are taking of…and providing support to those most vulnerable. Hearing that near zero dollars are

coming from the City to support these critical infrastructure items of the vans, we need to do more. Not having the clarity with regards to my situation and that of the communities that are east of the Red, I was somewhat alarmed by the comments from Main Street Project that seemed to indicate that they were the point, whereas I'm hearing from St. Boniface Street Links that they are in fact deploying for areas east of the Red providing services to those that come out to our communities in that end of town. This does appear to be something that needs to be clarified by our Public Service. There is some confusion because we had as a council seminar recently where it was discussed and I provided information from End Homelessness Winnipeg that did indicate that, in fact, east of the Red was a territory that was supported. And, you know, from an outreach perspective, St. Boniface Street Links was the point organization. They don't receive any monies from the City of Winnipeg and haven't for many years. They are in the exact same situation as Main Street Project. On March 31st, (inaudible) that they need funding. Their money's run out. We have a critical situation as do many in our community with regards to persons exiting the downtown in the morning, going out into the suburbs to try to raise funds. They are consuming items that are not in the best interests of themselves. We are hearing of violent incidents occurring. We're hearing of incidents that are very disruptive to transit passengers and those wanting to use transit in the area or cycling path in the area, stopped at lights, seeing items that are not for the faint of heart. I'm hearing from area businesses that really are looking for us to lead. And I know that we need provincial and federal partnerships on this, so I'm hoping that through this amendment motion, that I'm hoping that my colleagues will support, that we will get support for all of the city with St. Boniface Street Links and with Main Street Project. I know Councillor Gillingham, myself, and Councillor Klein recently contributed to a mission in downtown to support their operations to try to further support persons that are homeless and need a place to go. It is a very challenging time for our city, and we need to do our best to support those that need it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I will be supporting Councillor Nason's and Councillor Klein's amendment, Madam Speaker, and agree with many of the statements that have already been said. I think Jamil, in new to his job, really quickly has understood a few things. And what I want him to understand today is that City Council is behind Main Street Project in recognizing the coordination that they have done on behalf of the city. I want the Public Service to come back and, actually, I would have hoped the Public Service had…have had, based on the work that we've…we had asked them to do during the pandemic at Protection, Community Services and Parks in terms of the motion that was put forward at the beginning of the pandemic to ensure that the City of Winnipeg had sort of some safety nets for community-based organizations that were going to be working flat as a pancake during the pandemic. We knew that to be true. And so, we had an open door at Protection, Community Services and Parks for a verbal report. Some of the members of the Public Service are on the board of End Homelessness Winnipeg who, we've heard today, are coordinating on behalf of vulnerable residents. Some of the Public Service are in touch with organizations like Main Street Project and know the precarious funding situations. I do not want City of Winnipeg to be a precarious funding situation following today. I want the City of Winnipeg to stand firm with the community-based organization that has been doing work on behalf of the City and on behalf, as we've heard this morning from Jamil, every single ward. Every single ward. It is the case that Main Street Project has served as the umbrella organization to coordinate services like One Just City, like Mama Bear Clan, like Marion Willis and Street Links. And it is the case that we rely on many more community-based organizations and that they, in turn, rely on many more. And so, I'll be supporting the amendment today. I think that I had on the record, the Public Service, their intention to do just what this motion is stating, but let's not take it to chance. And for those reasons and more, I'll be supporting the amendment as well as the original motion of Councillor Gilroy and mine. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be supporting the amending motion and the main motion here. I do appreciate, you know, the presentation we heard today from Main Street Project. I think every one of us appreciates the work that the outreach van and their workers conduct 24-hours a day across our city. It's important. We've talked about the fact that we need to continue to respond to people in...in various situations across the city with compassion and an effort to provide them or get them to the resources that are available and the resources that are needed. As Councillor Nason points out, as many of us have pointed out, there really does need to be partnership with the Provincial Government. So many of the issues and challenges that individuals are facing are primarily healthcare matters or other social services matter that do fall under the purview of the Province of Manitoba and one of its departments. And so, that ongoing effort, coordination needs to continue. And as Councillor Rollins says, the ongoing effort and coordination needs to happen with the various agencies; third party groups, non-profit groups that are doing good work in our city. There's another reality that I know many of us are experiencing as well in our respective communities, and I'm going to read into the record a portion of an e-mail that I…just one of the e-mails that I got, I've received several, from a resident in St. James. "Dear Mr. Gillingham, I'm writing to you to express my concern and anger over the bus shelter situation in our city. I am a professional who has worked downtown for six years, and I use transit daily for my commute. Sadly, I see our bus shelters filled with people abusing drugs and alcohol literally setting up their homes. I've seen people using needles and combustible materials in order to use drugs. Litter is horrible and disgusting. It's a blight on our city and we should be ashamed that

this behaviour is allowed to happen. No public health rules are being followed. I'm forced to stand here…I'm forced to stand in the wind and the rain because I'm terrified for my safety if I venture into a bus shelter that my tax dollars have helped pay for. I have been verbally abused just for standing in front of a bus shelter. Why is the City not doing anything about this situation? I'm asking you to please let me know what the City's plan is to address this issue. I understand that homelessness is a very important problem and there are no easy solutions. What is the average law abiding citizen to do about his or her commute when they're scared for their safety? Who is protecting me?" And I know…I'm confident that several of us get these e-mails. And in the same way that homelessness and unsheltered individuals have struggles that we need to assist in addressing, so too, we have an obligation to residents who are expressing frustration to us because the transit shelter, the transit bus shelter that they rely upon to wait for their bus to take their morning commute is to them…for many of them, not available or not available for them to use in confidence. And I don't think...you know, I hear this individual, and I have several e-mails in my…that I've received like that. Social media, I've received comments as well, asking what the City is doing. So, I think it's important that we acknowledge both. And I don't think that several of our residents who express frustration are not empathetic, not compassionate. They also see a service that they rely upon not available to them because of the complexity. So, I think we have a lot of work yet to do. We really do need a definitive plan. I was expressing to one of my colleagues, think it was Councillor Rollins just the other day, too. You know, the warm weather is coming. Last year, our city…across the city, struggled with dealing with encampments. As the warm weather comes, I think that we should be fully expecting that those will begin to emerge again. What's our proactive plan to address those? And so, I know a lot of work has been done, a lot of work has yet to be done, but I really think this is a matter that we need to address. I'll be supporting the motion and the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise this afternoon in support of the original motion as well as the amending motion. I want to thank all of the councillors who put time and effort into drafting these documents for our consideration this afternoon. You know, there is no panacea that's going to fix all of these issues. It's going to take coordination and multiple coordination across all levels of government, all…a variety of different agencies to deal with the concerns that we have on our streets right now, respecting the mental health, the addictions, the homelessness, the poverty that, as Councillor Gillingham alluded to through that e-mail, there's a blight on our city. We have to be very proactive and very coordinated in our efforts in dealing with this. And I think that's what a lot of people are talking about when they do raise the words, "defund the police". It is that call to action that looks at our social services and what's provided for those that I've just mentioned that are struggling with addictions and mental health and homelessness and poverty. And looking at what resources are available to deal with those issues. And so, where agencies like Main Street Project come in, and the St. Boniface...the St. Boniface van patrol that is also available, I'm looking at the Downtown Community Safety Partnership that has been launched, where the ambassadors are out walking the streets, the Exchange District folks that are out walking the streets, the Bear Clan, the OPK, all of these different agencies that are out there, responding to the needs of our individuals, are going to reduce the calls for service of this nature that our police services are receiving as well as our fire paramedics are receiving. We also have EPIC that is out there, responding to some of the medical needs. So, it's going to take a web of different services to help address and move the needle on these types of issues that we're seeing in our city. And as Councillor Gillingham had alluded to, with the emergence of the nicer weather, we've seen our spring weather be advanced by at least one month where we're only in March, yet, you know, by Monday, it's going to be 19° outside, and we're going to see these activities ramp up again where we're seeing the encampments. And we're also seeing the safety factors that are associated with the encampments: the fires that can take place, the different illegal activities that may take place from time to time within these encampments. These are all issues that we will be facing within the next month or so. So again, it's going to take a coordinated approach, different levels of government, different agencies, but ultimately, empathy from all of us here and understanding that we have to be proactive and move forward to resolve these issues. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Any other speakers? Councillor Allard, followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Allard: Yes. I want to thank the movers of this motion and also the movers for the amendment. I understood that from the previous motion that St. Boniface Street Links was going to be part of this study of the Public Service, but having that explicitly there I think is certainly something I can support. I'd like to commend Marion Willis and the work that St. Boniface Street Links does on the east of the river. I know that they are a tremendous resource for us when it comes to, well, relating to the homeless in St. Boniface whenever there are calls about that. And she's doing a lot of work with volunteers and with no real operating supports other than what is raised from the private sector. So, tremendous work being done there and pleased to see it incorporated in a motion. So, I will be supporting the amending motion and the main motion. So, thanks to my colleagues.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be supporting the amendment as well as the report, although I frankly...I don't want to wait for the Province. It's my understanding that at the end of March, Main Street Project won't even be able to serve the west side of the Red River. So, it's one thing to say it takes three levels. Also, the reason I asked about the Main Street Project and the Winnipeg Police Service had a lot to do with what police usually deal with, what others are dealing with, and what we're really talking about here, Madam Speaker. And people are calling for the defunding of police. However, the whole system is set up...the first call goes to 911 or to non-emergency, and I do believe that, you know, while the Main Street Project, more than likely, ended up at Kildonan Place, how did they find out? Or maybe the problem at Kildonan Place was so bad that it took two service offerings to deal with. So, you know, I'm not worried about jurisdictional stuff here in terms of responding to where there's a need. You know, you can say you want to...like, you divide up the...look at the police districts. You divide them up into, what is it, four districts? But quite often, in responding to police…real police emergencies, ones that they're supposed to deal with, they're calling in cars from the other divisions, so I don't want to get all caught up in this and that. And you know, I believe Street Links on the east side is good. They provide excellent service to those people who need them. There's no doubt about that. In my ward, I've been getting calls about the bus shacks now for five, six years. It's not something that just showed up last year. People have been doing drugs and sleeping and whatever in bus shelters all over my ward. Up west the other night, actually, I heard a person who I think was dealing with some mental illness struggles or whatever, yelling and they were at the bus stop, and they were using the bus to stay…and it was quite cold the other night there. You know, anyway, my point is just that there is a need across the city as Jamil has rightly pointed out to us. So, I just want to talk about this bigger system. So, one of the problems is, who do you call? And Councillor Gillingham is getting calls from residents. I get calls. We get calls. And then, you know, I don't know. Like, maybe I have a friend who lives in Transcona and calls me up and I don't know who else to call but Main Street Project, so I'll them. So, the thing is, is you have a 911 system which is for police and fire, and those kinds of situations. And so, those need to be vetted, and I believe the project downtown is looking at how do you...where do you redirect those calls to? Should it be the police or should it be fire ambulance or should it be to the...I'm sorry, Mayor, that group that you supported? Anyway, I mean, they're moving towards having non-police response to situations where people are needed. And so, we need to act though as soon as we can, and one of the problems though is, you know, if you have an addiction, you're not going to help them unless you tell them to quit. Otherwise, we're not going to help you. Because that's what the offerings are for these people right now, for homeless people. Their offerings right now are, you can't come here unless you quit or if you…unless you're just straight sober. So, like, it takes time to overcome one's addictions. It's not an instantaneous process, and some never get there, but they're human beings. They deserve a place to live. They don't want to be in those bus shacks, Madam Speaker, but where are they going? They have nowhere to go, so the City has to take more responsibility. Yeah, the Province needs to be part of this because it is about social service. And, you know, maybe this new 211 system is we educate Winnipeggers that if you see what seems to be a social problem, one that we all think that the Province is responsible for, call 211, and they can dispatch out the appropriate NGO or whoever's providing service to those people. So, this is a really good report, but you know, somebody's got to move first. I say let it be us. Come on. Let's get it done. Let's get some support out there. And I will mention something I heard from Ms. (inaudible). I heard her say, sometimes you don't want government money because they won't allow you to provide services that they think are not within the realm of whatever, and so, it becomes a problem in that you're going to get in trouble because you did something that actually served that individual. Every individual's different. They're not all the same, those people out there. They're not. They're not the same, they're different. They have different ways and different needs. It's just like education. There's no one way to teach all the students. You have to be able to adjust. Let's not think about an inflexible system. So as this proceeds, I hope people consider that, that if we are to get provincial, federal, whatever funding to make sure that this stuff happens, let's just make sure that the people on the ground, like the people working with Jamil and the Main Street Project can do their work that makes sense in this situation. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Really appreciate the words from my previous councillors. I'm pleased to support the motion and the amendment as brought forth by Councillors Nason and Klein. Would have been happy to second it myself, but given that I'm off location today, pleased to see that Councillor Klein is there to assist with the logistics on a...well, apparently, a popular...a popular...apparently, at a popular amendment. It doesn't always happen that way. But when you get Councillor Klein supporting an amendment or anything like that, you'll…at least you'll see Council jump at the pump. One way or another, you'll just to the pump. So anyway, we see all of us in this case supporting this. That's how it looks, anyway, some sort of consensus. And I don't want to say too much, except really important issue is, we're just talking about one thing, but it's about something really large. I know this isn't, you know, the great solution to it. It's just an expression at least from Council that we acknowledge it in a real way. I mean, what…you know, the community outreach: Main Street Project, St. Boniface Street Links, what they do is really important. And in other cities that I've seen, like, what they do is really important. And it's, one could say it's a band-aid every night to a scar that keeps festering, but even sometimes that's worth something to those people that just need that help. Councillor Eadie's comments proves the point. This is just...you know, the challenges we're facing, it gets worse with the type by virtue of technology and drugs and the kind of drugs that are out there, exacerbated by other factors as well. You know, I live in my ward, but I live a block from Main Street, so everything that Ross Eadie's saying, like, I can see this realistically every week I guess. I could

say everyday, but I can't prove it. It's just that I go by all the bus shacks on the way to work or on the way to my parents' or whatever, and you know, at any time of day or night, and this is the realities. Happens to be that I'm on the east side of the river as Councillor Nason points out, this has to do with the east side as well. It isn't as bad on the east side of the river, but that's not to negate at all the realities of these things, and how we can't forget the east side, St. Boniface yet, you know, St. Vital and Elmwood among other places. And so, on that basis, I'm pleased to do this. Councillor Eadie talked about, someone's got to start this. Yes, in every case, some…there…the initiative has to start somewhere. We're…you know, you've just got to start the ball rolling somewhere. And yes, one could argue, look at all of the…all of the more City resources. We can't afford this. We can't afford that, and now we're going to do this. Well, I think we have to do this anyway, and it's all the more reason why we have to take a truly realistic view of our budget. And I'm going to make the point, yet again, we don't, and that's the main reason we're in this trouble. So, excuse me to my fellow councillors, one day, it's coming, we'll see who's part of that legacy. I'm not saying, you know, you're going against the side of history. Well, yes, sometimes history can be bad. So, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying the train's coming. More and more people are getting it. We haven't been taking a realistic view of our budget. It's causing us problems. And then we say, well okay, therefore, we can't afford helping, you know, the people that live in the North End or in the inner city because of their addictions and their poverty and their dysfunctions. Well, isn't that sick that that would be the point of view for some because they feel desperate because they're not told the truth about why they're getting poorer, why their taxes are going up while their services are going down and now we're doing this because we have to. It's the right thing. And people don't know why. And let's face it, the truth is out there in terms of how we squander our budget. Squandered. Squandered because you could make the argument...you can't say it's not because you don't know, because you don't know why we spend the money we do the way we do. We can all on Council say that. We're trying to find out from the administration, and in June they're supposed to tell us. So, we'll find out in June. If…that is, if we're a functional city hall. And in the meantime, despite the fact we're going to get blowback by putting money into things like this, which are really necessary, which is too bad that we get blowback for, I'm going to support this absolutely, and Councillor Nason's amendment because this is really important, kind of like understanding how our budget works, which we don't. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Nason, your opportunity to close.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I do appreciate the support I've heard from around the council and remote from my colleagues. The…it is definitely a challenge. Cold weather presents life altering, life threatening situations, and you know, individuals that are homeless seeking, you know, relief especially in COVID times when public facilities were not available, presented exponential challenges. The warm weather as it comes will present other challenges. As mentioned, the encampments will come back. I know the Cornish area has several of those challenges. I've seen them. One of my children go to school in the area, so I frequent there regularly to see what's going on. As we talk about homelessness in our…and our situation, I know safe consumption is mentioned regularly. We have containment of services, primarily in the downtown core, just basically outside of City Hall is where the vast majority of services for those serving the homeless population reside. I know St. Boniface Street Links wants to expand and offer some of those services in the St. Boniface area, which may take some pressure off. Some of the challenges of the suburbs, Councillor Gillingham spoke very well in sharing his constituent concerns. I've seen many of those. Many of them were very harsh and not very caring. We have to find a balance. We have to be understanding that, you know, getting on transit, leaving downtown to go to the suburbs, away from the services areas where you know foods are ready, servicing addictions, as limited as they are, primarily are in the downtown core, so we need a transit at the table. We need to find a path that we can keep individuals connected to downtown. The fact as Councillor Eadie said, you know, Main Street probably is out at Kildonan Place. Well, I know St. Boniface Street Links is out there three times a day. I know that Winnipeg's police service as late as yesterday were out there for a violent incident involving a motorist and a person that is homeless in the area involving a weapon. These are real life threatening challenges that are faced by not only the homeless individuals that are taking residence up there temporary, but for travelling public in the area and those working in the area. You know, Kildonan Place Mall is undertaking a major expansion. There's a lot of people that will be working in the area hopefully taking transit to come and go, but if we're not taking care of the individuals that are homeless that are seeking opportunities outside of the core area, where they go back at night, I've heard that from St. Boniface Street Links. They go back to Main Street Project at night for overnight services, and then in the morning, they get on Winnipeg transit and come back out to the suburbs, to consume beverages, to consume aerosols, to consume hand sanitizers, to consume whatever they can get to get through the day. This is what we have to understand, it's a vicious cycle. It is not a life that I would want. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to go to an announcement of calling on the Province for support for a northern health centre to deal with addictions, much in the same way as the Bruce Oak Centre going to do, but one in the north to provide that wholesome care for the community for Indigenous people that are suffering in the north. These are things that we can do that we've worked together. Was it a City issue, that one? No, but as a community, we can work together. We can solution, but we need to work together. We need to build consensus, and I do appreciate what I'm hearing around the table today. Do I agree in, you know, meth, safe injection sites? No, because I think that's not something that exists based on what I understand. Opiate support, we can talk about that. Alcohol support, we can talk about that. But there…you know, aerosols and things like that, again, there's no real safe consumption. It's finding alternatives, trying to find them help, connecting

them to those services. And I hope that through organizations like Main Street Project and the dozens of others; St. Boniface Street Links, there's dozens of people out there, caring individuals that are going out day in and day out and we need to do what we can. I don't know if the CAO's empowered through delegated authority to support these situations as March 31st deadline comes forward. I mean, I hope that that might be a possibility. And hopefully in the Mayor's close, hopefully we will hear some of that because he does talk closely with the CAO. Perhaps there's powers within his budget to get us over that hump. I know there's a motion later to talk about the extra $600,000 that's in the Mayor's budget. I don't know. Mr. Mayor, I do hope that we can work together. Maybe you'll return my call one day. Maybe we can meet, maybe we can work on some of these solutions together. Thank you, madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The issues that we're discussing are complex. The issues affecting far too many of our residents are certainly multifaceted and I know there's a number of good organizations that are doing their best to help. Just to remind us all what we're voting on today, we're voting on whether or not we should have an administrative report look at funding for the Main Street Project van as well as an amendment, which I'll be supporting, asking that the Public Service also consider support for St. Boniface Street Links Mobile Community Support Unit. I'm not aware if they've made such a request, but I'm certainly open to supporting the amendment and having that discussion. I'm pleased to hear Councillor Nason open to…now open to looking at considering supervised safe consumption sites. I think that's a progressive step in the right direction. And I think we should be open to it based on data and the expert opinion from health officials. In terms of some of the complex issues that affect our residents, some of whom as has been mentioned in the discussion today are using transit stops. I want to just remind members of Council and those that are preceding that this council and previous councils have taken steps to deal with some of the root causes that would lead someone to using our transit facilities including support as a first level of government in and one of three levels of government that is supporting the work of End Homelessness Winnipeg. This is something I've been very proud to champion. We are looking for greater coordination and of course outcomes through those efforts. I've recently convened and invited both minister…federal Minister Hussen as well as Minister Squires to meet so that we could talk about how we could better focus on achieving the outcomes that we desire for the residents that we serve. Notwithstanding the jurisdictional and financial limitation of a municipal government, we still have a role to play, and I was appreciative of having that dialogue. We also, of course, supported the Downtown's Community Safety Partnership, a very broad collaborative effort with private sector and other levels of government supported as well, by the Provincial Government which we appreciate. The implementation, the creation of the Illicit Drug Strategy which brought all three levels of government together and is now resulting in support from our municipal government for 24/7 safe spaces. We're currently working on the Bloomberg-Harvard efforts, looking at a fourth dispatch option as Councillor Eadie, Madam Speaker, mentioned. Right now, unfortunately, when individuals are calling 911, this is the safety net. We are the level of government when the systems are not giving the results that our residents need from other levels of government. The last line of that safety net is 911, and there are three dispatchable options: police, fire and paramedic service. Far too often, the services that our residents need don't appropriately fall into policing, they don't appropriately fall into fire or paramedic, and so, the effort right now is looking at what would a fourth dispatchable option to make sure that the right resources are deployed at the right time for the individuals in need. I also note the Provincial Government, I believe in recent days, announced funding for the 211 service, which I think is a positive announcement and something we should all applaud. We have voted more recently on simply a report back for supervised consumption sites. And I was pleased to support that. I know it wasn't universal. And then, of course, this council's or previous Council's I should say, request…the Provincial Government made a request for the transfer of the Vimy site to support the Bruce Oak Recovery Centre. I was very proud to support that request along with my council colleagues, Madam Speaker. And I've been...I recently toured it with Councillor Gillingham. I know it's in his ward. And some…it's really something that I think will help in our community, and we know that the need is significantly greater than they will be able to provide, but it's definitely a step in the right direction. And then, all of the affordable housing, monies, announcements and efforts by all three levels of government, you know, is going to go a long way to helping deal with some of the root causes of some of the issues that we know our residents are dealing with. But in the meantime, this is a motion as well as an amendment I think is worthy of support. I want to acknowledge and thank all my council colleagues for their comments. And hopefully, we can all be unanimous in both of these votes right now. And I'll just ask for a recorded, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Now, we will vote on the amending motion first. All in favour of amending Motion 1, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: The amendment passed. And now, the main item, Item 7 as amended. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Item 7 passes, as amended. Onto Item 13.

Item 13 – Market Lands Southern Development Site Tax Increment Financing Grant Request

Madam Speaker: Noting this item has amending Motion 2 corresponding with it written by myself and seconded by Mayor Bowman. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know we have a lot of material to get through this afternoon, so I'll be very brief. About three years ago, I announced in the State of the City my desire to see the former Public Safety Building demolished and something…something better rise in its place that could be more for our community. Appreciative of the support of Council, the Public Service and the community to see that building demolished, and now, we have an opportunity to really look at what is going to be built on this land. Of course, land that has, at least a portion of it, that has a caveat to be used for public purposes, and it's definitely a…report and a…a development that I think is worthy of support. I want to thank CentreVenture. I want to thank all the Winnipeggers who contributed to the community consultation. It was pretty lengthy and robust community consultation. I'm hopeful that we can support this. I'll, of course, be supporting, Madam Speaker, the amendment which I think asks some very relevant questions going forward. And I'm hopeful that we'll be able to support this development which is in a prime piece of real estate in the heart of our city in our beautiful Exchange District and looking forward to seeing what we're able to continue to build in our downtown in addition to so many other developments in recent years. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you could please take the Chair and recognize me so I can introduce the amending motion. I will go to the podium. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let me know when she's at the podium. Pretty soon. There we go. Councillor Sharma, to introduce the amending motion to Report No. 13 on the Market Lands South.

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Sharma
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has an insufficient supply of affordable accessible rental housing;

AND WHEREAS the incorporation of accessible units is not always considered when development applications for new multi-family housing are approved;

AND WHEREAS the CentreVenture Development Corporation has advised that 30% of the 102 apartments of the proposed development on the Market Lands Development will be barrier-free or barrier-free adaptable;

AND WHEREAS it would be beneficial for Council to understand what measures are being taken to ensure this development meets accessibility standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Recommendation 5 of Item 13 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 17, 2021 be amended to read as follows:

"5. That the Winnipeg Public Service, in collaboration with the CentreVenture Development Corporation be directed to report back to Council within 180 days on the following:

A. The progress of the project, including detailed information on how the project will address accessibility

standards in public and common areas as well as apartments and suites;

B. The outcome of various funding applications."

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And thank you to the Mayor for joining me in this amendment. The support we're providing to the Market Lands development is valuable. It's so important to streamline public funding support into revitalizing our city. I'm pleased to see this project including affordable housing, and I'm equally as excited about the accessibility component of this major development in the Exchange District. This amending motion before you ensures that the report we're provided in 180 days includes details of that accessibility. It is important to review these details as this project develops further. This information will highlight accessibility and the practical ways in which this project achieves a nearly 30% ratio of barrier free or barrier free adaptable housing units. Learning more about this will increase our city's understanding of how to implement accessibility. It's incumbent upon our city to be leaders in this area. I'm looking forward to the progress report on this project, and I ask you to join me in ensuring the report highlights the accessible components as I'm sure this will inspire others when they are planning developments in Winnipeg. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. Do I have a list of speakers? Councillor Gilroy. Okay. Councillor Gilroy, please go ahead.

Councillor Gilroy: I rise in support of the motion and the amending motion. And I just want to highlight the great work that CentreVenture has done to get an affordable housing proponent in there that this will always stay affordable because it's a non-for-profit. So, I really think that that's important when money…when dollars are being spent for affordable housing. It's important that we try to keep it as affordable as we can get. So, I'm really glad to see that there's a proponent that part of that will be a non-for-profit that will keep it affordable. And I just wanted to thank Councillor Sharma for the motion. I know that both you and Councillor Eadie were on the Accessibility Committee that is now the Human Rights, and that committee done a tremendous amount of work around accessibility, and I think it's important that we don't lose that piece. So I just want to thank her for the amending motion, and I look forward to the vote here today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Who do I have next? Councillor Rollins, please.

Councillor Rollins: I just wanted to briefly stand in support of the motion and the amending motion, and in particular, thank, through you, Chair…Deputy Chair…sorry, Deputy Speaker to Councillor Sharma and Mayor Bowman for highlighting the 30% of the 102 apartments in the proposed development and Market Lands that will be barrier free and barrier free adaptable. We need more motions like this at Council, and I really think that it's a really great amendment. So, will be happy to support both today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Mr. Clerk. Councillor Santos, you're speak…this particular property in your ward.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. To begin, I'd like to thank Angela Matheson and her team at CentreVenture for consulting with their community members and stakeholders to develop this innovative project in a thoughtful, collaborative approach. I will be supporting both the administration report and the amending motion. Thank you, Councillor Sharma for that. It's very much appreciated. I'm ecstatic to have this opportunity to bring arts, culture, community and commerce together in the Point Douglas Ward. I'd also like to express my gratitude to the Federal Government for their continued support for the Market Lands project. Now it is the time for the City of Winnipeg to invest in support in the creative hub in Market Lands for the future of our downtown. The creative hub is an important investment for our downtown. Innovation meets collaboration in this public market, studio and event space. The creative hub will provide operational supports for our arts and culture community while also incubating and supporting new Manitoba businesses to develop creative products and companies in food, art, craft design and fashion. The public market will have permanent and revolving kiosks providing creators and makers with opportunities to sell their products and interact with the public. Personally, I'm absolutely thrilled that the public market would also offer fresh and prepared foods including plans for a summer farmers market. As we know, the Exchange District is currently a food desert, this public market will directly benefit our Exchange District residences and support the future growth of our neighborhood. This is an opportunity to reinvest in our downtown. I hope every councillor can appreciate the vision and opportunity before us. We have a blank slate of land that is literally a hub connecting our downtown communities of City Hall, Chinatown, the Exchange District, and the Red River Campus College…or Red River College Campus. I believe that the creative hub will be the heart of the Market Lands project, filling nearly an acre on the southern parcel of the site. The creative hub creates a new, innovative model for Winnipeggers and Manitobans supporting our artists and creative entrepreneurs to incubate new products and companies while providing a flexible community space in the Exchange District for everyone to be able to work together. The creative hub will fill many needs by providing opportunities for organizations to share operational costs, tools, equipment, and other resources. With our support to remove these barriers, our arts and culture groups are able to focus on contributing to the creative and social economy and focus on what they do best: the creation of art. The creative hub

includes three integrated complementary components, 20,000 square feet of space to provide long-term sustainable spaces in the Exchange District for Manitoba arts organizations, a public market incubator, a flexible communities event space that will curate and incubate new Manitoba creative products and companies. Outdoor public plazas connecting the centre for the arts and the public market incubators. These public plazas will be designed for public outdoor events to showcase the multi-disciplinary art by tenants and other Manitoba arts organization. The creative hub will completely be interactive and accessible to the public. I believe it will become the downtown destination to access our creative sector of makers, artists and entrepreneurs. And the other major important component to this Market Land project will be to build 102 units of new housing, whereby a minimum of 30% of the units will be affordable and well below the medium downtown rental rate which is very, very important. This is definitely a need we have to have to support in our downtown. As we heard earlier, we know affordable housing is a need. Less than 100 feet from where we stand right now at City Hall bus stop, we see the effects the lack of affordable housing. Our unsheltered Winnipeggers are sleeping in transit shelters. Being without a stable home is clearly detrimental to a person's health. It is a basic need that we must take action to support. Investments in affordable housing show drastic improvements to physical health, mental health and improve development and educational outcomes for our children. Affordable housing reduces the burden of rent on low-income families, allowing them to support their families and further contribute to the economy. Market Lands will offer affordable housing conditions, provide stability and improve the fabric of our own neighborhood. As a whole, the Market Lands are estimated to see over $149 million returned in capital investment in our city. Deputy Speaker, I ask my fellow councillors to support this visionary and innovative opportunity for our city. The creative hub and the affordable housing project in Market Lands is an important piece we can support today for the future of a vibrant, inclusive and thriving downtown. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I won't take a ton of time to speak here today, but I am speaking in favour of the proposed TIFF financing for the Market Lands project across the way. I'd like to thank Mr. Mayor Bowman for his vision and finally removing what some people thought was a beautiful brutalist building, I found it ugly. I miss the airport. I love the airport. I love the WAG, but I was really not a fan of the Public Safety Building. Again, art is in the eye of the beholder, and that's my personal opinion on it. Again, when it comes to downtown subsidies, when it comes to the public money going towards projects like this, I would really prefer if we had a regimented plan to say hey, this is what we're doing, here's how we're going to, you know, get our downtown forward, and here's sort of a phase out plan for different types of subsidies whether it's things like the Portage Place project or TIFFs. As my learned colleague from St. Vital loves to point out, TIFFs aren't free. There are still municipal services that are going to be needed on this site when there's more people living there. Things like ambulance calls, fire calls, right? But on the other hand, you know, right now if the building…if the land is vacant, the amount of taxes being brought in is very minimal. So, again, I will be supporting this today. I would like to see a better plan overall for the way we handle downtown development and public incentives, but for the time being, this is a good project.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Who is next, Mr. Clerk? Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm rising in support of both motions. I realize, and I've heard the Mayor talk about this several times, that it's very important to him, and I respect that and will support the motions going forward. I'm a little disappointed with a couple of items, similar to what Councillor Browaty is talking about. They're asking for a 99-year lease at $1 a year. That's fine. I've said that we should do that as opposed to selling off some of our properties. And a TIFF that will last for 25 years. To Councillor Browaty's point, as he acknowledged Councillor Mayes as always saying TIFFs are not free. I recognize that there is no financial impact statement on this report. Often, we hear about that. Where's the financial impact for this? We need a financial impact for that. It's not here. This isn't just about the vision. The vision's great. This is about the future. This government has a habit of entering into agreements for 25 years or more without any clauses to renegotiate or exit said agreements, without any clauses of accountability within the agreement. These are key factors. I'm sure several of my colleagues would know that. These have to be put in our agreements. Taxpayers have paid millions of dollars to have the building come down, and we're going to fund this through tax incentive financing. At the very least, we should do the reasonable thing and add clauses into these agreements where there is accountability for what's going on there in the years to come, there's been opportunity to renegotiate if deemed necessary, and to exit the agreement if deemed necessary. We tend to negotiate against ourselves. We did that with Starlight, I guess negotiated against me. But we ended up giving them that money, and again, without clauses, without conditions. So, I support the objective. I support the vision, and I support Mayor Bowman on his desire to see this done within his term, but I don't support not fully completing agreements in the best interests of the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Are you continuing, Mr. Klein? Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: No, I'm good. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's it? Okay. Mr. Clerk. Councillor Nason, sir. You're on.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to put a few words. You know, reading through the report, I see it's CentreVenture or its legal designate, Market Lands Inc., so you know, I guess this is a new entity that is going to be taking up this specific undertaking. Great to see a dollar lease. I would love to see that for many of our other community properties and get that sorted out. I am a little troubled by 1B, and be conditional on confirmation of support from the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada. In the cash sources summary, I don't see anything from the Province of Manitoba specifically. There is a slight mention of I think it's Manitoba Hydro or some sort of efficiency grant. I don't know if that quite qualifies for the intent of what is meant. There is no third, third, third. There's no…any sort of specific as, you know, financially, is there any liability back on the City of Winnipeg should CentreVenture fail in this undertaking? There's always a little tinge. I will be supporting both these…both the amendment and the main report, but I do have some concerns. You know, going through this very quickly, you know, we did have a seminar on it, but there are some concerns about these new entities that are undertaking to build up…build a management. So, I'll leave my comments at that and thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, you're…unmute, please.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, thank you, Mr. Deputy speaker. I'll say a few words. This is…so this is where we're going. At one point, we were talking about maybe nothing going there, but we're going to have this. But I mean, you know, people talk about, you know, that there's going to be affordable housing, that it's great and...just in terms of what it makes me think about when Councillor Gilroy, you know, says that, you know, to keep it affordable. Bear in mind, we learned earlier, just a few…two council meetings ago, that this batch of a few, what is it, four or even five affordable housing units per year for a few years, they're going to be costing $260,000 per affordable housing unit. I'm not trying to detract from building affordable housing units or that they're not worthy of costs, just bear in mind, we have just been told that they're costing us $260,000 and then we're offering…then there's another level of tax money, another level of government, another level of tax money is going to subsidize that, which essentially encourages this inflationary cost to build an affordable housing unit, $260,000 for the last ones. So, I'm…it will be important to let the public know, continue to know, what this is going to cost in terms of how much an affordable housing unit costs because if we're talking about keeping it affordable to do it justice to affordable housing, we've got to really wonder why it costs $260,000 for an affordable housing unit. You know what $260,000 is? The value of my house and yard. And hey, no offense, it's not an affordable housing unit, eh? It's just not. You know, I live in Elmwood, but not an affordable housing unit. And that's the value of my house. So, what's going on? Of course, you know, CentreVenture will be able to explain it to us and get the ball rolling because they're not really in a position to sort of give a full explanation as to why an affordable housing…at least the last ones. If these ones are cheaper, let us know, but the last ones we voted on are the cost of my house, nice house in Elmwood. A block from the North End, but a nice place, you know. And so, bear that in mind. Just to do justice to Councillor Gilroy's points about keeping it affordable, and only then can we keep it sustainable. Because remember, it's not. It's not sustainable because we're not doing affordable housing in terms of what we used to. It's just a fact. Don't pretend we're in the same realm, we're not. So essentially, we live in an era where affordable housing is not sustainable, which explains why we discuss every affordable housing unit by the unit. Every time we build an affordable housing unit we mention it. That's weird, because that's not the way it always was. You don't mention every single affordable housing unit you make. It's like building a neighbourhood, yet you mention, I don't know, every house or every block. It's weird, but that's where we're at. So unfortunately, affordable housing isn't affordable, but to do it justice, we need to continue talking about this. And also, we found out today that the Supreme Court of Canada announced, made their decision that the carbon tax or whatever you want to call it, that the carbon-based tax or whatever you want to call it...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, what does that have to do with the Market Lands?

Councillor Schreyer: It does, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the reason is because, of course, I would assume that CentreVenture will be taking that into account based on what we've been talking about in recent months, acknowledged, finally by Councillor Mayes and earlier by Councillor Orlikow in terms of conversion or what we're going to do in the future regarding making things affordable sustainable. And it would be rather irrational, non-sensible, not to include these projects, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when it comes to the affordable housing units, not to take that into account when it decides whether we're going to do this sustainably and do this within the realms of our 25-year report on carbon footprint, on greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, you know, discuss the issue of using hydro instead of natural gas. All the more reason to do so now, given what the decision was from the Supreme Court. I hope that explains the link between the two issues, and I'm never going to give up on these links. They're just too important and too obvious to me, any way. And so, glad to explain that one. And I hope this works out for the best. It sounds like it's a great project in theory and it's got what it takes,

especially because we've got the taxpayers of Winnipeg behind it for the success of this. Remind the taxpayers of Winnipeg, we thank you because this is what you're doing. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise in support of this item on the agenda today, the Market Lands development. It's interesting to note that when you look at the area that we're speaking of just across the street, and all of the other development that has taken place around it, the Red River campus, the building that is going…being built just directly north of the Red River campus, you know, some of the new additions just even around here such as the United Way of Winnipeg building that was built just a few years ago, the potential development of the McLaren Hotel. It's really regentrifying the area and, you know, bringing increased value to the area. And this is great for downtown. This is a great opportunity to revitalize an area that has, over the years, has seen some decline. And so, supporting this 145...$149 million investment in this area along with affordable housing provides an opportunity for individuals who previously would not be able to...to live so close to the amenities such as a post secondary education facility. There's lots of restaurants nearby, walking distance to Portage Place mall, that is soon to be hopefully refurbished as well, and different amenities added to that. It's part of the plan in revitalizing our downtown and bringing more and more people to the downtown context, which I believe is exactly what the Downtown BIZ has been advocating for. We talk about the elements of crime prevention through environmental design, these are things that will help us to reduce the stigma of crime and...and the neighborhood decline by revitalizing these areas and getting people downtown and more economic activity. So, I'm fully supportive of this opportunity moving forward, recognizing that in order to make an omelette, you do have to break a few eggs. I don't mean to be cavalier in that regard, but we have to consider it as an investment that we're investing in our future, in our downtown's future through projects like this. And there is more opportunities that will be derived from paying attention to, as Councillor Browaty had talked about, brutalist architecture that we faced every day, you know, while we've been here at City Hall. It is now a, you know, an area that is wide open, it's levelled. We can see the planes landing to the west of us, but it'll be great to see that phoenix rise out of the ashes, and a building with economic activity right there in front of us at City Hall. So, fully supportive of this project, and I want to see the shovels in the ground ready to start on that development. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Mr. Clerk, is there another speaker?

Clerk: No further speakers. Councillor Gillingham.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Gillingham would like to speak? Okay. Councillor Gillingham, yeah. Sorry.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to support this main report and certainly, the amendment as well. I want to thank Councillor Sharma and the Mayor for their amendment specific to affordable, accessible housing which I think is really, really critical as well. I want to thank the Mayor for his leadership on this whole file and this, the development of this property, and I think it…what we have before us here really speaks to the larger need that we continue to have to continue to find ways to attract investment. I know specifically we're dealing with the southern portion of the site right now, but I can't help but think about what may go onto the northern part of the site eventually, and that's equally important. And as we continue to find ways, I think as a council, to give attention to, maybe in partnership with groups like Economic Development Winnipeg, give attention to attracting investment into our downtown, into our Exchange District. It will be, you know, really important. As Councillor Browaty has mentioned, that we have a clear understanding of, if needed, what tools the City needs or are at its disposal, whether it's TIFF policy or some other tools related to attracting investment. There are times when, and I think rightly so, there's no tool needed. Investment should just be for the sake of being because it's a good place to invest and a good time to invest. But you know, we've been calling for the development of a TIFF policy for years now. I understand…we understand recently that it's coming, it's soon. That will be very important as well so it can guide Council because TIFF is not the only tool available. And so, looking forward to having that at our disposal also. But I think this development and the potential of this development speaks to the broader issue across the downtown, across the Exchange District of attracting investment, private sector investment, into our community, and we…I believe all share the same goal. We want to see more people living and working and staying in our downtown and Exchange District, and so this gets us partway there I think or has the potential to get us partway there. And once again, really appreciate the focus also on affordable accessible rental housing and hearing back from the Public Service on that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. If there's no other one that wants to speak, I'm wondering if Councillor Sharma could just take the Speaker's Chair just for a moment so I can speak to the report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I'll recognize you for this item.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you. Well, first, I'm rising to thank Madam Speaker for the amendment about the accessible. And you know, there are a lot of people who know in this city how to build accessible, so it won't be any problem for them

to look at how that should work and how it would be designed. But you know, ultimately, for all 102 suites, they should really look at accessibility because, you know, you want to open up even...it's besides being affordable...I, of course, have a disability. I like accessible things. I learned to live on my own as a person who's blind at 1010 Sinclair. Facility designed with full accessibility in mind and the suites were actually quite nice. Although things have changed in terms of accessibility standards and so on and so, this being a mixed-use building, of course, accessibility starts right at the main floor getting into the building. And there are ways to design it so that the entrance ways are at grade so we don't have people who use wheelchairs and walkers having to struggle to get beyond that. And this might be a great opportunity for people who are down sizing their houses and want to live in an apartment around. So again, I'm getting older to the point where I'm starting to have more than just one disability, not as young as I was. But so, I think that's a great amendment, Madam Speaker. So of course, I'll be voting for that. Sometimes, there is extra costs, and I wanted to speak to the incremental financing, it being a mixed-use building and the projections...I had some questions because the mixed-use part, not the…the housing is…it's incremental financing, and it's based on...I believe these are apartments, not condos, so apartment living. And apartment living, the assessment is based on the ability to make income. And in my analysis, although I haven't done my analysis for two years now. I have to get that done. But the fastest rising assessment class that there is, is for apartments. And it's risen in terms of its share of the property tax pie quite quickly. But then we have other, I guess it would be considered commercially zoned areas, Madam Speaker, in where we're actually expecting people are now rationalizing in deciding, and I know that consideration, I believe the Urban Shaman Gallery is looking at moving into the building, I think that's excellent. I've supported their artistic endeavors and facility for years. But the assessed values of those commercial type properties where you're delivering services and stuff, they're going to come down. That assessment class is going to go way down, Madam Speaker, I think. That's what everybody's projecting. And so, the share of the property tax pie will be shrinking in terms of payment on that. And you know, it's 25 years worth of incremental property taxes factored in there, and what the City's budgets are and so on will determine what the property tax dollars will be for any particular year that incremental financing that goes to payback any grants or whatever that...paying for the affordable housing and so on. So...and by the way, Madam Speaker, it's not affordable unless it's rent geared to income just to be clear. That wasn't clear in the Starlight. So, this is a great plan. I think it's…I think Councillor Santos said it the best how it's going to be important. And one would hope that plan approvals and so on come through the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee. I don't know, Madam Speaker, but it's one way for us to stay on top of accessibility. But as it goes along, I'm not sure that that…what they projected is actually going to be the reality over 25 years. And we'll probably have to be looking at maybe some kind of adjustment so that the monetary factor over the long-term...because I'm sure there's financing that's going on in this building and all kinds of other fancy ways of getting the money to build it. So, I'll leave it at that, but I just wanted to point out, I wanted to know if that was factored into this TIFF consideration over 25 years. It's complex in calculating it. And I don't know, maybe if the CAO's listening, he can have the head of Assessment explain to me because I'm…I understand that they've looked into the factors that went in here, and it would be great to have a conversation about that just for my concerns because I want to see this thing happen. We…I'm sure we all want to see this happen. And in terms of…you know, I referred to the 99-year lease. It's interesting. And Portage Place was one of those like 99-year lease things or whatever it is on the land. And we're selling that off, apparently. The three levels of government are selling that off. And then…and then…but they ask for…they ask for even more money than they paid for that property…than they're going to pay for that property. I can't believe it, Madam Speaker. But this one…this is CentreVenture, and they're making it work. One of the reasons that this one had to be a one-dollar lease over 99-years is, the Ross family, thank them and bless their contributions to Winnipeg way into the future, they're ensure that this facility will have public good. And that's very important. So, but if it's not owned by the City, it would be considered a private enterprise, right? So, but because it's on leased land, it's still being utilized for its civic purposes that the Ross family envisioned so many years ago. And if you want to learn more about the Ross family, the Ross House Museum's over at Joe Zuken Park over at Euclid and Austin…or I should say, Euclid and Meade. But anyway, Madam Speaker, I'll be supporting the amendment and the report. And like any big project, there's a lot of ifs, ands, and you know what, this is just allowing it to proceed and that this is our way of supporting it. The Province of Manitoba can't even incrementally finance anything because, apparently, they're getting rid of education property taxes, so what are you going to incrementally finance? So, would be nice to see them throw a bunch of money into this project to make sure accessible, affordable can happen. Thank you. And I'll take the Chair back, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr.…thank you, Councillor Eadie. I'd like to now give the Chair back to you so I can close on the amendment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, thank you. You're going to close on the amendment?

Councillor Sharma: I want to thank Councillor Santos first of all for the very important information she put on the public record today about this project. It's an incredible project and the accessibility plans are also a very good news story. This amendment ensures that dialogue is elevated and receives its deserved attention so we can support a positive outcome. Our due diligence in reviewing this accessibility component when the report comes back in 180 days is the right thing to do, and it is truly important to so many Winnipeggers. And we need to lead on things like this. I want to thank my colleagues for their positive comments during the debate and appreciate your support for the amendment and the item. Thank you,

Mayor Bowman as well for supporting the amendment. We had that conversation yesterday, and often this is how these things come together quickly, but again, a very, very important issue to be addressing and highlighting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. Mayor Bowman to close.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, thanks. I'll be relatively brief because there's been some great comments all-around about this project. I think the benefits of the project itself have been well stated by many of my council colleagues, including the local councillor who I know is a strong supporter of this project. This builds on the tremendous momentum and developments in our downtown right now, and Councillor Chambers touched on them. I want to just build on that. The Red River College investments to their downtown campus are spectacular. And as Councillor Browaty, our Chair of Innovation and Economic Development, has recently pointing out to me, the creative campus aspect to the Market Lands development should complement the new economy training that Red River College is also initiating. We, of course, have the Richardson Innovation Centre, a spectacular architectural building, but building on an incredibly important business for our province and our country. We have, of course, True North Square, a development that also saw funds being made available to support affordable housing. Yesterday, I had the opportunity, Madam Speaker...sorry, Mr. Speaker...Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That's okay.

Mayor Bowman: I had the opportunity yesterday to visit the Artis REIT Tower, and what a spectacular towering achievement for our community. This is the tallest structure to ever be built in the City of Winnipeg. I suspect the tallest structure between Toronto and Calgary, and it's being built right now in the heart of our city. It also includes affordable housing thanks to the partnership with other levels of government and the Live Downtown Program. And, of course, we are watching quite carefully the discussions that we see happening with the Federal Government and the developer for the Portage Place development as well as I want to acknowledge the participation in the HBC committee of Councillor Rollins and all of the community leaders that are helping with the engagement right now with the Hudson Bay regarding their building, which they still own. Two important projects we need to be mindful of moving forward, but this is a very positive development. Again, want to thank everybody involved. I'm hopeful that we can show strong support for it and, of course, that that support will be reciprocated by other levels of government. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Bowman. I'm assuming we want a recorded vote, so all those in favour of the amendment on accessibility, please rise. Mr. Clerk.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham…

Councillor Sharma: Mr. Clerk, I think it's Councillor Eadie as well, but he's sitting because he's the Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Deputy Speaker, I'm in favour, yes.

Councillor Sharma: Yeah, yes.

Yeas

Councillors Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm not going to call if anybody's not in favour. Thank you. Okay. All those in favour of the amended report, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers…Councillor Eadie?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, usually…I thought…anyways, I was just going to point out that tradition is, you call out whoever's sitting as the Speaker as the last vote, right?

Councillor Sharma: We haven't changed places, Councillor Eadie. And I think that's why we're doing it in order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, okay. Good, okay.

Yeas

Councillor Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

City Clerk: The vote, Mr. Deputy Speaker…no (inaudible).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those who are not in favour of the amended report? Councillor Schreyer, are you in support or are you at your Zoom screen?

Councillor Schreyer: I'm in support of the amendment.

Councillor Sharma: I think Councillor Schreyer was not at his desk.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are you in support of the amended report, Councillor Schreyer?

Councillor Schreyer: I'm in support of the amendment. I'm in support of the amendment…amended motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Are you opposed to the amended report?

Councillor Schreyer: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, you're in favour of it, correct?

Councillor Schreyer: Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, thank you. Mr. Clerk, what is the vote?

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, thank you. That's unanimous again. All right, I think there's another report, so Speaker Sharma, would you like to take the Chair back?

Madam Speaker: Yes, thank you, Councillor Eadie. Item 16, Mr. Clerk.

Item 16 – Update on North End Sewage Treatment Plant (NEWPCC) Upgrade: Headworks and Biosolids Facilities Projects

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be very brief. This report is to highlight the schedule and costs risks for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant: Headworks and Biosolids Facility Project due to delays in receiving confirmation of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding. I'll be supporting the report and hopeful that my council colleagues can support as well.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Yeah, I know. It's confusing. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Any speakers on this item? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thanks to the Mayor on this. I'll try and be reasonably brief. It's a very fine report. It's a much needed report. The math is excellent. My thanks to Moira Geer and who drafted this? Oh, it's Lucy Squire, a Dakota Collegiate graduate. So, of course, the math is excellent. As Councillor Chambers would agree, having had his son go through Dakota. So, the report is much…it's not only accurate, it is much needed. It is much needed because it calls the question on the biosolids building and on the headworks. Brief history here, how far have we come? We've come a fair way in the nine years that I've been around here. Under this mayor and under Doug McNeil, and what I always thought was his finest hour, he might disagree, under Doug McNeil and this mayor, we moved forward finally to start building at the North End. As our director, the excellent Moira Geer put it, if you cleaned up Lake Winnipeg tomorrow

through Walt Disney, we would still need to do a $400 million headworks job at…it's an old building. There's a lot of grit work. We've got to do this first stage up at the North End. Then, clearly, now we have the pressing need to do the second phase, the biosolids building. That's phase two. That's what this is talking about. It's saying to the Province and the Federal Government, we're ready, but you've got to get in or get out here because we need to know if you're in or out because we can't go into the stuff we really want to do and hire some people to do the planning because we risk blowing all of the federal money if we start in without them there from the start. We also risk blowing and throwing away tens of millions of dollars if we start going and the Province says well, we wanted a P3. Look, we have hundreds of millions of dollars, but now you've gone off and hired a designer, well, you'll just have to scrap that because we're going to start again with a P3. So, we are, I think, to our credit calling the question here saying, Federal and Provincial Governments, get in here, let's get this nailed down. It's like we need Lyndon Johnson here to lock everybody in the same room and put marines outside until they get a deal. This was his way of solving the great steel strike in the early '60s in the US. Perhaps we're not…perhaps we're past that, but we need to be doing something here. In the number of conversations all of us have had with federal and provincial elected officials, everybody wants it to go, but we can't seem to get it going. And I do want to say, it's been a long road on this project, and we have taken steps forward under Mayor Bowman. And I'm proud of that, and I think we should all be proud that we want to get it going. Why the cost increase over the years here? You'll remember we debated this February of 2019, we decided to move from one project that had been 795 million, now three projects totalling about 1.6 billion. There were cost increased due to, I almost hate to say it…I almost hate to say it, construction inflation and cost escalation that are built in to the earlier report in 2019. So the costs went up, but we have a workable solution here to do this in three stages. None of us may be here when we do phase three, but by god, let's try and get phase one and phase two rolling here. We need the biosolids building. We need the headworks building. Excellent work by Ms. Squire and by Director Geer on this. I encourage everyone to vote for it. Let's put it out there. Let's get the Province and the Feds on side. Let's get this shovel in the ground here. Let's call it the north…what's your term, Eadie, the North Winnipeg, rather than North End…speaking of repetition being a form of advertising that we heard earlier. I think Councillor Eadie's right that we should start calling it the North Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Plant, not the North End Plant, that's a fair amendment, but whatever. Let's just get the money from the Province and the Feds in some combination and get these two phases rolling. If we can do that as I've said here before, glory enough for all. And phase three will probably be left to a future generation, but let's get rolling here and let's get going on phase one and phase two. That's essentially we're saying. We're putting our cards down here and saying, you've got to get in or get out here, Feds and Province. And it's my hope they get in, and we can get rolling on these two projects.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Next speaker. Okay. Seeing none, Mr. Mayor to close. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Pardon me, Madam Speaker. I of course support this report. And I just couldn't resist, from Councillor Mayes and actually Councillor Gillingham has a proposed name he's thinking about, I don't know about that. But Madam Speaker, I just want people to understand, like when...the reason we're having to spend billions of dollars is this plant was built way long ago. The City of Winnipeg actually probably had to buy the land from the municipality of Old Kildonan at the time when they built it. And because it was owned by the City of Winnipeg, and the North End did exist, I guess they called it the North End Sewage Plant. But to be clear again, it's the North Winnipeg Sewage Plant. It actually serves St. James, out to the west. It serves many areas like all the new areas that are growing. It serves North Kildonan. It serves Transcona and well, now it's serving West St. Paul, right. So, Madam Speaker, it's really a…it's in north Winnipeg and it serves all of north Winnipeg, and soon, you might even call it the Kildonan St. Paul sewage plant. So, anyway, I'll leave it at that. I'm going to support this report. Let's get this thing…I know it's a lot of money, and it's really important, and the Province needs to...like, we need to get this moving along. And because if they really want this city to grow and metro Winnipeg to grow, then it's got to get done because we're hearing about capacity with the biosolids, so let's get it done. And I also support this report because it's not blocking the short-term solution of removal of phosphates. That project is moving ahead, as I understand it. So, those people of Winnipeg who are very concerned about our polluting the Red River and Lake Winnipeg, that is being dealt with because by the looks of this project, it probably won't get finished with the biosolids for quite a long time yet so. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Mayor or Councillor Schreyer and then back to the Mayor for close.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just want to say yes, this has been a long time running. We were made aware of this I think in the term…beginning of last term in terms of a director from the provincial administration. Maybe we were hoping it wouldn't be that way with the change in government. I'm not sure what the thinking was, but sure enough, the provincial administration continued to let us know what the directive was on this. And so, we're now carrying forth. Yes, there is a cost due...an increased cost due to construction inflation. Councillor Mayes says he hates to say it. I don't like to say it, either. You know, I wish I never have to say it, but I love to hear Councillor Mayes say it because it's important, and I know I'm not alone and it's an expression of the fact that it's real, and it affects every aspect of our lives. And when we're talking about something as gargantuan as our city budget, as expressed in this case, over 25-years, a $2 billion project. You know, hey, guess how much a two-year delay is in getting this started? And so, we're talking about, you know, tens of millions of dollars, approaching $100 million, things like this. So, it's nothing to ignore, and

that's the reality of construction inflation. As expressed in this…anybody that's talked about delays, any member of Council that's talked about delays in starting this is sort of understanding the fact that construction inflation is real, and it causes us more problems budgetarily than anything else. And that can no longer be ignored. We don't deal…we won't tolerate…talking about only when we say, oh, we better hurry up a project due to construction inflation, isn't really, you know, the most sensible way to go about dealing with construction inflation because it doesn't show you understand it, it shows you acknowledge that it exists. Well, it's nice that occasionally councillors acknowledge that it exists, but what I'm admitting is that I, even I, don't understand it well enough, and saying that it exists and it causes these problems isn't enough. So, when councillors come up, and I'm going to bring this back to this motion, when councillors talk about how delays have cost us, you know, a lot of money due to this construction project, we're talking in this case, let's say, you know, on $2 billion, 5% is $100 million. So, if construction's approaching 5%, there's 100…but if it's a two-year delay, you know, that's $200 million. Guess what we could have done with $200 million? So, we're all…we can all…may have our own ideas of what we could have done with $200 million or you know, it's in the past. But what's not in the past is construction inflation. That's the future. Think of what is done to us. The…what has caused us in the last ten years alone. What's it going to cause us in the next ten years? So that's why it's not enough to acknowledge it exists, but in a case like this, as gargantuan as this, $2 billion, it lets you know. But remember, our annual budget is over 2 million. We're dealing with not just this sewage treatment plant, we're dealing with all other sorts of stuff. So, I'm glad that other councillors are talking about construction inflation. And if that's not enough, you know, I've given some stats that, you know, some have said they're kind of surprised. Councillor Mayes has shown his intellectual vulnerability by saying he was surprised or he finds it hard to believe. Good for Councillor Mayes to actually bring out…to saying this is new information, we better check this out. Great. Thank you to Councillor Mayes for saying that, because you know what's worse than that? Or what, implying that you always knew? Well, if you always knew, why didn't you talk about it before I did? So, hats off to Councillor Mayes for being completely logical about it. And this will not go away. And it's not going to…you know, it's not going away after we finish this vote on this, so let's just deal. Construction inflation next year, ten years from now, it is the future. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, over to you for the close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Want to thank Councillor Mayes and...as well as previous chairs for their work on this file and members of Council. Yeah, I mean, this is number one infrastructure project for the City of Winnipeg. Not...you know, not as...I don't know, I'm trying to think of an appropriate word here, but it's not as flashy a project than others in the City of Winnipeg, but as this city grows to a million people, there's more sewage. And we are also supporting through this treatment plant the capital region growth that we want to collaborate and coordinate with our partners in other jurisdictions. And so, this project matters not only to Winnipeg but to the capital region and the province of Manitoba and it's deserving of support from both the Provincial and Federal Governments. Madam Speaker, this council, I think wisely, and I appreciate the acknowledgement of Council's decision from Councillor Mayes, we decided previously to split the project into three out of fear of delays so that we could just get going and provide the leadership that was required on this file with phase one, the headworks. And from the City…and I want to complement our Water and Waste Department and the director, Moira Geer who's been doing I think some very difficult and important work and has been working collaboratively with our chair as well as members of Council, and I want to thank her for that. The health of our rivers and our lakes is a shared responsibility, shared not just by Winnipeggers, but by the capitol region. The fact that the entire water basin of Lake Winnipeg, which transcends multiple provinces and multiple states. Five percent or I think roughly five percent of the nutrient loading, for instance, is sourced from the City of Winnipeg. It begs the question. What's the plan for the other 95%? This is something I've been raising with federal and provincial officials at the highest levels for numerous years. Unfortunately, there really isn't a plan. We're going to continue to lead. I'm going to continue to have dialogue. I've increasingly been having dialogue with mayors in the United States and in the capital region about our shared responsibility, but I felt that we could only speak on this issue in I think a more legitimate way having provided the leadership that we're providing. Unfortunately, the submission for the ICIP funding was made in October of 2019, and yet, here we are, we're still waiting. The federal and provincial bilat agreement apparently doesn't allow for officials to update fully, but from what we understand from this report, if my recollection is correct, phase one has been applied for only despite the fact that phase one and phase two have been requested in 2019. And so, we need both the provincial and federal officials to work more collaboratively to free up the logjam and the funding and get that confirmation to the City of Winnipeg as soon as possible because as we see here, as a result of the delays, this decision is having to be made today. So, we'll continue to press provincial and federal officials. I would, once again, urge them to consider and approve the decision of Council, and grateful for the work that's happened by our Public Service and my council colleagues on making this decision today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll call the question. All in favour? Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise. This is Item 16.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Item 16 passes. Onto Item 19.

Item 19 – 2021 Mill Rates for the Education Support Levy and Special Levy

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, I just pulled this. I just wanted to vote…I just wanted to have a recorded vote, please.

Madam Speaker: Any speakers? Seeing…Mr. Mayor to close, no? Okay. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 1.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 19 passes. That is it, Mr. Clerk for that section. Yes. Okay, moving on to the notice of motions under the Executive Policy Committee. Sure, yes, you'll introduce the Mayor and then I have an amending motion, yes.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes. You have an amendment? Okay. Mayor Bowman, can you...your motion…notice of motion, would you please introduce?

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS openness, transparency and accountability in government is essential to a local democracy;

AND WHEREAS the residents of Winnipeg expect their municipal elected officials to be publicly accountable for the decisions they make at City Hall;

AND WHEREAS electronically recorded voting systems are used for Council meetings in many Canadian cities such as Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Toronto and St. Johns;

AND WHEREAS through the diligent work of the City Clerks department the Executive Policy Committee began using the recorded Vote Information System to record votes at its September 21, 2020 meeting;

AND WHEREAS the use of the recorded Vote Information System at Executive Policy Committee meetings has been effective at clarifying for committee members and the public the item that is being voted on and allows Council and the public to transparently see the outcome of each vote;

AND WHEREAS use of the recorded Vote Information System at Council meetings will eliminate the need for time consuming recorded votes, which will streamline Council meetings;

AND WHEREAS by visually displaying the outcome of each members of Council's vote, the recorded voting system is a more effective method of holding elected officials accountable than voting verbally or by standing for a recorded vote, when requested by a member of Council;

AND WHEREAS electronically recorded votes will transparently display how members of Council vote on each item in the City's Decision Making Information System and will better allow the public to hold each Council member accountable for their votes;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate for Council to vote on the use of the recorded vote information system before implementing it at Council meetings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public service be directed to hold information sessions on the recorded Vote Information System for all Members of Council;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the public service report back on a plan for implementation of the recorded Vote Information System for use at City Council meetings in 30 days.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. This is...this is a pretty straightforward motion. I know previously Council requested that before electronic voting is rolled out at Council, that Council be provided an opportunity to vote on this. This simply requests that the…our Public Service, presumably our Clerk's provide a training session for all members of Council to better understand how the system has been utilized since September at Executive Policy Committee, but also provide a report back on how that would look for Council so that all members of Council could receive that update and consider it accordingly. I've reviewed the amendment and will be supporting. I would encourage my council colleagues to do the same, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Mayor Bowman. You'll close later. Councillor Sharma, to introduce your amendment.

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Chambers,

WHEREAS there are currently many different ways of voting, including voice votes at Standing Committees, the VIS at Executive Policy Committee and standing votes at City Council, all of which work very effectively;

AND WHEREAS the main benefit of the VIS is the creation of a database of recorded votes that can be easily searched, rather than how voting occurs at any committee;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service currently creates a listing of all recorded votes at Council that is included in the Disposition document, with the document being published in DMIS for public use on the same day as the Council meeting occurs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. *The Notice of Motion regarding the Vote Information System be amended to have the report back to Council include options for the creation of a database of recorded votes other than using the Vote Information System as a voting method at Council;*

2. *That the Public Service be directed to enter all recorded votes for 2021 Council meetings into the Vote Information System.*

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is amending Motion No. 3, and it is regarding the Vote Information System or VIS. It's a straightforward motion and I want to thank Councillor Chambers for joining me as the seconder on this amendment. This motion recognizes that there are many different ways of undertaking and recording votes. We use several different voting methods right now at standing committee, Executive Policy Committee and Council, and they all work well in their respective place. As I've stated recently in the chamber, I believe there are many benefits to standing for recorded votes, which we currently do in Council meetings. Council is different from committees. I truly believe that we need to safeguard Council and its processes to ensure it remains accessible to all citizens. At Council, one rises to speak rather than staying seated as we do at committees. This ensures that everyone is heard and focuses

attention on the member speaking. The same case is with voting. At Council, you must rise when a recorded vote is called, standing for your convictions. This is a powerful message and one that should not be lost. Also, I have spoken with many citizens who understand English but do not read it. Before we move to a system that may potentially infringe upon their right to an open, transparent, accountable and accessible council, we must explore all possible options for achieving the same goals. The main advantage of the VIS is the database of recorded votes it creates which can then be easily searched by citizens. Currently, our Public Service populates the disposition document of Council with the results of all recorded votes. They do this for every Council meeting and post it to the DMIS on the same day. I have confirmed with our Public Service, and I've stated this in the chamber before, that this information can be inputted directly in the VIS database even now with minimal effort. To sum up, this amendment asks for the report to include how members votes can be inputted into the VIS database without the need to change the longstanding tradition of rising to vote at Council. The motion also calls for the results from our last three Council meetings for 2021. That would be January, February and today's meeting to be entered into the VIS so Council can examine how this would appear. I look forward to the report on this and the opportunity for Council to have an informed debate on what occurs here in our chamber as well as all possible ways to move forward. I urge you to support this amending motion and ensure we thoughtfully explore all options. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody who wishes to speak?

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, please proceed on the amendment and the report.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do have concerns. I have concerns that we can get this. What timeframe this is being done in because the amending motion doesn't have a timeframe. The main motion does, so it doesn't look quite complete for replacing what the main motion was doing. Again, I look at this, and I wonder why this isn't at Governance for discussion and for, you know, having the report presented there. Seems that we're doing this on the fly, much like it was implemented on the fly for Executive Policy Committee. You know, changing how we do things, working as a Council, having that discussion, perhaps not on the floor of Council and trying to change things all over the place. It just seems that we're flipping back and forth on how this should be because Executive Policy Committee decided to go one way, so that must be the only way that we're allowed to go at Council because of the votes that are yielded through that group of voting block, I guess I should say. I appreciate where Councillor Sharma's coming from. I'm likely to support hers…her motion or at least the intent of it, but I'm still concerned as to the timeframe that we're looking at. Hopefully in the close maybe or subsequent speakers, maybe we can get a little bit more detail as to, you know, what the cost of this is and if it's going to be able to be done in 30 days if that's reasonable and fair. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. I'm not sure, Mr. Clerk, if it's appropriate for me, but given that it would still be a report back in 30 days, is that literally 30 days from today which would mean April the 22nd, 3rd, something like that?

City Clerk: Correct, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Report back would be at the next Council meeting April 29th.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will it be at the Council meeting?

City Clerk: Through EPC first, and then up to Council on April 29th.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So, EPC is scheduled less than 30 days for April. Its meeting is scheduled less than 30 days from today.

City Clerk: Correct. I believe the EPC meeting's the week before Council.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Right, so the EPC meeting that the report would come to is the one…

Councillor Sharma: Speaker, the motion's in order...the original motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, no, no, I'm trying to determine when the report is coming back because Councillor Nason wanted clarification on timelines, right.

City Clerk: And Mr. Deputy Speaker, the 30 day timeline is interpreted to come back to the next Council meeting and that would be through EPC.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. All right. Okay, thank you. Who's next in line to speak to the amendment and the main notice of motion?

Clerk: Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, please proceed.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. I'll be very brief. I have an open mind on this in terms of how we do this. Having said that, I don't really see the problem that we've had here. Of all the problems we have had in terms of communication at City Hall or in terms of communicating our knowledge to the public so that they may be informed. In all…what I've seen in terms of the dysfunction of communication, I don't…I honestly don't see it in terms of how we vote at Council. I don't…I'm not sure how that's caused societal problems. I do see how we handle City Hall that's caused societal problems. I do see how the communication...we've lost $200 million, but…something approaching $200 million regarding the North End Sewage Treatment Plant. I just don't see it in how we vote…nonetheless, you know, I'm open-minded to look at all of these things, including the amendment as brought forward by Councillor Sharma. And I just look forward to some open-minded discussion in terms of how we can make it better. I happen to know, you know, some councils or some chambers of parliaments or council, you know, have utilized other forms. That's nice. They're not necessarily keeping them. They're reverting back, but nonetheless, let's have some discussion. I just don't want to think...I just don't want to give the impression to anybody…I just…if it can be shown to me that this is causing dis…societal dysfunction like other things…inadequacies on our part, you know, that's another story.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Are you done, Councillor Schreyer? Thank you. Do I have any other speakers or do we?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Okay, Councillor Sharma to close on the amendment.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, I just want to emphasize how important it is for this report to explore all options to ensure citizens can easily know how their elected representative voted on a particular item. We should ultimately when the report comes back, choose wisely a system that works without compromising the engagement of any citizen or member of Council in this chamber. It's very simple. Let's get the options. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Councillor Sharma. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: I'll be brief. I'm hopeful that my council colleagues can support both the amendment as well as the original motion. I'm looking forward to seeing all members of Council, with the approval today, get some training in the...how the system's been working. It's been working very well at Executive Policy Committee. Took a few meetings to kind of get the hang of it, I have to say. Just, it's a change, so it's different, but now it's much easier to track how we vote. I'm proud to stand behind my votes and also just make it easier for people to know who's present, who's not, how people are voting. And so, but that being said, the original intent when we voted on this a couple of months back was to really just make sure that there was an administrative report so that all members of Council could take the time to try to have any concerns that they may have addressed. And I would encourage members of Council to connect with colleagues on Executive Policy Committee who have been using it as well as, of course, the Clerk's who I want to commend them for their work. This isn't the first city to move to electronic voting. We've certainly been able to learn from other cities that are currently using it. But again, let's get some information for Council's consideration and would encourage you to support both the amending motion as well as the original report. I was spending a little bit of extra time to hopefully allow our council colleague to be present, but I guess we'll just vote in his absence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Bowman. All right, yeah, recorded vote. All those in favour of the amending motion for other alternative methods of voting, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker…Madam…or Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there anybody opposed?

Councillor Nason: I was distracted by some comments that were being made in the council chamber about a council member not being present, and I was distracted, and I failed to vote.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, you're…I was about to call all those not in favour, but would you...were you in favour of the amendment?

Councillor Nason: It's Councillor Nason and yes, I'm in favour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You're in favour of the amendment. Okay. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0, with Councillor Klein absent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein did not vote? Okay. Is he in the chamber? Okay, all right, thank you. I can't see, so. Anyway, all those in favour of the amended notice of motion, please rise. Pay attention, please.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0, with Councillor Klein absent from the chamber.

Councillor Eadie: All right. Thank you very much. I will pass the Chair back to Speaker Sharma for the EPC by-laws.

Madam Speaker: Yes. Thank you, Councillor Eadie. We're going to move onto the motions first, there's still some motions. No problem, and then we'll do the by-laws. Okay. We have Motion No. 4, which is moved by Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Lukes. It's regarding funding for additional benefits for Executive Policy members. This is an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. We have Motion 5, moved by Councillor Nason and seconded by Councillor Klein. It is regarding a request to have the City Auditor review all contracts awarded for tree pruning service providers. It's an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. We have Motion 6, moved by Councillor Orlikow and seconded by Mayor Bowman regarding a proposed COVID-19 short-term response and recovery plan. This is an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Now we'll move onto by-laws, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS Councillors are all equally elected, and have a dual role to deal with decisions affecting the whole city, and provide representation to their ward,

AND WHEREAS the Mayor appoints all members of the Executive Policy Committee, Deputy and Acting Deputy Mayor;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor provides annual mandate letters to Executive Policy Committee members, Deputy and Acting Deputy Mayor directing them on the delivery of priorities he deems important,

AND WHEREAS Councillors appointed to the Executive Policy Committee receive an increase to their salary in the amount of $13,595.55 annually, and have access to additional spending funds known as the Chairmanship Account in the amount of $4,000.00;

AND WHEREAS the Councillor appointed as Deputy Mayor also receives an increase to their salary in the amount of $13,595.55 annually, and a Chairmanship Account in the amount of $2970.00, and the Councillor appointed as Acting Deputy Mayor receives a Chairmanship account in the amount of $2970.00,

AND WHEREAS the Mayor has an annual budget of approximately $1,800,000.00, which is the second highest of mayoral budgets in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all additional benefits that members of Council receive by virtue of being appointed by the Mayor to the Executive Policy Committee, or as Deputy Mayor and Acting Deputy Mayor, to deliver on the Mayor's mandated priorities, including increased salary and chairmanship accounts, be funded directly through the Mayor's Office budget.

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS in October of 2019 The City of Winnipeg experienced a significant weather event which damaged up to 10 percent of the city's tree canopy, and left parts of the city littered with downed trees and broken branches;

AND WHEREAS in order to address the clean up as quickly as possible, the city engaged the generous assistance of other cities across the country and local contractors were procured for debris management;

AND WHEREAS tree pruning industry experts have recently expressed concern over the process in the awarding of substantial bid opportunities to tree pruning contractors and their sub-contractors, whom fail to provide the required safety and certification documentation of the bid opportunities within a Five (5) day timeframe;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in order to reassure the local business community that the City's procurement process is fair and unbiased, the City Auditor be directed to review all contracts awarded to tree pruning service providers since October of 2019, to ensure the contracts were awarded in accordance with city regulations, and report back to Council within 120 days with the results.

Motion No. 6
Moved by Councillor Orlikow,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS the impact of COVID-19 on municipal governments to meet their expected services levels and to continue to do so is under severe pressure when the economy and residents needs it the most;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is dealing with the immediate economic and public health crisis while maintaining service continuity;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 impacts have shown the need to strengthen the City's economic and equity infrastructure in order to support City Departments with additional tools required to deliver on the unique needs of Winnipeg's economy, diverse residents, including those who are part of Black, Indigenous and equity-deserving communities, given the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on these communities;

AND WHEREAS as Winnipeg moves from response to recovery, investments will need to be made in addressing skills gaps in the labour force, developing spaces that suit the changing shape of business, and establishing resilient supply chains, business models, and workforces in emerging or growing sectors;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg can thrive in becoming stronger, more resilient community, with an economy that's better prepared for a highly uncertain future;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has adopted BY-LAW NO. 59/2020 a By-law of The City of Winnipeg to ensure adequate preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies;

AND WHEREAS the Emergency Management By-law provides for the ability of the City of Winnipeg to respond appropriately to emergency situations, provides for the appropriate preparation with carefully designed plans of action and clear decision-making structures and lines of responsibility and accountability;

AND WHEREAS the Emergency Management Leadership Team was established through the Emergency Management By-law as the local emergency response control group required by The Emergency Measures Act to provide guidance and advice to the Chief Administrative Officer and Council in preparation of, responding to and recovering from emergencies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult with the City of Winnipeg Emergency Management Leadership Team (EMLT) and be directed to report back to the Executive Policy Committee within 90 days with a proposed framework response and recovery plan to guide and develop the City's COVID-19 short term response and recovery strategies and actions that includes:*

   A. *A re-imagining of the way the City can deliver programs and services that have been impacted by COVID-19.*

   B. *A 2-year recovery plan that includes existing and new measures and strategies to promote job and economic growth, equity and resiliency.*

   C. *A plan to initiate dialogue with federal, provincial and indigenous governments as well as Economic Development Winnipeg to take a wholistic approach to address the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated recovery plan.*

   D. *A process for community consultations that identifies the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and provide recommendation to the EMLT for consideration into the Winnipeg COVID-19 recovery plan.*

2. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 28/2021, By-law 29/2021, By-law 30/2021, and By-law 32/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour?

Mayor Bowman: Recorded, please.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour, please rise.

Mayor Bowman: I'd like to be…sorry, I spoke with Clerk's about this yesterday. I want to be recorded in opposition to 29 and 30. It relates to the vote on the main motion. If there's a more efficient way to do it, I'd welcome that.

Madam Speaker: There's efficient way to do many things, so yes, you can do that, Mayor Bowman. But you already called for a recorded vote, right. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Those opposed, please rise.

Mayor Bowman: Are these being voted on as a whole?

Madam Speaker: As they were read out, they were read out in entirety.

Mayor Bowman: Deferring to the guidance provided to me by the Clerk's, so maybe if they could provide some clarity, please.

City Clerk: The Procedure By-law does allow people to vote separately on the by-laws following a request.

Madam Speaker: But there was a call for a recorded vote, Mr. Clerk. And the same as earlier today and what's been going on for the last few months, we can't have one leg on each stool. And I believe those were the words used in this chamber. So, the…yeah, that was earlier, but we've called a recorded vote on the whole. There was a call for a recorded vote on all four by-laws.

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, my…when I asked for a recorded vote, based on the advice of the Clerk's, my expectation was that it would be voted on separately. I apologize if that wasn't clear.

Madam Speaker: And I appreciate that, but I am the Speaker of Council, so please inform me as well so I can run this meeting efficiently. Yes?

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I'd like to just make a point of order. And I would like the Clerk to just explain it because, Madam Speaker, it's my understanding that you can't say, before you call any vote on the by-law, you separate it. But if there's more than three people who want to be recorded opposed to any one of those by-laws in the range, then...

Madam Speaker: Yes, then it's recorded. Councillor Eadie, that is correct, but there was a call for a recorded vote, which we don't normally do, so we were following that procedure. So, I believe the question was, those opposed, please rise. We can do the next section different. There's always an opportunity to course correct, but if there's…is there any opposed to this item, please rise.

Mayor Bowman: You know what? It's fine. I'll vote opposed. I'm in support of 28 and 32, but unfortunately, I'll be opposed. That's what I'm trying to do.

Madam Speaker: There's no right to speak actually Councillor Eadie during recorded vote time. You know, I'm just trying to be fair, and we do want to move on. It's quarter to four. So those opposed, please rise.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 1.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 28/2021, 29/2021, 30/2021 and 32/2021.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Next section, please. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the By-laws No. 28/2022 to 31/2021, both inclusive, and 32/2021 be read a second time and would request clarity from our Clerks on how I could be recorded for two of them opposed.

Madam Speaker: You just state you'd like to be noted in opposition.

Mayor Bowman: Noted in opposition for 20…

Madam Speaker: There's one member noted in opposition for two of them, Mayor Bowman?

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, 29/2021 and 30/2021 please, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Noted with Mayor Bowman in opposition to two items. Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 28/2021 to 30/2021, both inclusive and 32/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 28/2021 to 30/2021, both inclusive, and 32/2021 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed. I would ask to be recorded in opposition to 29/2021 and 30/2021, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? We've noted the Mayor's notation there. Carried. We'll now have question period fore the Mayor. Any questions for Mayor Bowman? Okay. Seeing none, we'll move on. There has been a

request for, you know, a short recess to take a health break. The member does not wish to miss a vote, and I'd like to honour that, so let's have a five-minute recess. Thank you. Councillor Rollins, go ahead.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 25, 2021, at 4:03 p.m.

Madam Speaker: I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of March 25th, 2021. We are now on the Finance Committee. Councillor Gillingham.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATED MARCH 12, 2021

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to introduce the agenda item but pull the item as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, Item 1.

Item 1 – Waiver of Temporary Patio Fee

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise just to express appreciation to I think pretty much everyone around this chamber. So many of my council colleagues we found out after simultaneously we're working on matters. I know Councillor Mayes and the Food Council were discussing this and bringing forward an idea. Councillor Klein was working on a motion. The Mayor expressed support. My colleagues on the Finance Committee; Schreyer, Orlikow and Rollins all worked together. So, ultimately, this is about I think Council recognizing the fact that it's the hospitality industry that has been hit perhaps most...in...in COVID-19 or certainly one of the most...one of the hardest hit sectors in our economy that has felt the...the impact of the health care restrictions. And so, this is a way, by waiving the $500 temporary summer patio fee, of assisting them. And I know that as we began to discuss this around Council when it first came forward, there were several restaurants that I had contact with, restaurant owners, just expressing appreciation to all Council in anticipation that all Council would be supporting this. So, the reality is, of course, as we...as we see the weather warming up and people wanting to get out onto a patio and some of the restrictions are being lifted a little bit so that more people can enjoy, you know, a meal or drinks on a patio, hopefully that will assist some of the economic recovery that our restaurants in our community need to experience. We do, also…obviously though, we keep one eye on what's happening in other provinces with the rise of the variants. And we know that we as a community are not out of this pandemic yet, by any means, and so we need to do what we can while we can to assist, in this case certainly restaurant owners. So, I'm glad to bring this motion forward. And really thank…this has been a collective effort, and so I trust everyone will support it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Any further speakers? Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would probably ask Mr. Ruta to come down, but you know, it's taken so long to get here. And the question I have...I will be supporting the motion, but the question I have is, how did we get here? Why are we debating this today? You know, several weeks ago, this was brought forward, and the challenge of it is, is it didn't need to. There was a wrong-headed decision where in the height of COVID to implement a $500 processing fee that was done through delegated authority. The Public Service did it. They could have undid it. There was no need for this song and dance of these motions. They could have undid it. They had the power to implement it, whoever it was, and I don't know if it was the CAO or the CFO or a director, somewhere along the line, this was approved, and it could have been undone. So maybe in his closing, Councillor Gillingham as Chair of Finance can articulate how we got here because we shouldn't be here today. We've lost a couple of weeks of people hesitant. I know my Transcona Legion spoke to me because they were contemplating it, but this put pause on them. It's challenging when we make these missteps. The Public Service could have been nimble enough to fix this, and I hope they learn from this. You know, with delegated authority, you know, great responsibility, they need to make the right decisions at the right time, and I will leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: I'll be really quick, Madam Speaker. I believe everybody's going to support this waiving of the adjusted temporary patio fee because as I understand it, under the fee schedule that we passed and delegated over to…delegated to our city…to the administration is actually higher than 500. And there was some delegated authority, as I understand it, and anyway, in order to change a decision by delegated authority, it does require a vote of Council to change it. So, it's here and I totally support it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Looks like this will be a consensus item, a lost sole item of the standing committee's report. Just given that it was…as explained already, working in parallel on this, Brian Mayes, and the Food Council, Councillor Klein, and then the Finance Committee, the four of us working together, so I thank everybody. I have to admit, I didn't bring this forward, but it totally made sense to me. And as a standing committee, we've put forth sort of a position explaining why it's such a good idea. Still, I said this earlier today, and it applies here because you never know what helps spur things on. And once again, working in parallel, but I do give kudos to Councillor Klein because I think sometimes Councillor Klein acting on something just helps spur things along. That's human nature, and that's, you know, the give and take of City Council and how things work. And I'm glad to see, however it got here, that it got here, and I'll be supporting it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I just want to thank all my council colleagues for their advocacy on this. I want to thank our Finance Chair in particular for working collaboratively with council colleagues. Hopefully, everybody can support this. Our Public Service has been working hard in the middle of the pandemic. I know last year, typical patio fees that have been as high as $2,300 for the season were waived. I know that provided assistance to our restaurants that do operate patios during summertime. This year, in that delegated authority, they reduced it to 500, which was obviously a step in the right direction, but Council is required to move it even further. So, I'm hopeful that we can all support this. This, of course, builds on some of the streamlining and the reduced red tape that patios have been…or restaurants are able to benefit from now. They're able to apply through a much more streamlined service that does allow them to apply for the entire season. This would make that season, of course, at no charge, and those that have paid the fee previously would be refunded. So hopefully, everyone can support this. I know there's been advocacy around the council chamber. I want to recognize that. But I also want to just acknowledge the work of our Public Service. Of course, there's other measures including additional loading zones that have been made available in order to assist with curbside pick-ups and drop-offs in our downtown as well as some of the free parking and, of course, residential parking, but this would go another step forward to allowing everybody some additional support that wants to operate a patio. Hopefully provided that Winnipeggers can follow the guidance from Manitoba Health, we can safely enjoy patios and also support local businesses this summer. So, hopeful that everyone can support this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Allard, and then Councillor Gillingham for the close.

Councillor Allard: I wanted to make a few brief remarks in French about this.

Madam Speaker: Absolutely. Councillor Allard, you're on mute.

Councillor Allard: That wasn't helping my speech.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, I would like to…

Councillor Allard: So, I'd like to say a few words in French about this.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, first of all, I'd like to congratulate Council for working collaboratively on this to get to this point. I think that it is a very important issue for this year due to the impacts of COVID on restaurants. And in particular, I think everyone is looking for ways to enjoy themselves and to do it in a way that it's easier to have patios in Winnipeg. So, congratulations to all my colleagues to have reached this point. And I am excited to vote for this proposition, and I think it will bring our (inaudible) to Winnipeg a little bit better than (inaudible). So, thank you for your attention.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Councillor Gillingham to close.

Councillor Gillingham: That's okay. You can call the question, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Call the question on Item 1. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 7…Item 1 passes. We'll now move into question period for our Chair. Any questions for Councillor Gillingham? Okay, seeing none, next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. Mr. Clerk, I'm going to ask for your assistance, there are a number of motions still and I want to make sure that I'm in order at the correct time. So, I'll ask for you assistance as we go along. We have no reports under this committee. We do have Motion 7, which is moved by Councillor Mayes, and seconded by Councillor Klein. It's regarding the re-costing of the Combined Sewer Overflow Master Plan. This is a notice of motion and will appear on next month's Council agenda. We'll now go straight into question period for the Chair. Any questions for Councillor Mayes? Councillor Klein.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 7
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan (WTMP) provides for an estimated capital cost of $1.08 billion (2020 dollars) and a completion date in 2045;

AND WHEREAS the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) plan provides for an estimated capital cost of $1.15 billion (2019 dollars) and a completion date in 2045;

AND WHEREAS both the WTMP ($1.08 billion) and CSO plan ($1.15 billion) use Class 5 estimates for capital projects;

AND WHEREAS the CSO Master Plan 2019 Technical Report prepared by Jacobs Engineering states on pages ES 5-6:

> *"The estimates are considered to be Class 5...The classification is based on the level of project definition, with the CSO Master Plan being a program with multiple projects and with low levels of definition for each project ... Subtotal Capital Cost estimate $1,150,400,000…Total Capital Cost for Budgeting Purposes $2,300,800,000."*

AND WHEREAS the CSO Master Plan 2019 Technical Report also states on page 3-49/50:

> *"As agreed with the City the upper range of the Class 5 estimate (+100%) is to be used for budgeting purposes giving a total capital budget of $2.3 billion …. In 2015 the City moved to the AACE Classification System and the top end of the accuracy range was increased to plus 100 percent of capital cost."*

AND WHEREAS the budgeted cost of the CSO Master Plan (2045 expiry) was increased by 100% from $1.15 billion to $2.3 billion due to the 100% upper cost range associated with Class 5 construction cost estimates;

AND WHEREAS the WTMP (2045 expiry) includes no budgeted cost increase from $1.08 billion despite also relying on Class 5 construction cost estimates;

AND WHEREAS Council never had the opportunity to vote to approve the CSO Master Plan submitted in August, 2019;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to re-cost the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Master Plan, as presented to the Province of Manitoba, by reducing its cost by $1.15 billion, so as to be consistent with the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan and in making requests for funding from the Provincial and Federal governments.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Klein: Thank you Madam Chair, and through you to Councillor Mayes, in recent weeks we have seen in the media the raw sewage that's being dumped into the Assiniboine River, most notably in the Wolseley area, Madam Speaker. And through you, I'm wondering if the Chair can tell Council why we're not seeing any action being taken at this time to address that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you to Councillor Klein and thank you for some advance notice he's given me that there would be a question coming. I don't know if it's fair to say that we are not doing anything. The combined sewer overflow program now tends to be kind of overlooked program here at City Hall I think. We will hopefully rectify some of that next month when we're talking about the master plan. Councillor Klein is right. There have been…there are periodic spills into the different rivers. Somebody called me in the wake of the one in Wolseley and said, it looks like you gave almost identical interview in 2016 or so at St. John's Park, Councillor Eadie's ward when there was a spill and it's a….it was a virtually identical interview that these spills have been happening. That said, we have been slugging away at the problem. We have been putting in roughly $30 million a year toward the combined sewer work. The bigger question I think is how fast to go or how much faster we could go with other levels of government or on our own. The plan…the Province is the regulator. The Province has to…the Province mandated years ago that we come forward with proposals to slow down the flow of sewage into the rivers. We had four different options, the cheapest of which was $1 billion. Then Minister Squires considered those, and came back endorsing the…(inaudible) she might want some reference to something other than raw sewage going into the rivers, (inaudible). I thought it was reasonable measure from the councillor…from Minister Squires saying you can do the cheapest option, but do it in 27 years, not 40 which is what the City is proposing. So she gave a sunset date of 2045 to get that work done. There was another response the City has to table by August 31st, 2019 a more detailed plan. And here is where things get interesting because that was tabled but it wasn't voted on by Council. You'll remember my incessant harping about the green infrastructure part of that that we never debated, whether it should be 104, 180 or how many millions the green infrastructure should be in the staff. Ms. Geer and others say, hey, we took ten percent. That's the industry standard. So we will get a chance to talk about that plan. One interesting aspect of that plan, original proposal goes in from the City in 2014. It's just over $1 billion, 2019, we come back, and the price was going to be 1.15 on a class 5. Councillor Gillingham may not like what I'm about to say next. Part of the increase, on the City website, inflation of the preliminary proposal, the wording was the capital cost estimates in 2014, 2014 dollar values, inflation at 3% between the years of 2014 and 2019 equate to a net 16% increase greater than $200 million between the preliminary proposal and the master plan. Councillor Schreyer, right there on the City website, acknowledgement of construction inflation at 16%, $200 million. At the risk of triggering another question, I thought I should mention that, that the staff did recognize this and incorporated $200 million to get us up to 1.15 billion. However, there was another cost estimate. It's class 5 estimate. Staff said we have to double that. We have to…it's a class 5, the range is up to 100% more. So we're…in 2019 dollars, this is a $1.15 billion program, but we're going to give it to the Province's 2.3 because it's a class 5 estimate. So that's gone into the Province. We continue to roll away at 30 million a year. We'll have a chance next month to debate that whole program and how that should be costed, which we did not…have not done previously. So we are taking steps. It remains a problem. It will remain a problem for some decades to come. How fast should we be going though is a good debate to have. Again, the construction inflation was getting ready the 2019 number, so we went from about 800 million to 1.15 billion due to construction inflation. The doubling, though, that's because it's a class 5 cost estimate that we're putting forward. So big numbers, a good chance to debate that, I'm hoping. Articles in the Free Press taking us to task as there have been for some years about this, and people calling into I'm sure all of us saying, well this is unacceptable. It's going to be a problem for years to come. Can we pick up the pace? What can we do? How much should we spend? I think that's a good debate. It's obviously the cost…we're looking at a long arc of time here. Councillor Gilroy spoke in here pretty eloquently saying we can't even if we wanted to, we couldn't do it all at once. You'd be tearing up every road in the older parts of the city to do this work. So we aren't aware Councillor Eadie's got Jefferson district. Councillor Gillingham's got the River…Riverbend…Riverview…River…River something district, combined sewer district. In his ward, that's where the work's undergoing in now. Of course, Cockburn-Calrossie, years and years of work there to sort that out in Councillor Rollins' ward. So we're working on it. The pace of the work though that'll be a good debate, and look forward to having that in next month and in the months to come.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Orlikow followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Orlikow: Yeah, thank you Councillor Mayes, to Councillor Mayes. I'm pretty sure you won't have this information, but I just want to get the information on the table. It was alluded today that we're not doing anything regarding combined sewer overflows. So on that point, do you have information on reduction in outflow related to the Cockburn-Calrossie deep water retention pond…lagoon pond? As it's a massive project that is completed. It did get paid for by the City and has really positively impacted not only development in the area but it's also saved a number of our basements from flooding. So again, to say we're doing nothing, well, let's talk about the Cockburn-Calrossie pond and do you have those numbers about the outflow reduction?

Councillor Mayes: I'll express my vulnerability either intellectually or numerically and say I do not have those numbers. It's a fair point though that the work has been going on. Perhaps, somewhat ironically, I'm told that more development can occur in Glenwood part of St. Vital because they share the combined sewer district with Cockburn-Calrossie so it's…as that work happen to Cockburn-Calrossie, it opens up space in the (inaudible), certain other areas are able to handle more development. Yeah, no that's been a big…anyone who's been trying to get from St. Vital to Wildwood Golf or Tennis, now there's been work there for years because the roads in Councillor Rollins' area have been messed up there for some number of years. Calrossie is this little tiny sewer district right down of the southwest part of the district, this of course is all work happening roughly in areas built 1960 or prior. That's a little prude but you see the combined sewer district map, it's very much the centre of the city, some out in Transcona, but a lot in Councillor Gillingham's ward. But yeah, I know Cockburn-Calrossie certainly, lots have been spent, lots have been done. I don't know exactly how much has been separated out, but the work is continuing there. And I know up in Jefferson and whatever the river one that Councillor Gillingham has, and there are numerous other ones coming as well. But that 2019 report is 1300 pages, each combined sewer district broken down how much work we're going to do to get to the 1.15 billion figure.

Councillor Orlikow: My second question if I may…and I think I'm leaving up to a report probably coming…getting a report to Water and Waste is that what other measures are that we use such as, I know improve pumping…pump stations, having on-site generators, other mechanisms that we are using to reduce the impact when we do have major water events such as the last one when the snow all melted at once. Can you list off some of those other measures besides combined sewer overflow?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Well, I think I mean…I think you mentioned a couple there, I mean the thing I've been strumming away for some time now is the green infrastructure part which is $108 million, the Food Council, Councillor Schreyer is on there with me of course, excellent report out of the Food Council saying hey, we want to do something as part of this $100 million. We can do some green infrastructure, terrific report from Toronto, examples all over North America, these projects that are meant to slow the flow of rain water into the sewer system and doing various vertical gardens and community gardens. So I'm not sure exactly in terms of the answer to your question. I can try and look into that, but certainly, the green infrastructure is a big opportunity for us. We haven't started on our first private project yet. Might be up in Councillor Eadie's ward, maybe in Councillor Gillingham's, almost certainly it won't be in my ward because I've only got the one district, but I very much, before this term of office ends, want to get something going on the green infrastructure.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Schreyer followed by Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just listening to Councillor Mayes explain as he answered to two of the questions, you know, I just want to say hats off to Councillor Mayes, to all chairs of the standing committees, to His Worship in particular for all the hard work. I've never ever said that there isn't hard work involved, that you guys don't do it. I've always said, I've never implied otherwise. It's just…I guess for me the reason…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, the question?

Councillor Schreyer: This is my preamble, Madam Speaker. I'm just saying because he's so good at answering these questions, because he's so well researched and maintains his information, I'm asking in terms of explaining…talking about combined sewer and talking about the timeline here, he says it went from class 5 to the Province, is there anything he'd wish to add at that point or should we just wait for the Province to see what they're going to say?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Well, the notice of motion that was tabled today, I won't get into it because we'll debate it next month, but that talks about how…is it fair to be blunt? Is it fair that we're costing the combined sewer as a class 5 and some other projects that are class 5? We're not doubling the cost estimate, so we'll have a good debate about that next month, I hope.

I would like to get going more quickly on the CSO work. By calling it 2.3 instead of 1.15, are we possibly missing an opportunity to get some funding from other levels of government? I think we need to talk about that. It would help to get that work going more quickly. If we did 45 million a year instead of 30, I don't think we'd be tearing up every street, but we'd be knocking off the work done much more quickly. Yeah, I mean it was put forward as a class 5 in the report that was 1300 pages in August of 2019. It's a work in progress. How quickly that work should go, though, is I think what we need to debate, and comparing that to some of the other capital projects, we're looking at…making sure we're…basically making sure we're comparing apples to apples here. As we go forward, if we're having class 5 estimates…for example, as the Mayor accurately stated, the number one priority in the City's infrastructure book is the North End Plant. That's a class 3 estimate. That's more narrowed down. That's…that's been narrowed down to a certain level. This is class 5. We've got some other stuff that's class 5. Well, let's treat all of that similarly. That's really my point and I think Councillor Klein's point in asking that we debate that or talk about that next month.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you to Chair Mayes, there are developers in the ward of St. Norbert-Seine River that are interested in putting up apartments that would address a critical housing shortage in that area. Some of that would be low-income housing or low-income apartments or rent geared towards income apartments, but they are impacted by sewer capacity issues in St. Norbert. I believe this is an issue that is happening throughout the City of Winnipeg. However, these developers have come up with engineering solutions that speak to perhaps retaining tanks that are in the ground that would release into the system at off-peak hours allowing for, you know, capacity not to be overtaxed by apartments that are addressing this critical shortage in the area.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty moves suspension for two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. There's two other requests for questions.

Councillor Chambers: I'm wondering, Madam Speaker through to the Chair, if there's an opportunity to work more collaboratively with the Water and Waste Department to come up with these types of engineering solutions that allows developers to continue on developing and addressing the critical housing shortage, also its revenue to the City in terms of tax revenue that would be generated off these buildings once they are completed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, I mean these sort of grey water proposals come forward. It's a fair question. We should be able to have the dialogue with the staff, see what we can work out. I don't always agree with the Mayor, but I've got to say the Mayor developed this committee in 2015, the Water and Waste Committee. I've chaired it. Councillor Gilroy's chaired it. This is the kind of thing, this is why, right. We have these sort of debate, these sort of questions so we didn't used to have this frankly back…before 2014. This stuff was just the tag end of Public Works. So, thank you for the question. See if we can work together on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers, second question.

Councillor Chambers: As a follow-up question, I would like to ask the Chair of Water and Waste through you, Madam Speaker. What the status is on the plastic, the single-use plastic in the City of Winnipeg, we have seen other jurisdictions that are more actively moving towards bans of single-use plastics. The Federal Government has come out with a ban on single-use plastics. I'm just wondering. I tabled a motion shortly after my election to Council on the City of Winnipeg being one of the leaders in reducing single-use plastics at City-run facilities and events. I'm just wondering what the status of that is. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: There was a very good motion from Councillor Chambers on this. I think it's coming back to the next Water and Waste Committee.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers moves further two-minute extension. All in favour? Contrary?

Councillor Mayes: I will follow-up. And thank you to Councillor Chambers for…I was pretty worked up earlier today about some training we had recently in AED. He very decently came over and talked to me and calmed me down. I just wanted to thank him for that. That was very decent of you. So I will leave the answer at that. I will follow up on the…I think it's coming…it's a good motion. I think the report is coming this month, but I will double check that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think my question was partially asked by Councillor Chambers, but I will try to frame it in a different way. Several times we have had situations of late where development proposals come forward through community committee and we approve them, an approval only to have them 86'd by Water and Waste after the fact, land drainage and/or sewer capacity in the area. And I'm wondering if the Chair could discuss or respond with regards to waste to better improve the handling of those types of things so that, you know, the 90,000 person capacity that we are up against that is getting whittled down quickly, that we have a better use of our land.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you for the question. I can hear Moira Geer saying somehow, look we never used to have to deal with the development stuff at all. We've got a ton of stuff we are doing. We're trying to do that as well now. We know it's become a bigger issue. We know there are limits so we are trying to show up at these meetings at an earlier stage and work on that. It's a fair question. You've had some. I've had some. Probably most councillors have had some like that. I mean it…so yes, I think Ms. Geer and her staff are working on that and trying to catch these things at an earlier time frame. And bluntly, that item we have under EPC with the…Item 16 with the North End Plant. There's really your answer. Let's get the bio solids building rolling and that will take care of it in six to seven years down the line.

Madam Speaker: That concludes question period. Next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Innovation and Economic Development. Councillor Browaty, on the report dated February 22nd.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to move the recommendation of EPC.

Madam Speaker: And that was one item? Yes. All in favour? Okay, call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise on Item 1.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillor Santos

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 1.

Madam Speaker: Item 1 passes. Now onto question period under this committee. Any questions for Councillor Browaty? Seeing none, let's move forward, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED MARCH 15, 2021

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, Madam Speaker, can I move Items 1 through 11.

Madam Speaker: We do have an amending Motion 8 and that goes with item…Item 8.

Councillor Allard: I would like to pull 10.

Madam Speaker: Eight and nine.

Councillor Allard: Ten.

Madam Speaker: Pardon me? Eight is pulled. Nine does not have an amending.

Councillor Allard: I would like to pull 10. Can you hear me?

Madam Speaker: I will get to you in a moment, yeah. Got it. Perfect. Okay, so Item 8 has been pulled, 9. And I heard virtually, Councillor Allard, was that you?

Councillor Eadie: That was me, I would look to pull 10.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. So 8, 9 and 10 have been pulled. So, I will call the question on 1 through 5, 6, 7, 11. There a call for a recorded vote. All in favour of those items, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Madam Speaker: Those items are carried. Item No. 8 has two amending motions. Motion No. 8 is moved by Councillor Gillingham and seconded by Councillor Gilroy. Motion 9 is moved by Mayor Bowman and seconded by Councillor Rollins. And both amend Item 8. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8 – Review of Changes between Bill 48 and Bill 37

Motion No. 8
Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS Bill 37, The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act proposes the creation of a Capital Planning Region;

AND WHEREAS the creation of an additional layer of bureaucracy in the Capital Planning Region will require funding to operate;

AND WHEREAS Bill 37 contemplates the member municipalities agreeing on the funding that each will contribute to meet the expenses of the Capital Planning Region, or in the absence of agreement the minster must prescribe each member's share of this funding;

AND WHEREAS any annual funding support provided to the Capital Planning Region by the City of Winnipeg should be considered in an open and transparent way as part of the City's annual budget process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Recommendation 1 of Item 8 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated March 15, 2021 be amended adding the following immediately after "be endorsed by Council":

"with the following amendments:

A. In Appendix B, Section 3 – Funding the Capital Planning Region, under 'City of Winnipeg Position', add the sentence "Any City of Winnipeg operating support for the Capital Planning Region be subject to annual Council approval as part of the budget process."

Motion No. 9
Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS Bill 37, The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act, proposes significant changes to the land use planning appeal process and establishes the Capital Planning Region (CPR) Board for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recently introduced Bill 64 which eliminates 37 school divisions and replaces them with 15 regional entities that report to a centralized, unelected education authority which will ultimately reduce local representation from Winnipeg compared to other regions of the Province, despite Winnipeg having a much larger population than the other regions;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of Bill 37 (10.21(1)E) states that the Minister may make regulations establishing the voting structure for the CPR including providing the votes of the regional member municipalities be weighted in approximate proportion to their relative population, land values, degree of development activities or any other factor considered relevant by the Minister;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Council's 2 representatives on the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region are currently working collaboratively with the representatives of other member municipalities on the regional plan (Plan2050) for the CPR;

AND WHEREAS as the municipality with the vast majority of residents within the CPR it is imperative that the City of Winnipeg's voting weight on the newly established CPR Board be reflective of its status as the municipality with the most residents in the CPR;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Recommendation 1 of Item 8 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated March 15, 2021 be amended by deleting the period after "Council" and replacing with the following amendments:

1. *In Appendix B, Section 1- Creation of a Capital Planning Region, under 'City of Winnipeg Position', delete "The City of Winnipeg has no concerns with the Section" and replace with "The City of Winnipeg ensure that it's voting weight on the Capital Planning Region Board appropriately reflects Winnipeg's status as the member municipality with the largest population in the Capital Planning Region."*

2. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. We will start with Councillor Gilroy to introduce the item. Followed by Councillor Gillingham and then Mayor Bowman.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise…I will be supporting the main motion and the amending motions that are in front of us here today. This…we are at a critical time where Bill 37 right now, it's going to be Bill 48, is being debated at the legislature as we speak. So, it's really important that the administration has recommendations from Council on how they feel about the major changes that are in front of us here today. So, I'm hoping that we could all agree on some of the issues that we have in front of us. We want to make sure that we have local residents that they have a voice and a right to appeal in addition to homeowners. We want to know that we have…that there is criteria from Municipal Boards to consider adjudicating appeals. We want to ensure timeframes for decisions on fair and reasonable…that are reasonable for stakeholders. The City needs to be clear on related cost sharing revenue and other benefits associated with land use, planning, infrastructure and service sharing. These decisions really do impact the city. So, no matter where you feel on a Municipal Board taking over some of these requirements, there are concerns that we have to be prepared for as a city, and right now, there's ongoing dialogue that's taking place between our City officials and officials at the legislature and they need to be able to speak on behalf of Council and how we feel. So, I know that we could be, you know, Councillor Mayes raised some key points on, you know, wanting to split this up. I don't think we should. We could all be, you know, dividing this up 16 ways. I think we should vote on this here today. This is really critical as these issues are being discussed. There's also work being done with Councillor Browaty and Councillor Gillingham with the capital region plan. So, there's a lot of discussions taking place. And as a city, you know, we really need to show where we stand on some of these issues. We need to bring light some of the concerns that we are having. And you know, this is a major change. And we really need to understand as a city how these changes are going to impact our planning. One of the most…most important things for me is you know secondary plans, right? And you know, that is our major role here as a city and our job is to ensure how we plan our city and how we make sure that planning is done in an organized manner.

So, we need to make sure that we are asking the right questions, sending our concerns to the legislature on matters of planning and land use. And making sure that our voice is being heard. The only way that the administration can really do that is if we have one common voice. So, I'm hoping that you consider the motions that are in front of you here today. I think the administration did a good job trying to relay the message. I know that we aren't going to agree maybe on all points, but I think for most cases we can all agree these are concerns, we should know the financials. We should know how they are going to manage this new planning and how it's going to impact us. And I think that we need to have that debate here on the floor of council. And I think we should need…we need to really look and ask the tough questions on how this is going to be cost shared between the different municipalities and how some of the decisions of the board could really impact our planning here in the city. So, these are all things that the administration have read in the report that's in front of us here today. I hope you support this. I think that things are moving very, very rapidly. So, we do need to have a response to these matters. And of course, I think these are all concerns that we should all be sharing. I think they are very reasonable. So, I hope that you consider and look forward to the debate in hearing what my councillor colleagues have to say.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Gillingham, your opportunity to speak to the main item and your amending motion.

Councillor Gillingham: Okay, will I be speaking to…I guess I can't speak to amending Motion 9 yet because it hasn't been introduced, right? Correct?

Madam Speaker: I think it's been circulated. Certainly, hasn't been an issue.

Councillor Gillingham: I just want to…I'll just speak to…my point is, I will just speak to everything to save everybody time if that's okay.

Madam Speaker: No, we don't want to save time today.

Councillor Gillingham: Even the one that has not been introduced. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank Councillor Gilroy as well. I will be supporting the administrative report and the amending Motions 8 and 9. I want to thank Councillor Gilroy for seconding amending Motion 8 and thank councillor…pardon me, Mayor Bowman, excuse me and Councillor Rollins for amending Motion No. 9. I've said it before, I am a believer in regional collaboration and regionalism. I think that there is a lot of potential that we have as a capital region when we are working together, working in partnership. There's a lot of potential for effective land use in our communities. And there's a lot of potential for effective economic development and growth in our region. And our competitiveness, when we're competing as a region against other regions across the country or even in the US and I think a move towards that is certainly positive. I appreciate the opportunity the Mayor has given me to serve on the Capital Region Board right now with Councillor Orlikow, previously with Councillor Lukes as well. And the Winnipeg Met Region Board does some really, really good work. They have been tasked with the development of Plan 20-50 and that work is ongoing. And Plan 20-50 is something that's born…that comes right out of Bill 37. There is a lot of work left to do. I appreciate the efforts that our administration has put in. And I appreciate the advocacy work of AMM. I know Councillor Browaty is on AMM. And I appreciate the AMM board and I appreciate the work of the Winnipeg Met Region, all three, City' Public Service. This council took a position early last spring on what was Bill 48. AMM, Winnipeg Met Region, all have been kind of working with, lobbying, speaking to the Province about changes that we we want to see and some of those changes have happened. It has been somewhat effective because we have seen the change from Bill 48 to what is now Bill 37. So, I think that needs to be acknowledged and I want to thank everyone who has made the effort to see the bill strengthened. But there are still items in Bill 37 that remain a concern for the City of Winnipeg and rightly so. And they are laid out in this report in appendixes A and B. Not the least of which, in appendix B, the idea that a secondary plan should be a pre-condition of development application. To me, that is…that's common sense. That just makes sense, you need a secondary plan before you start receiving and approving development applications. In appendix A where there's discussions related to some of the concerns, and Councillor Gilroy noted a couple of them related to, you know, what items go to the Municipal Board. And what is, you know…the fact the Municipal Board is an appointed body. It's unelected individuals and therefore not accountable to the residents of this region like we are accountable around this chamber. So, there are some outstanding matters that still need to be dealt with. Motion No. 8, the amending motion, just reflects the fact that member municipalities are going to have to pay to meet the expenses of the capital region planning body. Each municipality will have to, including the City of Winnipeg of course, will have to make a contribution. We do so now. We make a contribution to the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region operations as does every other municipality, all 18. But when you look at Bill 37 and what is to come in the capital region planning, I…the costs are only going to go up. This is going to be not an insignificant body when it's all said and done. Within significant…with considerable work, with considerable power certainly. And so, I can only imagine that the City of Winnipeg's cost and contribution level is going to increase in future years. What Motion No. 8 says is that, any City of Winnipeg operating support for the capital planning region be subject to the annual Council approval as part of the budget process. We bring our expenditures, our contributions, even grant contributions through the budget process. They are

available in our…to be discussed and debated through the budget process. They ultimately are reflected in our operating and capital budget documents that are published for all to see. So what Motion No. 8 says is that when we have to make the contribution, we need to make that as part of our annual budgeting process. I support Motion No. 9 that will be introduced in just a moment. And just simply to say that if you read through the Bill 37, it does indicate there, there's provisions within Bill 37 that state that the minister may make regulations establishing the voting structure for the capital planning region, including providing the votes of the regional member municipalities be weighted in approximate proportion to the relative population. And so, the motion that you…the therefore be it resolved, I won't read it, is there. And I support the intent of that amending motion as well. Again, just summarize to say that I…we are moving, obviously, collectively as the capital region towards land use planning together. Working more collaboratively on economic development. To do that though, there are several...as we build this, there are several items that need to be addressed. And several complexities that have to be tackled, and issues that have been identified by the Public Service that we need to…that need to be raised. I think there are still changes within the proposed bill that need to be made to make it stronger and to make it ultimately one that ensures success across the capital region.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a pretty significant administrative report and matter affecting local democracy and how development is ultimately approved in municipalities like the City of Winnipeg. I will speak very briefly to the amending motion. As Councillor Gillingham pointed out, Bill 37 contemplates a new capital region planning board. And does give the Minister of Municipal Relations the ultimate ability on how that is structured. And so, given the kind of new powers that are contemplated for this capital region planning board, I think it's incumbent upon us and the voters that this council ultimately represents is to make sure that their voice is heard appropriately at that board. And so, it simply asks that the voting weight of the capital region planning board appropriately reflects Winnipeg's status as a member of the municipality with the largest population in the capital planning region. I think it's a reasonable request given our…the number of Manitobans which are residents of the City of Winnipeg. And the other amending motion from Councillor Gillingham and Gilroy which I've spoken to is just asking for annual…an annual open, transparent accountability measure in our budget for the dollars that would flow to this capital planning region entity. So that, ultimately, all members of Council could see in an, again, open and transparent way. I will speak to the main matter though. And the report I think largely speaks for itself. So, I won't use all my time speaking to it. But Bill 37 is a significant piece of legislation. It is going to alter, ultimately, how land plan usage evolves and is approved in the capital region and in the City of Winnipeg for a generation or two, certainly for the foreseeable future. It was introduced in the middle of a pandemic. It is going before, I understand before committee in the coming days. And so, there is time sensitivity to voting on this today so that our Public Service who is…are part of working groups with the Provincial Government representatives, are able to articulate what the position of the City of Winnipeg is. And also, members of Council could ultimately advocate with the approval of Council for specific positions. That would speak louder I think than necessarily us as individuals. There's a couple concerning points about this…this bill. And I want to acknowledge that there have been amendments made. And that is as a result of the advocacy by members of this council including Councillor Gillingham, Councillor Orlikow and their efforts working with capital region colleagues at the Winnipeg Met Region Board also of course, Councillor Browaty and his leadership efforts with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. There's been excellent dialogue with many third parties and advocacy groups on this matter. I want to thank them for that collaboration and the dialogue that I have been part of and have been trying to lead as well. But now is the time for us, to a) get the update, but b) obviously articulate some positions that we could bring forward as a council. Some of the concerning issues are as follows. Section 235.1 of Bill 35 says that secondary plans are not a pre-condition for development applications to proceed. This is very concerning because it seems to defeat the purpose of having secondary plans in place. Our Public Service is recommending that this section be eliminated and would like our support to articulate that position in their discussions with provincial counterparts. This is a…this condition is…would be imposed on Winnipeg only and not on other municipalities covered by the Planning Act. So, it's obviously very concerning. We see recently the Provincial Government introduce a very controversial Bill 64. And we see in that bill that Winnipeg will now have an equivalent say to other regions in the province on education matters despite having a much larger student population than the other regions. So the concern, of course, is that Bill 37 could ultimately weaken the representation of Winnipeggers through this capital region planning board. Finally, I will just touch on Bill 37 provides a significant right of appeal to Municipal Board for developers, and in ways that are simply not fair to Winnipeggers, Madam Speaker. Currently, the bill is structured, as I understand it, that the right of appeal is there for developers, but not for citizens of any number, with respect to subdivisions or conditional uses. Again, this is a concern, we want to make sure that individuals in our city have ultimately that ability to appeal in a way that makes sense, but ultimately, is given. And this bill, when it comes to subdivisions and conditional use at present, doesn't allow Winnipeggers themselves who are not the developer in question, and the land owner to make that appeal. So, these and other issues in the bill are concerning. The approach that we have taken to date isn't simply to call for the bill to be scrapped, but rather, to offer constructive criticisms and requests for improvements to the bill. Because I think the overall intent of greater collaboration amongst the capital region, streamlining the stated intent is to streamline processes even though I expect and we see in here, there could be additional costs ultimately, and additional time spent as a result of a new structure that's being created above and beyond municipal government. So, concerns with respect to increased red tape, increased costs, increased time. And

I think by offering our requests and our positions through this, this means today will at least allow our voice to be heard as a council at the provincial legislature. Ultimately, they are going to make decisions that they feel are appropriate. But I think having our input is something that Winnipeggers would expect of us. And I'm just mindful that we represent Winnipeg. I want to make sure that we are standing up for Winnipeggers and making sure that they know that local democracy matters, that their voice matters and that when are being asked to provide input with respect to a controversial bill like Bill 37, we are at least presenting our arguments to the Provincial Government in I think a thoughtful and a very concise way, Madam Speaker. So, I'm hopeful that we can vote on and approve both of the amendments as well as the main motion. And I'm hopeful that the Provincial Government will ultimately defer to the recommendations that we would ultimately put forward given that Winnipeg is the largest municipality, representing the majority of Manitobans. And so, I think what this council has to say on this matters. And I think our responsibility to speak up for Winnipeggers matters as well, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I may need some guidance from the Clerk's here. My intent is to move, I think I have to do that initially, to move to separate out the votes on appendix A and appendix B as I'm supportive of the amendments and supportive of appendix B but not to appendix A. I believe I need a two-thirds requirement to do that. Should that fail, I will then ramble on in my usual fashion about the balance of items. But I believe, Mr. Clerk, I'm obliged to at first move that we would split off A and B. Discussed it with my colleague Councillor Gilroy who is not of the same mind, which is fine, but...

Madam Speaker: Okay, sure.

Councillor Mayes: If I have my two minutes or whatever it is, I will make my case. And Councillor Gilroy can do the same.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. We will turn the clock off, thank you. This Item 1 and 2 can be broken out on request by Council. But if we want to separate out just Item 1 to vote on appendix A and B separately, then that would require suspension of the rules which you're asking for and a suspension of the rules. Councillor Mayes, you have...would we do that vote now or after the…sure, you have requested it now and you do have two minutes, Councillor Mayes, to share your reasons why if you wish.

Councillor Mayes: I think Councillor Gilroy can speak in rebuttal.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Mayor Bowman: Sorry, just for clarity. Are you allowed to speak when you're moving a suspension?

Madam Speaker: Yes. Yes.

Councillor Mayes: I'm not trying to delay it. I'm just trying to split them.

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Just with regards to the request to split out Items 1 and 2, does that not need to be in written format?

Madam Speaker: No, Item 1 and 2 can be voted on separately as per regular rules, but Councillor Mayes is asking that we essentially have three votes. Item 1, you would like separated so we can vote for appendix A and B separately. That's what the request is. And now Councillor Mayes is going to give his reasons why. Okay. And then we'll have a vote on it.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. Yes, not trying to delay to a different meeting, a more of a Nason like attempt to split out some of the recommendations here. In this case as stated, recommendation number one, I think A and B are quite different in character. I'm supportive of the amendments. B is the central planning aspect of it, the capital region. My thanks to Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Gillingham who have explained the positions here on that. I defer to them on that matter. And however, on appendix A, and I will have more to say on this later, I think that's a different set of recommendations. That goes more to the enlargement of the Municipal Board and the Municipal Board's jurisdiction over City of Winnipeg functions. I think it is time we say, we've got a quasi judicial model here that isn't working, that it does appear to be broken. We have different rules. We have different approaches in terms of different matters. One example, 20 Berrydale comes to community committee in 2016, there's a public hearing. I side with the residents. I say, don't allow the split. It then goes up to PPD Committee. Councillor Wyatt is on there, he thinks differently. But there's no chance for the residents to speak,

we've already had the public hearing. So, it just goes ahead and he changed it. Luckily, I'm on EPC though, and Russ isn't anymore, so at the next level, I change it back. And Councillor Orlikow had this going once, four different levels and changes with the Silver Building, I think. I don't think that's a great model if you have some groups that can present at some levels or not. I don't know if this is ideal what the Municipal Board is, I'll speak more to that later. I do feel strongly though that there's a difference between appendix A and B. And now, the strategy, how do people vote if they want it all to fail or not. So, I (inaudible) the house. I'm going to vote how I choose to vote. But I do think...I don't want to vote against B if…unless I have to, but I feel strongly that I'm not supportive of the changes in A for reasons I will elaborate later.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy, would you like to rebut?

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, and thank you through you, Madam Chair. I guess...I guess I…Councillor Mayes, I understand that Councillor Mayes through you, Madam Chair has concerns. But I just…I guess I don't share the same issue that he has. I think this is a package deal. We have major issues going on. We have major changes to how we are going to do planning here in the city. And we have to look at that. And this isn't kind of splitting this up. You know, we are probably going to see, you know, a planning board and that's going to happen. I don't...I don't necessarily agree with…on that things aren't done well here. I think they are. So, I guess I don't agree with Councillor Mayes' analogy about some of the issues he has had within his own ward that he has raised in terms of these. I think that we have concerns that are in front of us here that we have to be dealing with. We have, right now at the legislature, we have people debating this as we speak. This bill is going through. It's going through rapidly. And we need to have some kind of consensus. And I think that it goes without saying that something strong being split up isn't always the right move. I think something coming out of this council where we have some sort of consensus and we might not all agree and maybe we don't all support it, but I wouldn't throw out the baby with the bath water. There are some things in here that some of us might have concerns over, but you know what, like…this…we need to act on this. And we need to make sure that we are looking at these as a package deal. You know, I think we all can say that we have issues that residents should have the right of appeal just like a homeowner. I think that's critical. I don't think we would all argue that. I think we would all say that, you know, it's critical for the Municipal Board to consider adjudicating appeals, which ones should be adjudicated. We should know that as a city, which ones are going to be going to that body. And you know, once a decision is made from the Municipal Board will they be coming back to the City? Will we have an opportunity to work with that developer on things that have been changed at the Municipal Board? We are the planners, planning of municipality. This is our job and this is our role. So, these issues that are raised in here is critical for us to make sure that we are sharing that with the legislature because they are the ones making this bill. So, I guess for me, this is a package deal. We should be looking at all these things. We might not all agree on each and every one of them. But I guess I just don't support breaking them up at this time and we should move forward with this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that, we will have the vote, Mr. Clerk.

Councillor Mayes: Does that needed to be recorded given that it's two-thirds?

Madam Speaker: Nobody has asked yet. Okay, we will have a recorded vote on suspending the rules to break up clause one into two votes for appendix A and B. All in favour of that request, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Nason, Schreyer, Eadie, Klein, Lukes, Mayes and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Allard and Orlikow, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Rollins, and Santos

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 7, Nays 9.

Madam Speaker: The request for the suspension is lost. Councillor Mayes, you wish to speak to the item?

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. Preliminarily, none of this of what I say should reflect on John Kiernan who has been good humoured and very professional in all my dealings, occasionally my rather profane from me dealings about planning matters. So, I would not want any of this to reflect on John. But you know, I don't think it's…it's nobody's fault here that we've got a system that is problematic and that doesn't really work. It's not a system we designed. It's a system that's been with the City of Winnipeg for decades. Old St. Boniface Residents Association case; still got the book right here. I

remember objecting to this when I was in admin law, little realizing that 20 years later I would be here debating it. Some turgid legal statements about the party alleging bias must establish there's a prejudgment on the matter, in fact, to the extent that any representations at variance with the view which has been be adopted would be futile. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that support in favour of a measure before the committee and a vote in favour will not constitute disqualifying bias. And then, great lengthy discussion about quasi judicial matters. We're, I think, trying to graft on a quasi, somewhat judicial hearing body onto what we do. Lately we have been told, oh, you can talk to people before the public hearing. For decades, we've been told you couldn't, suddenly a change in practice. Poor Councillor Allard comes in his first meeting as a councillor, I remember this, saying, well, I talked to these people during the election campaign because they had this issue and now I can't vote on this, and he was right. It's no fault of his. He's trying to do his job. He's trying to be an elected official which is what, primarily, we are. So, I think the model that we've had, as indicated, and there are various examples, 20 Berrydale is one of them, not in the Glenwood area interestingly, where these matters go back and forth. Bizarrely you have the public hearing and then the public can't reappear, but the admin can reappear, and comments get made and questions get asked with only one side present in the room. I don't think that is a good model. We also have the Appeals Committee, and I know that's not a good model, and that deals with variances and conditional uses. Membership changes every two months, nobody gives any deference to what the previous group said, nor do they have to. It becomes people start judge shopping. They want to appear two months later because that's when my committee's sitting or somebody else's committee is sitting. As one of my residents said, so the admin has favoured 108 of these lot splits in a row and some councillors have voted against this 20 times in a row and we are supposed to be upset that the Province is going to set up a judicial panel with people who are professionals who are going to hear these matters and will be on equal footing on the other side. Why would we be upset with that? And it's a fair question from the residents. And some people from staff here have said, well, guess what, the Appeals Committee's still going to hear some of these conditional uses and variances. And I suppose that may be the model, but I don't know that I would have designed it this way if I could have, but the Province has designed a model that I think will reflect some even-handedness in dealing with these matters. We may quarrel about who is appointed or not. I see Rick Borotsik is on the Municipal Board now. I had very good dealings with Rick Borotsik when I didn't vote for him, but I was a school trustee and he was an elected official out of Brandon. Never had any issues with Rick or his judgment. So, I don't think we should look down on the people who are on the Municipal Board now or who may be sometime in the future. So, I think it opens an opportunity. As indicated, I'm supportive of the amendments. Supportive of appendix B. Orlikow, Gillingham, Gilroy, all doing good work there on the regional planning stuff. That's all I'll say about that. But I have to say, I'm upset to see a recommendation on appendix A that says, well, yes, they have listened. They have listened. They have said we're going to have citizens able to get to this group as well, not just developers to get to the Municipal Board. And our staff are saying, well, but this is an inordinate…there will be an inordinate number of appeals with the number of objectors that you have said. Shouldn't there be a higher standard? And I have debated this with the staff and I don't think there should be a higher standard. I don't think that's democratic. We say hey, make this accessible to the residents and then we come back and say no, no, no, that threshold is too low. I don't agree with that at all. I feel quite strongly about that. So, I will with some reluctance then vote against the whole package. But the debate here around, I mean, we talked about Complete Communities at the executive level and after I spoke, somebody got up and said, well, we shouldn't be trying to politicize Complete Communities. We shouldn't…you're making political comments. We shouldn't be trying to politicize that. Well, is that our view or is our view here today that hey, we're going to lose political control over planning and that's anti-democratic. Well, we can't have it both ways. We can't criticize some councillors for saying, well, you are trying to politicize things. So, it's no one's fault here today about the way this system functions, but I do think it's created occasional animosity here that is unfortunate. I think it's grafted on a partially judicial model onto the shoulders of we elected officials creating this artificiality where you can't talk to residents once the formal hearing notice has been submitted. But then again, what if you are on a committee that's hearing this on appeal or what if it's coming to EPC and it's been rejected? It's a very convoluted model. I have appeared in front of the Ontario Municipal Board in my time. I thought I got a fair hearing. I thought it…I didn't have to dress up in robes. It wasn't a courthouse. It was reasonably informal. Nobody seemed intimidated to me. I would hope the same standards apply with the Manitoba Municipal Board. So, the…it is, I think, incumbent on us to have made some of the recommendations we did. I'm pleased to see Bill 37 incorporate some of those changes that we have requested in terms of allowing citizens access to this process. How will it work exactly? I don't know. I think some of that will be determined in regulation. Someone said to me, well, isn't this contradictory of you? You are the one criticizing with your colleagues the education bill. No, it isn't contradictory because that bill wipes out an entire elected level of government; the school trustees. I think that's deplorable. I don't favour that. And will at when the time comes, say more about that. This takes away one strand of decision-making that we have on a certain number of items and says, not that the Province will decide it, but that a judicial…quasi judicial panel will decide it. When I was a lawyer and I had people with Canada Pension Plan matters that they were upset with, we appeared before the pension appeal board. Dan Vandal wasn't there. Other MPs didn't sit on it. When I had people who were upset with the Provincial Government on welfare or social assistance matters, we appeared at the social assistance review board and got a hearing. Rick Borotsik, Scott Smith, Drew Caldwell, Theresa Oswald, Christine Melnick…they weren't there. They were all elected officials. They had passed the legislation and a quasi judicial panel heard the results. So I'm afraid, similarly, I think we are headed to that model here. We will have…continue to have some broad ability to direct, but I have to say, it's maybe not the planning commission some of us might have wanted, but I do think some changes have been made. So, I don't agree with the staff provisions

here that talk about we will have an inordinate number of cases brought by the citizens. The citizens will bring whatever they can, I think, to the appeal, and they will get a fair hearing. And they may win some and they lose some. I think right now we've got a model that doesn't give a coherent manner of hearing these applications and so with some reluctance, I'm going to vote against the…I wish it had been separated, it hasn't been, but I'll vote against both. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Browaty, followed by Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I guess my biggest concern right now with even Bill 37, even though we have gone through Bill 48 and onto Bill 37 now, is there are still so many unknowns. There's a lot of key details that should be in the legislation that the Province is sort of pushing down to the next phase with the regulations. So I mean, really, like when it comes down to things like the costs for municipalities, that's huge. The whole idea of shared benefits and shared costs, you know, the costs of our social issues in downtown Winnipeg, our costs of policing. You know, the idea of service sharing, things like that, certainly concerns. I do want to thank Mayor Bowman for your leadership and staying on top of this issue working with capital region, AMM, we…that is very much appreciated. I would like to thank Councillor Orlikow and co-chair of the capital region, Councillor Gillingham for all your diligence on the file. In terms of the two amendments today, item…Motion 8, in terms of dealing with the costs, I think that's only a prudent thing to do is that we do review that every year at Council and consider that. In terms of amendment 9, you know, it does need to be said, Winnipeg is the big dog in the capital region and we do need to have a proper amount of influence. What that is and what that looks like needs to be defined and the fact that it hasn't been broached yet I think is a problem. You know, I love the village (inaudible). It is part of the capital region. My parents have a cottage up at Matlock. It has under a thousand people year-round. They should not have the same influence as the City of Winnipeg when it comes to capital region planning decisions that impact the City of Winnipeg in particular. So, you know, when it comes to their own destiny, absolutely. Again, the idea that we're all working together and pulling together I think is important. I mean, I do support the idea of a capital region and to have a proper level of influence so that, you know, we are all pulling in the same direction. Other municipal metros around Canada, North America are pulling together. You need to have that collaboration. And sometimes when, you know, you're competing it doesn't make sense that, you know, one part of the community decides to get over aggressive and give away too much to attract a certain piece of business. You know, you want to be competitive, but I mean, you want to compete against the Edmonton region and not just, you know, Headingley to attract a particular business. So again, I…there's good and there's bad in it and there's still a lot of details that are unknown. The idea that this was going to, you know, streamline processes and make things a lot faster, I think that's where the Province was initially trying to go, I'm not sure that they've achieved that through what's here, but I think the intention is good. And I think going forward, you know, we can make this work and it could be a benefit to all the partners in the capital region including the City of Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Browaty. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, when I first entered Council and sat on my first appeal rotation I found it a bit appalling that colleagues didn't necessarily put words on the record to support their decision making. And I think that you have to, you know, you have to assume that this bill could do better. And I have a lot of sympathy for my council colleague who holds ambitions for this bill because I share some of the ambitions I think that he has. However, you'd also have to assume that there is transparent criteria and a framework for decision making inside this bill and there isn't. And so, the bill has gotten better. And I think it has gotten better by this council's interventions. And I think that this is what this package does. It's basically a negotiating mandate. And I am supportive of it. I don't agree with everything that is in it. And I think that there's opportunity to lend our voices to that. But I think that there is opportunity here to go forward with that. The quasi judicial model that we have I think instead of asking are we broke, I think that we need to…I don't think that that is the question. I think that the question is, can we develop a bill and build in some criteria framework that will work for Winnipeggers. And right now, we are missing some pieces that I think Winnipeggers would want us to see as vigorously advocating for, Madam Speaker. I think that there is some things in this bill like criteria for the Municipal Board themselves, and who those members are. The criteria for decision framework for decision making like I mentioned, we have that in…within OurWinnipeg, our policy. We have to contemplate that every time we think of a street or waterway and we think of that criteria, but this bill does not clarify that. And with some quick writing, it could. I also think that there's room for improvement to get the details right in this bill with respect to, and Councillor Browaty mentioned it, Madam Speaker, tax sharing or as I say, revenue sharing. I think I hold ambitions that it has that in writing within the legislation, otherwise I don't think any subsequent task force will be equal to the task if there isn't some high-level principles built in this bill. So why wouldn't we be an advocate for Winnipeg? And why wouldn't we be an advocate for this bill? I'm certainly an advocate for this bill. I'm an advocate for regional planning. I like the social, environmental, the equity and the economic harmony that it might bring to our region. And I think that is the benefit of this bill, but it does need some criteria. It does need some time periods. It does need clear and concise wording on revenue sharing and service sharing and that should be built into the legislation. So, there is room to improve the bill even more, Madam Speaker. And so, I will be supporting this package today. I will be supporting the advocacy that provides Winnipeggers with what they have been accustomed to, access to democracy. I think that we owe it to our residents, in particular, my residents that benefit from their secondary plans. I

think that we owe a vigorous representation and to me that's what these packages are about. Do I like everything in them? Absolutely not, I don't. But can I live with them so that we can go forward as a city and vote in favour of making sure that councillors that voters put in place to do the job that we do in the first place, is strengthened through the process of the bill, yeah. So, those are my thoughts today, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Any further speakers? Councillors Schreyer, Nason and Eadie. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, there's been some good points made today and it makes me think. And His Worship made some points, I believe Councillor Gillingham as well, on accountability including as His Worship said, accountability through the elected individuals at City Hall. Making the point that the Public Utilities Board, as an example, isn't elected. So, it's a…I actually never thought of it like that before, and it's a good point. It does make me think, however, about the fact that, it still comes into play the office for public consultation. I'm trying to figure out how this plays into it. Now, in my first or second year as a councillor, I put forth a motion that we actually asked the Provincial Government to take on the issue of our water rates, that it become part of the purview of the Public Utilities Board. And the reason I did this is because I didn't like the fact that we had increased our dividend by 50%, at the time from 8% to 12%. The dividend which is now 11%, but we've increased our dividend…get rid of it, but the dividend we pay from our water rates, and then it goes into general revenue. And I thought that it was not essentially in the spirit of Canadian taxation given what water means to the functionality of our society, including in the lower income communities, the fact that we have been reducing our water consumption for decades. And part of the response to that is they just have to raise our rates anyway just to keep up with revenue because we've reduced our water consumption. Then they re…they increase our rates anyway. Great for the lower income communities doing their jobs. They gain nothing from this. It's a poor tax. And then I was told, you know, well, the argument against my concerns was, well, look; you know, we have consultation any time because we've got these committees. And anyone could be part of the consultation at any time. All right. On that basis, why do we have the Office of Public Consultation? Because I know for…we all know that the Office of Public Consultation often deals with issues that are going to be dealt with in these very same committees for which I was told we don't need the public hearings that a Public Utilities Board would have because we are always in consultation because we are always in committee here. So, you know, there's an ambiguity. I'm not saying that can't be the case. What I'm saying is, as I said earlier in today's meeting, I'm baffled by how we use the Office of Public Consultation and that, you know, I'm not saying it's a bad office. I'm saying it's not maximized. It's not utilized to its maximum. And I feel maybe that's where we are here. Bear in mind, make no mistake, that just because I was alone in the first budget voting against the budget or you know, maybe the first to talk about the issues of abusing water, water rates as a form of revenue for general revenue. Like I wasn't alone, eh. And so, bear that in mind. At least the office of…the Public Utilities Board has specific hearings for such a thing. Now, bear in mind where we are today. And I've been on the Finance Committee for a few months. And we are given our inputs and outputs between water and waste…inputs into water and waste, and outputs out of water and waste, as an example. And it shows, to this day, despite at least…not just me, Councillor Eadie and others have made their point about…about using water and waste rates or water rates as a form of tax and putting it to general revenue anyway. And by the way, it was Councillor Eadie, not me, who first called it a Ponzi scheme. I didn't know people didn't know that…didn't know that he said it first. So, I said it second but it was actually Councillor Eadie that made the good…made the good point. It was meant in metaphor. I had no idea how realistic that comment would be in terms of where we are. But the fact that we could have been saving that money, keeping it in water and waste for when we started our plans for our water sewage treatment plant, our new water sewage treatment plant, but we didn't. So therefore, we are asking for money because we took the money out. Well, when my…we said Ponzi scheme, it was a metaphor. But it's closer to reality than I thought when I said it, honestly. And so, there we go, so for anybody who took umbrage with what I said, I meant in a metaphor, but I…but at the same time, I didn't know how realistic it would be, nor do I think Ross Eadie realized how realistic it would be. We take the money out, and now we got to put the money back in. The money's not there, so we have to get the money from general revenue which is where we put the money in from our water rate. So, go figure. There's more than a couple of parallels there with the Ponzi scheme. So, you know, I didn't mean anything by it, other than a metaphor, but look, this is where we are at. So, it happens to be, now that on the Finance Committee, when you look at inputs and outputs out of Water and Waste Department, that it mentions inputs coming in and there's inputs going into water and waste and inputs coming out. And they don't mention that inputs going out. They do not actually specify it in these financial reports at the Standing Committee on Finance that the inputs going out. It says other. At one point there's a segment…there's an output saying other. And that other includes the…our water rate dividend. It's not mentioned specifically. So here we are, kind of talking about accountability, and when the report to the Standing Committee on Finance talks about the inputs and the outputs between Water and Waste Department and let's say general revenue, it mentions though, the water rate dividend as an other. In fact, it doesn't mention it specifically. And on that basis, it gives the impression that easily look…make it look like where people can be mislead into believing easily that the water rate dividend doesn't exist or if it doesn't, so minimal, you can't even see it. But the reality is even in that…even in that line item saying "other", the water dividend…your water rate dividend is the majority of that output. And it's greater than the input going into water and waste from general revenue or whatever. So, it makes it look like water and waste is being subsidized in some way, which is artificial. Because the reality is, water and waste is subsidizing other things. People that live in the

poorest communities in this city have, you know, reduced their water consumption. Then their water rates go up. Then after…so they reduce their water consumption even more…you're trying to save money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Time is up, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: And yet, we take their money and put it in the general revenue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, the Deputy Speaker is speaking. Deputy Speaker is speaking. Your time rang up and I don't think anybody's moving extra time.

Councillor Schreyer: I didn't realize it rang up. Excuse me, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will leave it at that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Thank you. Councillor Nason, you are next in order to speak to the amendments and report.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to start with an old Brady Bunch, Marcia, Marcia, Marcia. All I hear is province, province, province from many of my colleagues. You know, there was a released (inaudible) with regards to the education bill. Several of my colleagues, you know, including you Mr. Deputy Speaker, were upset over the change in process there. I know the NDP have moved that as one of their priority bills. I don't know if they have done that with this yet. They get five that they can lay over to the fall. Perhaps, you know, those colleagues that were very upset about the education bill, maybe they can lobby their NDP friends to defer to this matter as well. But, you know, I can look back at my time at the Province and some of the legislation that we were dealing with and some of the challenges that were there because, you know, we are talking about things that are missing from the legislation. Well the problem is, the previous government had tied so much regulation into the legislation, it made it very difficult to move anything. So that's why the devil is in the details. So, the legislation might not speak to everything that, you know, the wants and desires of the big kid on the block which is the City of Winnipeg. However, you know, in regulation is where I believe a lot of this will be fleshed out and fears put at ease. Trust in partnerships, we have that regularly here at City Hall. We have the same challenge. I view non-EPC members as sort of like the loyal opposition. We've got challenges here as well with some of the legislation that gets rammed through, through the power of the Mayor and his Executive Policy Committee and the supporting others that are there with it. But I see…I…I can't support any of this. I will be voting against it. I do have hope that the Province will be a good, honest broker on this, and that the legislation will go forward because they do have the voting block to push it forward either now or in the fall. And the details will be flushed out in the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You're welcome, Councillor Nason. Is the Speaker back yet? No? I will forego…I was next in order. Who is…oh, okay. Is there anybody else who was on the list to speak? No, okay.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie, I can recognize you for this item and then we will go back to the speakers list. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you. I think I was after Councillor Nason. Anyway. Well, I have to say, it's very complex because there's a number of issues. And yeah, they made some improvements, that's for sure from one bill to the other. And of course, this is only the legislation. What's in the regulations will be the devil or it will be good. But I have to say, the way they have been proceeding, like, and based on some questions I asked of the Deputy Minister and people like, they still don't understand the conflicting Municipal Board decisions versus our departmental decisions when it comes under development agreements. And these will be partly of what is being appealed to the Municipal Board unless the Municipal Board itself has appointed large urban area experts. Maybe, maybe one of us will be retired and get appointed to it in '22, I don't know. But I just wanted to say it because I know some councillors who are very good at this kind of stuff. But…which I hear is partly why people say we have a problem with how we proceed in making decisions on appeal. And it would be really good to be consistent, Madam Speaker. You know, but I'm totally glad that Mayor Bowman understands and we all I think understand the importance of a secondary plan in a city because that secondary plan, it addresses things of what the capability of that land is in the area. You know, actually, the whole metro Winnipeg region should actually have to have secondary plans and I will explain why. Like Councillor Nason's ward, Transcona. There's no secondary plan in Springfield for them to decide where they're going to build big industrial plants. No consideration given to Winnipeg's plan to supposedly build more residential out towards there. I don't think we should be…we should…you know, when a…when that area gets developed, you know, I hope the secondary plan realizes there's major industrial not far away. Like, this is why we have secondary plans. It's very important. And so, like ultimately, I'm going to…like, it's too bad we didn't subdivide A and B because the problem is, you don't get to vote and say, well, you didn't support that. So, somebody might go and say, Madam Speaker, because I intend on appearing. And I noticed Mayor Bowman is appearing at committee when it gets there. I think…I can't remember when that is. But Madam Speaker, the Mayor will be representing what's in this report. I don't know that he will be going against any items that we have listed here. But if Councillor Mayes is attending, and he is going to be speaking to something different because he is quite concerned about appendix A. And you know,

he's got some legitimate concerns. Things that need to be fixed. I don't know if this provincial means of doing it is the best, but you know, you got to be careful because the detail will be in the regulation you get, and it may be worse. So, it might be better or it could be worse. I don't know. But Madam Speaker, my biggest problem with this bill is when it comes to development agreements. Councillor Schreyer was just explaining about the problem. So, even when we talked about CSO, you know, the thing is…and now, all their plans say we have land drainage leaks. So, that's good when we're building these areas because we don't have that combined sewer problem. But ultimately, it's the water bill payers who are paying for things. So, if you've got an interceptor to allow industrial area to do it…so, the sewer interceptor, I believe we have one going into the RM of Rosser's CentrePort. I can't remember if that's there, but we definitely have one going into West St. Paul. So, who paid for that? The water bill payers, not the developers. Not…the interceptors paid for under your water bill. It's part of the capital program. It gets pushed into what your water rates are which is what is happening with the sewer plant because that's how the City of Winnipeg is paying its way to go while borrowing money as well. So, but anyway, I don't want to get into just the water. You know, the little thing they tried out…oh, and there's some minor things like we are talking about changing development agreements at the permit stage. Well, you know, this goes to what Councillor Chambers is talking about. You know, actually, there are in Osborne Village where there's a secondary plan, they are building a tank there because the capacity is not there, but they are letting move ahead and building because they're going to have a holding tank and then it will release at the proper time. Because by the time we pay…we get the water bill payers to pay for combined sewer overflow, that's there. So, anyway, but…and it's too bad they didn't consider that in the…when we came up with the secondary plan, Madam Speaker. And we could plan a lot better. I definitely can…our departments need to plan a lot better. But my problem is, is Councillor Mayes has a big problem there in Glenwood neighbourhood. Well, you know, if there was a secondary plan that acknowledged that, you know what, there's not enough sidewalks, the back lanes are gravel, it can't really sustain the kind of increase of infills that's happening there. You know. It's…anyway. The whole point is, if we have a secondary plan, then you can come up with parameters for development agreement. But the way it goes now, so you're going to let it go to the Municipal Board. Somebody's going to decide well, that person didn't have to pay it, why should I? And they will say, you know what, you are right. You don't have to pay for it. Well then, who is paying for it? Because the permit…a development should not move ahead because if the City's recommending that you need to pay for this and do it, it needs to be done. It's not like somebody is profiting because we are making you do something under a development agreement. Like, actually building a sidewalk, Madam Speaker. I have no confidence in the Province to help this. Anyway, on the bigger picture, when it comes to development agreements and we're in the metro region and the bigger plan is coming along, ultimately, the development agreements will be influenced by the Province and its Municipal Board. So, if there are situations where an interceptor, for example, has to be paid for, then the Province should pop up the money to pay for if. That's what I think. But that's not going to be in the rules. I can be sure with that with the elected government that's there right now. There's no way, no way. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, people often ask me, and I guess maybe it's because I'm new to the world. Because I know a lot of my colleagues have been in the political sphere before they became councillors, I was not. But why the City and Province can't get along. Lately my answer has been that is far too long of a story for me to respond at this time, I'm too old and wouldn't make it to the end. The gap between water and waste bills and property taxes is closing. I haven't had one person phone my office and say, you have to fight the Province on this bill. It is ridiculous. It's not democratic. Do everything you can to fight the Province. But I've had a number of residents call me and complain about development decisions we have made. Glenwood residents called. They're not happy about it. I've had people call about houses that ignored the plans that were approved because the City just allows that to happen. The reality that I see, and again, this is just me, is that this bill is the result of several residents going to the Province and complaining about the dysfunction that we have when it comes to property, planning and development. This was out of need, not desire. And unfortunately, as I listen, I'm hearing all these comments that I can't help but think, trying to be…really, look at it from a different level, that it's just a power trip now. We want to have more say than the RMs. Is that really because we are bigger? Or is that because somebody wants to control the outcome? I guess, you know, that's a decision we all have to make. Why are we any different than the RMs? Why are…if we are simply going to run that board, why would they do it? How is that fair to the RMs? I mean, we fight about this. We're arguing about this. We didn't want a planning commission. That wouldn't work, now we are getting one, so I can understand why a pseudo planning commission. But this council stepped back and got the Province involved in the Polo Park development because that was just too hot of a topic for us. So now, they had to deal with the airport thing. We didn't deal with it for years and years and years. We didn't ask for a review to be done because we didn't think it was our business. Now we want more votes than our neighbours as I spoke to because that…we are fighting for democracy. Well more votes to me equals control, hence EPC plus two. Sorry. I don't know if that's democratic. You know, we had a councillor that wanted to separate the motion and I guess because the firm voted against him even though he is a member of the firm, it lost. That's control. Do you really know why you voted no to it? Did it really matter? Because you probably would have won the vote. Were you sending a message to say the firm is in charge? I'm calling EPC the firm. I can send you the movie if you'd like.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein, let's stick to the report.

Councillor Klein: Yes, of course, I'm sticking to the report. I heard that in the middle of the pandemic this was released and how bad that that was. However, we are moving forward on several master plans that are going to impact the city. A governance review that's going to impact the city in the middle of a pandemic and we have absolutely no problem. I cannot support motions anymore that are simply being put forward as political positioning so that we can turn around and say, Council unanimously supported this. We have to start getting along with our counterparts. We have to start sitting down at a table because again, nobody is calling me saying, keep going after the Province on this bill. Keep doing this. Keep doing that. Council is right. They are calling to complain about decisions that we are making and they're calling to say, why can't you get along? I was on the call that some of my colleagues were on. I didn't hear that we couldn't have secondary plans. That's not what I heard. And I heard that a lot of it…a lot of the issues would be addressed. And I heard that we are going to have an opportunity to speak. This to me is positioning. And I'm going to go back to the fact that we have a lot more important things to do right now.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, very much, Madam Speaker. Yeah, I will be supporting both of these as well. I do want to acknowledge that many of these issues that we are raising today, especially the underlying themes have been brought up by not just Winnipeg, it's not just a Winnipeg thing. That's what we represent, but fairness, concern over who is going to be appointed to this commission. The idea of who is going to pay for it. The idea of what will the criteria be especially if there is no plan in place by the City. We had the issue already, I can't remember, I think it was Rosser, that the Municipal Board overturned their council decision which…and maybe some councillors like that. I don't know. Maybe they say, you know what, it wasn't my fault. And so, yeah, we do get complaints about developments that people generally don't like. They're not going to call you about developments they do like. They call you about concerns. Now, you know, councillors go, well, wasn't my fault. That's the Municipal Board's fault. Go blame them. Well, I'm not sure how accountable that is. So, when we are talking about accountability and who do we respond to, we respond to the residents. Now, we were working on it and I was pleased to work on improving our process that we presently have, and some people brought up points today, and that's very valid and we should do that. But that should be our decision and then working with the Province to look at how do we enact going forward with our position. Now again, to sit here and say we shouldn't have put out our views and our concerns because, you know, we have to be working together. Well, again, working together has not always...it is something we should always be striving for, but we also have to stand up and advocate for the people that elected us. So, we do have common concerns. It has to be fair. And that means treat each municipality the same. Don't have some rules for Winnipeg as we had before and treat appeals the same. Don't give extra privilege to developers over residents. It's already skewed in my opinion because the developers will be much more funded and be able…much more able to hire people to go represent them, but allow the residents the opportunity to appeal. What about the cost? Who's going to pay for this commission? So, these are valid points. And it's those…it is working together. And sometimes how we work together is we have to collectively put our thoughts together, put a little…and come together as a group and say, these things are pretty important to us. Please, this is the seriousness of it, and that's why we are putting it down in this format to say to the Province who does have the control over this, these are our concerns. It has worked so far. We have got some adjustments. But to sit here today and say, this is just a Winnipeg thing. It isn't. This is municipalities all across, you know, the capital region have expressed the same…many of the same concerns we have. And what they are looking for is fairness. They're looking for accountability, responsibility. And some of the plans and some of the councils…municipalities that are actually a little more…probably are going to be a little more upset than even we are going to be as they have to really readjust. They are very small municipalities. They have a…they don't have the infrastructure that we have to do a lot of this work. And I do hope that we can support them as a city as we go forward. You know, but at the end of the day, it is about fairness. It's about accountability for people who elect us. Now, this could be the planning commission idea. It wasn't the worst idea. You know, generally, councillors get upset when the vote doesn't go their way because it is back and forth. But you know as we've pointed out once before, it took a lot of work by the area councillor from the River Heights-Fort Garry Ward to continually try to advocate through the system by going to committee to say, I think this development is too large for the area and I represent the neighbourhood. End of the day, it went back and forth and then at the last moment, Council sided with the residents. Again, wasn't that sloppy. It was pretty back and forth and confusing. But at the end of the day, we still had an opportunity and the neighbourhood…the residents had an opportunity to make sure their voice was heard. And the person who is going to be voting on that one out of 16 would have some input into that decision making process. My major concern is that we won't have any input. You know, they'd be…might as well just give all the planning and all that over to a person who may be from, I don't know, we will say northern Manitoba who will make that decision for…never been to Winnipeg, but they will make that decision for us. So, Councillor Rollins said it very clearly about the criteria and who's going to be selected for it. You know, the education changes right now, those I do not support at all. The idea that we are going to try to amalgamate all these decision making under this perfect, unified body equally and fairly, well again, the best decisions are the most local decisions and the most accountable decisions. So, you know, as I am leery about going into this modeling of, you know, one commission fits all. There are some very valid points that this report has brought out. So, we should stand together. And again, working together doesn't mean that

we put our head in the sand and say, okay, thank you very much. It says no, we have some concerns and please address them. We are going to voice them. We are going to present them. But of course, we all want to work together to go forward. I am very proud of the Capital Region, the Winnipeg met region. They have…started off, it was difficult for all of us, we all had our preconceived notions about each other, but as the…and as we have gone through these last couple years together, we all actually learned that we all share a lot of the same concerns. And so, the concerns have been raised here today, I don't think they are exclusively Winnipeg's concerns. I think other capital…other regions will also have many of these concerns. So but again, for Winnipeg, these are concerns that should concern people. Development is one of our major things that we do in the City of Winnipeg. And I have actually…get calls once in a while from people who said, thank you for that. That's…actually, I do like that development. But generally, I get the calls from people that the development either lost, they didn't like it and they lost. I've lost a number in my life as well and those are the calls I get. And I understand why. And then we look at it and see why. But there's also many developments that have gone through because of the collaborative work that we have done with each other. So again, that's a local municipal decision making tool, so before we hand it all over, we should be able to voice our concerns and have that brought up to the Province. So, that's what we are doing here today and I will be supporting both.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to say, today's conversation and debate on these two motions has been very good, very informative. I want to thank the Minister of Municipal Relations for calling the meeting that we had with Council members this past week at our PP&D Committee meeting, we had the opportunity to have the department go through each and every concern and I appreciate that. The opportunity to bring forward the City's concerns and to voice them, I think has been very good. I think that we have been able to move the dial in some areas. Sitting through the presentation with the minister and his team this past week, it became clear to me that nothing is 100% decided, that they are still listening to concerns being brought forward. And I think what was really reassuring was to hear that, you know, there will be a review. And anything as significant and dramatic as a change that is being proposed like this, will never be perfect the first time. It will have to be refined. It will have to go through refinement. I think to Councillor Mayes' point, there's absolutely flaws in our system here and I think we have had a lot of time to correct that and haven't. But I do think that the work that AMM has been doing, the work that the metropolitan region has been doing and the members, and it was a great pleasure to sit on that committee. I want to thank the Mayor for putting me on that for the first two terms or sessions, that it is important to bring these points forward and concerns. Ultimately, the Province will do what they want to do, but I do think it's important to bring these concerns forward. And therefore, I will be supporting these two motions.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Any further speakers? We will now close on the amending motions. Councillor Gillingham, Motion 8.

Councillor Gillingham: I think it…does it go 9, 8?

Madam Speaker: Okay. We will do it in reverse order, of course. Mayor Bowman, Councillor Gillingham and Councillor Gilroy.

Mayor Bowman: I will be quick. I think this is an important matter. I actually think we're…if the bill isn't reset, if it isn't improved significantly, the concern isn't in the immediate future, it's really in the months and years to follow that ultimately, you know, residents will come to members of City Council and will be upset that the Municipal Board decided a certain way. And members of Council will be able to say, well, it's not my fault. It's the Municipal Board. So I think you know, democracy and elections matter. People do expect members of their council to represent them. This is one of those instances where we can add our voice to a bill that Councillor Lukes is absolutely right. Ultimately, the Provincial Government will proceed in a way that they deem fit, and that's their democratic ability at the provincial legislature. Ours is to add our concerns and advocate for the residents that we serve and to do our best…best of our ability. And respect everyone's input today on this matter and views around the table. And I hope that folks can support both the amendments and the main administrative report, Madam Speaker. And then hopefully we can get to some of the other matters today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham to close.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree with what's been said. It's been good discussion, good debate. I think this is really, very, very, very important matter that we are dealing with today. And though it may not be something, you know, that we get calls on on a regular basis, if for example there's not changes to cost sharing, and the municipalities adjacent to the city continue to grow which we hope they do, but because of their growth, it necessitates the building of a brand new road just inside the City of Winnipeg. And the City of Winnipeg taxpayers have to pay the lions share of that tens of millions of dollars. We will get calls from residents. So, we are elected to work on this, on behalf of our residents. This is long-term planning. And as has been stated, the Province is going to…has put this ball in motion. And we are participating by calling for amendments and changes to make it stronger, to make it better. And they have

moved somewhat and we hope that they move further. Appreciate the comments that Councillor Orlikow made. And he is exactly right. Small municipalities in the Capital Region, large municipalities in the Capital Region. The number of members, municipalities and AMM, all who have raised concerns about Bill 48/Bill 37 and want to see changes. It's not that they're, you know, we are all acting contrary to the Province, we're just saying, look, this matters at our local level. This matters in our municipality. It matters to our taxpayers. It matters to developers. It matters to how our city grows. It matters to our cost of infrastructure. It matters to the cost of governing. And so, it's really incumbent on us that we do this work. And I really do appreciate the comments that have been made. Once again, I reiterate appreciation for the ongoing effort of our Public Service and the…all the municipalities involved in advocating for appropriate amendments. And it's…and, you know, a couple of councillors, Browaty and Rollins raised this. And I just go back to highlight once again, in my closing comments. Highlight once again, among other things, a decision that Council took back in May of 2020 to put on record a motion that listed, you know, some of the requests, the formal requests that the City would make to the Province as considered amendments to Bill 48 and some of those have come to past. Others haven't. And one that outstanding is E) that the time to provide further detail related to sharing of costs, revenues and other benefits associated with, but not limited to land use planning, infrastructure investments, service sharing, economic development by municipalities and First Nations governments within the Capital Region. I want to thank Councillor Rollins for, at the time, bringing that fact up that there's a real opportunity that we have collectively in the capital region to continue to work with First Nations governments. And that is all very, very important. And so, there's a ways to go before this bill is ultimately adopted. And I trust that the ongoing efforts of those who will be speaking to the bill can result in further improvements because it will really impact where we go as a capital region and what we do here at the City of Winnipeg over the next 30 years.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers, you wanted to move a motion to go past...

Councillor Chambers: Motion to go past 6:00 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers moves a motion to continue the meeting past 6:00 p.m. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Councillor Gilroy to close on the item.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, everybody for the great discussion today. It was a really robust discussion. I think it's very important with this major change that's happening. And I just want to talk a little bit about kind of what I heard from different people throughout the discussion. I mean, this is a major change. And we do need to understand clearly what the Province is going to do with these changes. And with the discussion that we did have with the Province on this issue, there is so much yet they are still working on. So, there is opportunities for us to lend our voice, hopefully to what the final product might look like. I also think it's important to understand is, it wasn't very clear. So, we should be concerned. They're not clear, so the City shouldn't be clear. And we should make sure that we are getting the information we need to make sure we can do our due diligence and be prepared if this finally happens. I also want to talk about, you know, we are not getting some calls in our office. And I think this stuff is really complicated. It took me a long time to really understand that. And a lot of our citizens are kind of looking to us to really kind of have this debate with the Province and to take these issues up because they don't know what a secondary plan is, right? They don't understand what a capital planning region is. So, you know, it's…the onus really is on us as elected people to be making sure that we are standing up and saying what's important to Winnipeggers even when they can't because they maybe aren't as knowledgeable on those topics. So, I think that that's important to raise because this isn't a…I don't think this is something we're going to get lots of calls on, right. Because it is a more of a complex issue. So, and I do want to kind of just kind of mention some of the things, you know, in appendix A here, right. Like, consultation with the minister and region, there was no concerns. Number two, hearings on Plan Winnipeg By-law, no concerns. Secondary plan adoption and amendment process, no concerns. Secondary plan, not a precondition concern. I think every single one of us would have a red flag with that one, right? So that's what we are saying, we have concerns over that. Interpretation; when are objections sufficient? We are monitoring that. We don't know how that's going to impact, right? Alteration two, zoning by-law, no concerns. Cost on appeal of refiling to proceed. Concerns. Right? So, and I just want to go quickly to number 9, that it was a concern. Appeals concerning failing to proceed. Applications may appeal a development application to a Municipal Board if legislative processing deadlines are not met. And this kind of goes to what Councillor Eadie was talking about with regulations. The City of Winnipeg supports predictable, consistent and transparent timelines for development applications, but it's important to note that this should…that should section 282.2 be adopted in its current form, the approval of some development applications will, in fact, take longer. For example, the City will be forced to eliminate concurrent processing of development applications if no provision to extend the timeframes is included in the legislation or regulation. The City will also have to reconsider the process for determining when an application is deemed complete to ensure that all necessary materials have been received at the start of the process. This may result in increased costs for the applicants as submission requirements are bolstered. For further concern is the competitiveness of the application is an indicator that requests materials have been submitted, but does not yet confirm the quality of the information provided. Should the City require additional information from an applicant upon internal department review of its materials, the current legislation does not afford the opportunity to pause this application timeline. And those are things we do a lot in

terms of our developments. So, you know, when we're talking about water and waste, making sure that we have the okay from Water and Waste, these are all things that we have to consider. So, I think these are really legitimate concerns that we are raising here. I think it's important and prudent that our administration and our mayor, when he is talking about these issues, have what the Council feels deemed important and issues that we need to raise with the Province. So, I do hope that you support…you support the motions in front of you here today. I think it was a really, really good debate. And I just hope everyone considers supporting this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will now vote on the motions in reverse order. Vote first on amending Motion No. 9. All in favour, please rise. The Mayor asked for a recorded vote.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Nason and Klein

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Amending Motion 9 passes. Now the vote on amending Motion 8. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Nason and Klein

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 2.

Madam Speaker: Amending Motion 8 passes. And now I will call the question on the main item, as amended, and we will be voting on the whole item, Item 8, as amended. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Nason, Klein and Mayes

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 3.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Item 8, as amended, passes. Item 9, Mr. Clerk.

Item 9 – Cannabis Cultivation in Residential Areas

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy to introduce the item.

Councillor Gilroy: Yeah, I just want to thank my council colleagues, Councillor Sharma, Councillor Lukes and Councillor Eadie for bringing this forward. There's a lot of great discussion that took place at the standing policy committee. I know we heard some of the delegates, but a lot of great discussion was at the standing policy committee and I support a review of this and looking at what the City can do, and be interested to have a report come back. And I will wait to hear from my councillor colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Speakers on this item? And I would like to speak as well. So, whenever we want to do that.

Councillor Eadie: Want to go first, Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie. And then Councillor Lukes and I. However, you want to do that. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thanks. I asked to have it stood down and I realize it's getting late, so I'm going to be really quick. We heard representations. What's happening right now, I just want to say, I'm putting it on the record here for people to listen. I actually think the zoning by-law is being violated right now under the residential zoning values. In that, these houses despite the false information the delegate who was against this is putting out there, I don't know how many plants and that person has a right not to say how many plants in public. And that's fine, Madam Speaker. But when he is making comments about it not taking up much room, not causing problems for houses and that it's an easy fix to get rid of the smells, it's all a misrepresentation. Because yeah, you can deal with it when you have smaller numbers of plants that you are dealing with growing hydroponically, but we're talking major use. And again, I'm saying, it's pretty simple. If you are over 50% using an R1 or an R2 house to produce medical cannabis, that is the purpose that you bought that house, not to live in. The purpose you bought that house is to produce the medical cannabis. And you know, I just want to talk about the person who is opposed in terms of money. So technically, like, I don't know who is buying these houses, but technically, as our other delegates who are in support mentioned, so you can grow up to four persons permitted or prescribed level of consumption per day or whatever. So that's four people. And I think it was mentioned, you know, that could be 500-600 plants whatever. Given the prescriptions that are being given out nowadays. So, the thing is, Madam Speaker, so I don't know if two people are buying this house for half a million dollars. But I can say, that if you got four people who have 200 or more plants together, and they are buying a house just for themselves to produce it, if you combine those four peoples buy half a million dollars worth of investment, not to mention the extra investment for the equipment, for the electrical upgrades, and all the ventilation and the filtering and on and on I could go, $2 million. You know what? Like really, this is getting out of…this is not about the Supreme Court's decision or decisions because there's been other decisions in terms of edibles. This is not…this is about reasonableness. I can't remember Carmen's last name, sorry. But you know, she pointed out, you know, it's cheaper for her now to buy her medical cannabis in the marketplace because the quality and the cost is quite reasonable now. When the Supreme Court came up with their reasonable decision, what was being offered by the commercial operations was not very good quality because they really didn't know what they were doing. They should have went, actually, to the underground, to the black market, they would have found better cannabis. But anyway, not having to grow it themselves either for that matter, Madam Speaker. But the point is, is that overall, like, people in Canada, like he is totally confused about people's human rights. Like, he doesn't even understand. He is spewing out stuff he knows nothing about and then he comes back and he tells me I don't know what I'm talking about. I understand people's human rights and stuff. And he is obviously living in his own world. But $2 million is a lot of money. You can invest in a private company who builds and knows how to have a big warehouse with several addresses in it, and you can grow four person's medical in there. And that's what we should be doing is transitioning or pushing them out of there. And I'm saying right now, we're going to do this study and there's going to be this whole task force, Madam Speaker. But I have to say that I think the task force should be looking at…the zone…I'm saying, like, I would file a complaint if I had it beside me. They are violating the zoning, R1 zoning. If they are over 50% in there, and you know, he is going to try to say you don't use up much of the house for 200-300 plants, yeah right. If you got them closed in too much of a spot, then you're going to get real moisture problems in that corner of the house, whatever. You've got to…like…anyway. It would be great to actually hear a presentation from a real expert about all this. And I did get a presentation, a phone discussion. But the individual would not come out and speak because he was concerned about problems that might arise for himself. So, Madam Speaker, all I'm saying is, is let's be reasonable. I'm not saying you can't grow. Like, if you only need ten plants and something, that's quite affordable. It's reasonable for you to produce it yourself. As long as you got the proper filtration, venting, and make sure you don't make a mistake. I got a call about somebody trying to grow, I don't know, maybe lots of plants in his garage. In a garage. I don't know that a garage structure has the ability to filter out. Like Madam Speaker, this stuff is getting…and it's not our role to educate people on how to grow their own medical cannabis. Like, really? Some of that presentation. So, ultimately Winnipeg and society wants us to say, let's be reasonable about what we are doing here in a residential neighbourhood. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I would like to take a short recess. A few members are asking. They don't want to miss the vote in the chamber. So, we will come back at 6:30. Thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
March 25, 2021, at 6:31 p.m.

Madam Speaker: I would like to reconvene our Council meeting of March 25th, 2021. We are on Item 9 – Cannabis Cultivation in Residential Areas. Councillor Eadie, I will pass the Chair to you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, thank you, Councillor Sharma. I'm in the Chair and our next speaker on the list is Councillor Sharma who has done a lot of work in regards to this particular report.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know it's late into the evening but it's really important to put comments on the record on this topic. We had many residents come out for previous meetings of Council and again today. And I'm sure they are tuning in watching even though it's 6:30 p.m. I would like to start by thanking the Public Service for their work in preparing this initial report so quickly. Also, I want to acknowledge the work of our Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Mike Jack who has been a tremendous support on this issue. Being available to councillors for many meetings to navigate and work through this issue before us. Citizens that are affected by cannabis growth near their homes appreciate the thoroughness and timeliness of this report. I'm pleased to have worked on this file with Councillor Lukes and Councillor Eadie and Council as a whole really because we have heard this matter in this chamber previously and we've had support with Councillor Gilroy as the Chair of PP&D, Councillor Santos, the whole committee. It's going to take the efforts on behalf of all of us to get through this issue that's really affecting our citizens deeply. This report has provided a great overview of the situation at hand, but we must build upon it. We are now being asked…we are now asking the Public Service to provide greater detail on specific potential next steps, including prohibition with a residential zoning designation, limits based on prescribed numbers of plants or percentage of usable area in a dwelling taken up by these plants and by-laws related to nuisance orders among other options. We need to have a comprehensive look at each of our city's options so that we can best serve our constituents and resolve this issue. I'd like to remind everyone today of how impactful this truly is. Today Council heard firsthand accounts from residents in delegation about the noise problems, safety concerns, property value worries and health implications of the odor coming from cannabis growth. Our residents are affected by these issues in their very homes where they deserve to feel most safe and most comfortable. And this issue is growing. As the report before you states, the average number of grams of medical cannabis prescribed per day has increased by 21% between October 2018 and March 2020. This results in increases of how much cannabis can be grown at cultivation sites. During roughly the same period, the number of registered medical cannabis cultivation sites has also grown by 115%. The issue is not going to resolve itself. That's our job. But this is a complicated issue with many layers and we must do our due diligence in thoughtfully exploring every option for resolving it. We must find a solution that balances the healthcare needs of those who are prescribed cannabis while also protecting the health of our communities. To effectively work on this issue, our Public Service will develop a cross-departmental working group which will consist of input from the CAO's office, led by Mr. Mike Jack, Winnipeg Police Service, the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services, the Legal Department, PP&D which includes Zoning, Planning as well as Development and Inspections branches. And Community Services including Licensing and By-law Enforcement Services. The need for this working group speaks to the various layers and complexities of this issue. I'm strongly supporting the item before us and I ask all my council colleagues for their continued support. These next steps are needed to address this concern and improve Winnipeggers experiences. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Sharma. I believe Councillor Lukes is next on the list to speak.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all residents who have come forward to bring this issue to the forefront. And I want to recognize the hours and hours and weeks and months and what now has led to years of work on this issue. I want to thank the residents for their hard work. And I know residents can be hesitant to bring forward something like this for fear of retaliation. There's a lot of similarities. Same, same but different regarding illegal rooming houses. It's a complex issue, but due to the residents diligent work and to Council members advocacy and work and now the Public Service, we are getting closer to the solution. For the record, I want to state that I'm not in opposition to medical cannabis grow-ops, far from it, but there has to be a lens of reason applied to operations in a residential area. Individuals have contacted me thinking I'm opposed to this, for an individual growing cannabis for medical purposes, but I want to ensure them that's not the case. We have heard today and on previous occasions that the current licensing process of and inspecting of medical cannabis grow-ops is inadequate. And because of that, opportunities are being taken over and above the initial intent in growing medical cannabis. I want to note that the Government of Canada is now actively consulting on personal production of cannabis for medical purposes. And I want to read these points out that are stated on their website acknowledging that many of these concerns are what we've heard from residents. "During inspection of personal and designated production sites, Health Canada inspectors have observed activities that do not comply with the cannabis regulations such as unauthorized individuals tending to plants, security obligations not being met, unauthorized

outdoor production and plant counts beyond authorized amounts." Also, on the website it states, "In recent months, there has also been an increase in law enforcement activities at some personal and designated production sites. Police have laid drug and weapon charges against some personnel and designated producers who were using their registration to cover and support large scale illegal production and sale." And this is exactly a recent situation that we had in the Waverly West Ward where a big…I guess bust, I'm not sure what the terminology is to use, but it was quite an event on the street, I got many calls. So, I'm very pleased to be supporting this motion and I look forward to the Public Service's reports back regarding efforts to resolve the many issues related to growing medical cannabis. And again, I want to thank all my colleagues for working on this. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Councillor Chambers, I believe is next on the list.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I want to thank members of the public that were on…in delegation this morning, presenting their case with respect to the issues that have grown out of this cannabis issue. You know, I don't know much about, you know, the use of medical cannabis except to say, I've had a family member who had utilized it prior to his passing. And it did resolve a lot of the pain that he felt as a result of the illness that he had. You know, for individuals that are utilizing medical marijuana, you know, we don't know to the extent what their usage of it is. Whether they use it once a day, twice a day, throughout the day and as a result have to have multiple plants in order to maintain the effects of what that medical marijuana is prescribed to mitigate. Having said that, I don't see a situation where, you know, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of plants are needed to maintain that level of comfort on a daily basis. Again, not knowing fully, you know, how many plants it takes to maintain, you know, if you are taking medical marijuana throughout the day. But the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of plants that are being described that do have that adverse effect on the adjoining properties is what's concerning as well as the nefarious activities that result in terms of those numbers of plants that are being grown and perhaps being sold to other individuals. Referred to as the underground market of medical marijuana usage. I'm very sensitive to the needs of those that are taking medical marijuana. Again, recognizing that it does ease the pains and symptoms of some of the illnesses that it's prescribed to mitigate. But I also want to be sensitive to the neighbours and community members that are…have made significant investments in their properties and want that livability and enjoyment of their properties. And so, a balance has to be struck. I'm thankful that the report does address some of these issues where it talks about a prescribed number of plants, prescribed percentage of the usable area of the residence and other measures that will seek to mitigate the concerns that area residents have expressed in delegation this morning. And other residents may be experiencing, but did not participate in the delegation that we saw here today. So, I want to thank the Public Service for the work and am confident that we will be able to reach a solution that does address the issues and the concerns that are raised. But also recognizing the fact that the uses of medical marijuana or cannabis for the purposes that it's described will help ease a lot of the pains that people are feeling that have medical illnesses that this is designed to mitigate. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, is Councillor Sharma back in the Chair or is it I? Are there…

Councillor Sharma: Councillor Eadie, go ahead and finish the item.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, are there any other speakers to the…to this report?

Clerk: Councillor Nason.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, please…you've got the floor.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, I will unmute myself. You know, as far as cannabis and the uses of medical, I've had conversations with National Access Cannabis and some local physicians that have made some astounding repurposing, specifically in cannabis oil. So, there is some positive use out of it in managing pain, seizure disorders and even so far as autism. And we are continuing to explore new areas that it can be used. Legal cannabis, as I understand through Health Canada, is four plants. And we know as Council, we were just alerted to, just in the last couple days in the Transcona area, of just one situation where $100,000 worth of marijuana plants were seized and a homeowner was charged. I don't know if he actually lived there, but was charged with illegal cannabis. Health Canada confirmed that there was no legal growing. But he had 80 plants there. That is not individual use. That is not legal use. And having these in our neighbourhoods where children are present is not acceptable. And we need to do more to prevent that. I do have a large manufacturer of legal cannabis in an industrial area, but even that is so close to a residential area. There are some challenges there. It's a willing manufacturer that's wanting to work with the community to try to figure out how and if their operation is affecting the neighbouring community because they want to be a partner. I don't see large scale grow-ops that are exceeding the four plants per person in a home is being part of a community. So, I will be supporting this and I do look forward to it coming back. We need to work more with Health Canada though to strengthen some of this. Along with various others who are involved in it to raise awareness and work together for a strong community. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Mr. Clerk, is there...

Clerk: Yes, Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, please…you have the floor, sir.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to thank Mike Jansen of East Kildonan and the Elmwood-East Kildonan Lions Club for bringing this to my attention. Last term, happened to be that in this term, we began a process by which we would address this issue. And it happened to be just at that time that there was already a process with another group I guess dealing with Councillors Sharma, Eadie and Rollins and it went in that dynamic. And the work that Mr. Jansen and I started ended up…well, being I guess just extra…superfluous given what was taking place. Nonetheless, I do want to thank Mike Jansen who has been in communication with this group of citizens who brought this to the attention of councillors and for working towards what is a practical…practical motion, practical application on the municipal level for what is new in this country and how we are supposed to go about creating new by-laws as we evolve. And we are at the beginning of this evolution of legalized marijuana. And so, as well however, and this is…I'm not the first one to raise this. We talk about black market or underground market and these types of things. And bear in mind something when we talk about marijuana, that it's legalized but it's not decriminalized in the same way. And that means, it is not legal is my understanding, to sell it not in official channels. And therefore, just bear this in mind for the future because, you know, today we are talking about how people live in bus shelters. We are talking about drug addiction. We are talking about our communities. So, I just want to make a point in terms of how this relates. I'm sure I'm not the first one to say it. But it really hits home to me. I'm not saying I know the answer, but when we have marijuana which has been previously an underground market as well as other drugs, serious hard chemicals and new ones. Therefore, there is already momentum, part of an established subculture of selling marijuana on, you know, underground market. And I don't know how it's going to play out, but there still has to be consultation on this. People can be a little facile by saying there's no problem with the fact that marijuana's legalized but not decriminalized. And my concern is this; it means that those that would have previously made money through the underground market, now in order to do so, they have to go to sell harder drugs. And that's just sheer economics, so it's true. The question is, to what extent is this the case? And what are the ramifications of this? And what are...in the end, the effects on our community, and the fact that marijuana is legalized but not decriminalized to the extent that it can only be sold through official channels. I don't know what the answers are. There's no point in putting words in my mouth in terms of what I'm saying we should or should not do. But bear in mind, this has been brought to my attention from some unusual…some different, unusual channels that I wouldn't have expected. And therefore, I have to give it that credibility. And so, having said that, bear that in mind as we continue creating new by-laws in these new years. And we will see how this evolves. Thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Clerk, is there…

Clerk: No further speakers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right.

Councillor Sharma: Actually, there is councillor. Yes. Pardon me, Councillor Schreyer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm going to ask councillor…the Chairperson of PDHDD to close.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Deputy Chair. I just want to say, I think this is a very, very good motion. There's been a lot of robust conversation on it so far. We did learn through some of the conversations that other cities are now looking at this as well as this is a concern in other cities. We also heard that the Federal Government has a website to get feedback regarding some of these issues. So, it has become an issue in these cities. So, looking at ways we're going to deal with this moving forward, I think is a really good idea for the City to be proactive. It is a concern. We heard from residents and there might be some mechanisms that we can learn from other cities or figure out on our own on what we can do to manage the situation here in Winnipeg. Of course, this isn't about not allowing those that have a legal right to grow. This is more about the people that are growing mass amounts that are beyond their own use. So, I think this is a good motion and I encourage everyone to support it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson. Is it okay to just call the vote or does somebody want recorded? Recorded? All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. And I would like to pass the Chair back to Councillor Sharma, Speaker Sharma.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Next item, Mr. Clerk, Item 10.

Item 10 – St. Boniface Industrial Park

Madam Speaker: This Item 10 does have an amending motion that goes with it. I believe that was circulated. Yes, Motion 13, moved by Councillor Nason, seconded by Councillor Klein. Councillor Gilroy, your opportunity to open and then we will move to Councillor Nason.

Councillor Gilroy: Yes. There was the St. Boniface Industrial Park, the renaming of the St. Boniface Industrial Park came through our committee. It was supported at committee. And at EPC there was concerns that were raised over some of the issues that actually Councillor Nason and Councillor Klein's motion might help deal with if we have further discussion on it. So, I would support it going back to that committee. Right now, EPC has said that they want to receive it as information, but if this goes back to the East Kildonan-Transcona Committee, they can get further…have further dialogue with the administration. The motion says you know, what are some of the implications of changing the name of the St. Boniface Industrial Park to Winnipeg East Industrial Park, including the null amending to the requirement to change the name and potential cost, appropriate approval of processes. So, a lot of these concerns, I think it's good that we have a little bit further dialogue on it because I think there was some conversation at EPC that raised some of these concerns. So, I would support this going back to the East Kildonan-Transcona and getting that information from the public administration. Having that robust conversation. And then of course, if there's any further changes from there, it would come back up through standing policy committee and on to EPC and Council. So, I would support the…Councillor Nason and Councillor Klein's motion to move it back to committee.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Councillor Nason to introduce your amending motion and speak to the main item.

Motion No. 13
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 10 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated March 15, 2021 be amended as follows:

- *Delete Recommendation 1 and replace with the following Recommendations*

    1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee within 60 days on the following:*

        A. *The implications of changing the name of the St. Boniface Industrial Park to the Winnipeg East Industrial Park, including but not limited to the requirements to change the name of an industrial park, the potential costs and the appropriate approval processes available.*

        B. *The potential expansion of the current footprint of the industrial park to include all industrial, manufacturing or commercial lands south of Dugald Road between the CN Symington Line to the south and west and Plessis Road to the east.*

    2. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, that is the challenge that we as ordinary councillors face is that, you know, it gets heard at standing committee. It gets approved at standing committee, then goes to EPC and received as information. And I want to thank Councillor Allard who pulled this because I missed it. I missed that EPC had overturned the decision of the standing committee. And I want to thank him for that. That's why I've put the amending motion in. And hopefully it will pass today and the intent of the standing committee that reviewed it, had the Public Service

there, will be able to move this forward. And I will leave it at that and I'll listen to my colleagues and hear from there. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I was the one who moved to take this as information at EPC and yes, I was the one to pull it today. Perhaps so we could have a debate about it. I don't think we should pursue this direction. The St. Boniface Industrial Park means a lot to the St. Boniface community. There's a particular attachment to the City of St. Boniface in St. Boniface Ward still. The St. Boniface Industrial Park has particular significance for the people who live in St. Boniface Ward. There's whole history that goes with it. And I think it would be unfortunate if we would start changing parts of the park's name because of a ward boundary redistribution. I think it…you know, despite the fact that there are parts of the park that are now in Transcona, I think it should remain the St. Boniface Industrial Park. It speaks of the St. Boniface City's history. It was, in the day, a very wealthy city because it had a large industrial park relative to the size of its…of the municipality. And I think it would be a shame to keep going in this direction. So, that's why I ask that we take it as information to committee. And I prefer not supporting the motion at this point because I don't think we should be going further in this direction. So, that's essentially why I'm opposing. This is something that means a lot to my residents. And I don't think we should be going down this direction.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Similar to what was said by Councillor Allard, this just is not A) a priority, B) this is a commercial industrial park. There's light commercial, industrial, there's all sorts of activities going on there. They are known around the world in many cases as being part of the St. Boniface Industrial Park. You know what, our civic boundaries no longer represent the 19…the pre-1972 former municipalities that came together as one to form Winnipeg. Unum Cum…whatever the Latin is that means, you know, the strength of many, anyways. I think the Mayor knows it off by heart. It's right on there. Unum Cum Virtute…anyways. The one with the strength of many. The whole point is, the boundaries no longer represent that. So, what? You know, parts of the Transcona Ward, Almey and parts of that area there, those were once part of the RM of North Kildonan. Is anybody over there now think of themselves as a North Kildonan? No, and that's fine. People in Riverbend, Rivergrove, none of them consider themselves in North Kildonan. People way down on Bredin Bay out way down south down on Henderson Highway, I tell them I'm campaigning for the councillor of North Kildonan back in my first election, they go, why you are here? This isn't North Kildonan. The reality is, the borders don't represent the names any more. I mean, we've chosen to keep the names. We could go with other cities have done, we could number the wards. We could be the councillor for ward 7, councillor for ward 9, fine. We could choose what Edmonton recently did is they took all sorts of Indigenous names for each of their civic wards. That's an option too. Frankly, I think this is just a bad idea. It's a waste of time. I urge everyone to vote against the amendment and vote for the recommendation to just receive it as information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. We are one whole city. And I won't be supporting the amendment because well, in terms of boundaries and sending it, if you think about the planning area in this particular St. Boniface park, the problem is, is Transcona is in one community committee area and St. Boniface is in another. Those are things that are relevant, I think. But what I really liked in our last boundary change is that they move to keep neighbourhoods together because people agree they live in a neighbourhood. So, it's one thing, you know, so St. Boniface industrial whatever it goes to, it goes into the Transcona Ward. You know, it doesn't…to me, what really does matter though is, are you changing the name of it? I don't know. Like Councillor Browaty said, part of Transcona is North Kildonan around Perfanick Drive and all around that, that was North Kildonan. And Old Kildonan was Riverbend, Rivergrove. And if you talked to somebody, actually, there's older people, we still say we live in Old Kildonan if I'm in Riverbend because the people remember if they grew up there. That's where they grew up. However, when it comes to boundaries for purposes of voting and population distribution in the city, I have no problem. I don't really have a problem with it. So and anyway, I just think it's important. We are hearing problems coming out of the Transcona Ward in regards to this industrial park and I think it's really important that we look at that. And remember this, just like there's lots of North Enders that work for the railway up in…out in Transcona, I think New Flyer's in this industrial area, is it? Anyway, there's people who work at businesses all throughout this industrial park from around the city because it is all one city, right? And there's probably people who live outside of the city in Springfield and Dugald who probably work here as well. So, anyway, I have no problem with it. Sorry I talked so long.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Unum Cum Virtute Multorum. I was raised on that motto. Good motto; one with the strength of many. And it means different things. And it's true, as Jeff Browaty said, 1972, that's when the community boundaries, which were essentially at that time the old municipality boundaries. The City of East Kildonan, the Rural Municipality of North Kildonan, the City of St. Boniface, the City of Transcona, the City of West Kildonan. And not the City of Elmwood because it broke off from the Kildonans in 1906, joined Winnipeg to get City services. Nonetheless, so what you have is, over time, and especially since 1972, you have old real municipal boundaries, they're very real, become community boundaries. But then overtime, now we have such large wards that, you know, when Winnipeg started, it's a long story, started with 50, then to 30, now to 15. And so, what it means today is, I represent Elmwood-East Kildonan and I represent only Elmwood and East Kildonan except for one piece of North Kildonan because North Kildonan is that area between…that goes from Panet all the way to Plessis is North Kildonan according to the old municipal boundaries. That's all where Kildonan Place is, all North Kildonan. However, things change, our perceptions change and now we've got these boundaries called civic wards and they kind of take on the municipal boundaries, although, they are rather arbitrary and transient. So today, Jeff Browaty represents East Kildonan. He does. He represents an…part of East Kildonan, called the Frasers Grove. He represents all of East Kildonan between Henderson Highway and the Red River. I don't represent it. And it happens to be that Councillor Nason represents St. Boniface. And that's…that's it if you look at in terms of the old traditional community or municipal boundaries. Now of course, Councillor Nason is making a good point, yeah, but these are the new boundaries, but it happens to be that just, you know, 2-3 years ago, Transcona didn't represent. So, these…the ward names are arbitrary and transient and therefore there lies sort of the difficulty with this kind of thing. And I can see where Councillor Nason is coming from. And then on that basis, I supported this in the beginning in terms of it being here for discussion. But I'm seeing what the point that Council is making. And that makes sense to me. And I would just say that, I wouldn't change the name of St. Boniface Industrial Park so much as accepting the fact, just as Jeff Browaty represents a part of East Kildonan, it is a fact that Shawn Nason also represents St. Boniface. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Nason, you do have an opportunity to close.

Councillor Nason: Thank you for that, Madam Speaker. You know, hearing Councillor Browaty talk about civic boundaries no longer applies, that's…that's…that's accurate. We represent the city and that's…the intent of my motion was to go that route where they changed to Winnipeg East as an idea, Industrial Park. We have other industrial areas right adjacent to it, the Waters Business Park. We have a new subdivision that's going even further west of that just abutting up to Lagimodiere. That will be a really significant park. Part of the idea was to build a sort of neutrality to this, to give an identity to these various parks as opposed to subdivision industrial park that has no connectivity to the broader area. It is Transcona Ward that's east of Lagimodiere. Unless things change, I don't see where it would go back to that. Just learned recently that Councillor Browaty's, one of his major community clubs, Gateway, that used to be in the Transcona Ward you know, as a one city, as Councillor Eadie had articulated. Again, changing a name to Winnipeg East represents the entire city because this industrial park is for the entire city. Yes, New Flyer has a…one of their smaller factories is in there. Premier Printing is in there as are many, many other businesses. You know, I, you know, wanted to open a discussion, you know, there's opportunities. I haven't heard from too many people contacting me in opposition to this. So, the only opposition that appears to be from the councillor for St. Boniface who, you know, has his own challenges with history and buildings in his ward directly in old St. Boniface with the old city hall. But on this matter, I do hope that I have sufficient support to move it forward. And I will leave it at that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Can I have the therefore be it resolved from the amendment? I think I misinterpreted it.

Madam Speaker: Yes. Mr. Clerk, if you would read it in the record.

Clerk: Motion 13: be it resolved that Item 10 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Proderty and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated March 15th, 2021 be amended as follows: delete recommendation 1 and replace with the following recommendations. 1) that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee within 60 days on the following: A) the implications of changing the name of the St. Boniface Industrial Park to the Winnipeg East Industrial Park including but not limited to the requirements to change the name of an industrial park, the potential costs and the appropriate approval processes available. B) the potential expansion of the current footprint of the industrial park to include all industrial manufacturing or commercial lands south of Dugald Road between the CN Symington line to the south and west and Plessis Road to the east. And 2) that the proper officers of the city be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy to close.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yeah, this is…this basically is just to ask for a report to come back to the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee with the recommendations and potential costs. So, it…there…you know, the report could say that they don't recommend proceeding if that's what the public administration feels. Or it could have a different recommendation and then it would follow-up to the standing policy committee and then onto Council for final votes. So, I guess I support that. It's just asking for more information and having some more dialogue on this. But I will leave the vote up to everybody here today. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. With that, we will vote on the amending Motion 13 first. All in favour, please rise.

Councillor Nason: Recorded vote.

Madam Speaker: All in favour of the amending motion, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Nason, Schreyer, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Allard and Orlikow, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham and Rollins

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 8, Nays 8.

Madam Speaker: The Motion 13 is lost. Onto the main item, Item 10. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Councillor Klein, we will record you in opposition and Councillor Nason, I see your hand, we will record you in opposition. Moving on. Yes. Moving onto Motion 12 which is moved by myself and seconded by Councillor Klein, it's regarding the requirement of Council approval for the sale of any City-owned building which has been designated as a historical resource. This will be an automatic referral to the Planning, Property and Development Committee. We will now move into by-laws. Councillor Gilroy.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 12
Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS the Historical Resources By-law No. 55/2014 was adopted by Council to protect and conserve buildings of special architectural or historic interest;

AND WHEREAS the City owns, occupies and leases a number of important Historical Buildings which have been designated and are on the list of Historical Resources;

AND WHEREAS Council has in the past decided to declare City-owned Historical Buildings as surplus, allowing for the Public Service to market the buildings for sale;

AND WHEREAS Council adopted the "Policy for the Sale, Acquisition, Rental, Leasing and Management of Properties" on July 18, 1979 which delegated the authority to approve sales of surplus City-owned property to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development;

AND WHEREAS Council adopted the "Delegation of Authority for Real Property Transactions" on January 28, 2009 which further delegated the authority to approve sales of surplus City-owned property to the Chief Administrative Officer where certain sale conditions are met;

AND WHEREAS the sale, future use and development of a City-owned Historical Building is a significant decision which should be considered by all of Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be directed to report back within 90 days with an updated Real Estate Policy Framework that requires Council approval for the sale of any City-owned building which has been designated as a Historical Resource, in accordance with the Historical Resources By-law No. 55/2014.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to move the following by-laws be read the first time: By-law No., 21/2021, By-law No. 22/2021, By-law No. 23/2021, By-law No. 33/2021 and By-law No. 34/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 21/2020, 22 of…sorry, 21/2021, 22/2021, 23/2021, 33/2021 and 34/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move By-law No. 21/2021 to 23/2021, both inclusive, and 33/2021 and 34/2021 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 21/2021 to 23/2021, both inclusive, and 33/2021 and 34/2021.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: And I would like to move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 20…sorry, 21/2021 to 23/2021, both inclusive, and 33/2021 and 34/2021 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Question period for Councillor Gilroy, for our Chair. Councillor Chambers.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD**

Council Chambers: Thank you Madam Speaker, and through you to the Chair of Property, Planning Development and Heritage District?

Councillor Gilroy: Downtown Development.

Council Chambers: I wish to ask the question. Has her department considered a plan to bring public sector workers back to work on a rotational basis to City offices downtown? We are now moving towards vaccine roll out that will get majority of people vaccinated by sometime in May. It is a lot safer now than it has been in the past with respect to COVID. As the weather is better, we want people downtown active, walking around, shopping during their breaks, buying lunches at downtown restaurants. So, is there a plan that allows our city even on a rotational basis to come back downtown? We have 120 workers in say the Susan Thompson Building, have 60 one week, and 60 the next week and rotate them through so that at least we're having people in our offices back downtown and starting to spur economic activity which I'm hoping will spur other businesses in the area to consider the same options as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to thank Councillor Chambers for the question. And you know, it's…it's good timing because I know that Councillor Orlikow, part of his mandate is working with all the chairs to make sure that we are providing feedback at our standing policies committee on COVID impacts and our recovery plan. So that…so we will be having at the next standing policy committee some dialogue from the administration on some of those impacts. So maybe we can get some further information on that. I know that staffing is more up to…you know, up to our CEO, but hopefully, we can maybe get some of that information at the standing policy committee. It would be…it would be interesting to hear some of that dialogues because I know as an inner city councillor, it's so important to have people downtown and of course going to our local businesses so I want to thank Councillor Chambers for the question. And we'll get some further dialogue happening at the next standing policy committee on that for you.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Relatively hopeful simple question. When it comes to plan approvals as council members, we are given information or given a report from the Public Service from our area planners, and you know we approve based on the report. Could the Chair explain how Water and Waste seems to have the power of veto or an asterisk when the teams come together to discuss these plans and why plan approval isn't the final stage?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: (Inaudible) Councillor Nason for the question because it has been…it has come up in, you know, at our meetings, the need to have Water and Waste add our committee to deal with some of these matters. You know, we do circulate all the planning documents to all the different departments so it wouldn't just be Water and Waste. It would be…a lot of times, IRPW is involved, Public Works so there's many different departments that are sometimes involved in these plan approvals. So it does take time and it there is concern from any one of those different departments, it will be raised. So that is…that is often the case through any of the different planning approvals that come through our process, that could be IRPW that might not approve it. So…and we get that happening sometimes with the people that want to do drive-in parking, drive-in parking stalls. You'll get a lot of that but IRPW won't want it because it reduces the parking on the street or it's not safe for pedestrians if it's on other streets that doesn't already have a lot of lane parking, so it's not uncommon for different departments to not agree with some of the plan approval process.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anything further?

Councillor Nason: Yes, Madam Chair. Just a redirect on that. Again, my question was from a perspective of plan approval, it doesn't go from this chair's committee to the other committees. They feed in the information. Plan approval report comes forward and it's supposed to be the final stage before a permit. Now, do this chair commit to taking this back in getting some finality in the plan approval process and not an asterisk?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Maybe…thank you Councillor Nason for the question. What I might do is I might just so I can understand you a little bit better. Maybe we can touch base on this and I can…we can go over this question so I fully understand it. I do think that there is work to make sure that Water and Waste in particular sometimes at our meetings because there is concerns that are raised at the planning approval process, in particular if the council…councillor is asking a question. Sometimes that question is needed from Water and Waste and they are not always there, so I think there is work to be had and I think maybe that's something I can also work with Councillor Mayes on as the Chair of Water and Waste. I think we heard that a couple of times so I will commit to you that I will sit down with Councillor Mayes and…and I know that we are working on that at the department level to ensure that we do have the full information when we are making decisions on plan approvals and other decisions that are required. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Any further questions? Seeing none, let's move on. Let's move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. It's the report dated March 10th, 2021. Councillor Rollins.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED MARCH 10, 2021

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I'd like to move 1 pertaining to Funding Agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Foundation for Enhanced Maintenance of Munson Park and then I've had a request to pull the Development of an Economic Recovery Plan for Community Centres. So, I'd move 1, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Yes. That's carried. Item 2, Mr. Clerk.

Item 2 – Development of an Economic Recovery Plan for Community Centres

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: So, I'd like to thank Councillor Chambers, Councillor Lukes for this motion, Madam Speaker. And I'd like to also thank all the community representatives that came forward to talk about their community centres, their beloved community spaces, how much it means to Winnipeggers, how they want to continue serving Winnipeggers and I will open it that way, Madam Speaker, because I believe both Councillor Lukes, Madam Speaker and Councillor Chambers, the mover of this motion want to speak to it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers, would you like to go first? And there's Councillor Lukes, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Councillor Rollins just on her leadership of Parks, Community Services and Protection. She is very passionate about community services and ensuring that we have the proper resources and amenities in our communities to address, you know, the recreational activities for kids and not only kids, but seniors and people my age. I think I'm actually qualifying as a senior these days. And the importance of having these amenities right in our local community. We've seen what the effects are now that we're starting to open up our libraries and our swimming pools with the weather…the spring weather that's quickly upon us, the opportunity to spend more time outdoors is almost that relief that our citizens are looking for. But still, there is the piece that's lacking in terms of the programming around things like soccer, baseball, cricket and other sporting activities that our communities are now involved in. And these activities, a lot of these activities happen at our community centres. And a lot of the activities for seniors, that's their social meeting space that they so much depend on because it's right there in their neighbourhood. When I look at Dakota Community Centre and look at what's just around it right across the street, I've got Dakota House and Kirchhoff Gardens that are seniors centres that, again, they rely heavily on Dakota as their gathering space for their recreational activities. The importance of having an economic recovery plan we've heard in detail today with respect to both the Maples Community Centre, Dakota Community Centre. I talked to Councillor Browaty and talked about the community centre that I had the opportunity of growing up in, Gateway Community Centre. The importance of having an economic recovery plan as we start to ease out of this COVID-19 restrictions that we've been in for almost a year now. The importance of having this plan in place so that they can move towards starting those programs again, making sure that our kids, our adults, our seniors have recreation and programming. The delicate balance that there is with respect to the equipment that they have, the ice chiller that they depend on that generates revenue, that at a moment's notice can go and cause, you know, insurmountable effects…trickle down effects with respect to their ability to generate revenue. Their planning in going forward and growing that community asset and amenity of a community centre is based on the revenues that they're generating and their ability to expand on their programs as our population expands and grows. So, these are all solid arguments and solid reasons for us to have an economic recovery plan where we've heard the last 7 or 8 months they haven't had any revenue, but have still had the expenses that they have dealt with on a daily and monthly basis. So, I'm thankful for the presenters that we had this morning that provided that overview, that provided…shined the light on what their needs are. And I'm not just talking about the three supercentres or the four supercentres that we have here in the city, I'm talking about the 63 community centres in our city that provide recreation to all of the citizens of Winnipeg regardless of the catchment areas and we definitely need to have a plan in place to bring them forward as we get out of this COVID environment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thanks, I'll be very brief. I, too, want to thank Councillor Rollins for her, I guess, almost rabid enthusiasm for the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks that she chairs. Very passionate, and I really, really appreciate that. I want to thank, hopefully, all members will be supporting this motion going forward. We know the importance of our community centres to residents' health and well-being. And COVID has presented so many challenges to facilities, to services, and we're seeing that one size doesn't fit all for so many community centres

and that they each hold their own special place. I look forward to the engagement process and the report back to Council. So, I encourage everyone to support this. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. Very important to have an economic plan. And my concerns also are for smaller community centres like Sinclair Park and others where they're unable to generate the revenue from hall rentals that goes into the programming that they provide for the people in the neighbourhood. And there will be extra costs to reboot and bring things back up, and if they don't have the resources to be able to do that then, you know, they're going to have to wait months and months longer than some of the other community centres that may have the wherewithal, Madam Speaker. So, I'm in support of this. And you know, it doesn't matter to me if you don't want to identify a potential source of money, I'll leave that up to the budget bosses to decide. I have no problem with that, Madam Speaker. I was only trying to help. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you could please take the Chair, I'd like to address this issue as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh, she wants to speak. Sorry. Yeah, thank you. Councillor Sharma, I'm in the Chair.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is late, but I know some of the citizens that came before us this morning are still watching our proceedings. So, I think we owe it to them to put things on the record. We heard from Garden City Community Centre this morning. We heard from Dakota Community Centre and it is not the first time they've addressed us on the challenges they're having. Since March 2020, we've had two lockdowns and the revenue sources community centres regularly rely on, including facility rentals, canteens and sports registration have been diminished. But what has been consistent is the fixed costs of their bills, maintenance and mortgages. I know community centres are beyond thankful for the federal, provincial and municipal aid that was introduced last year, but on its own, it is really not enough. The community centres need a thoughtful recovery plan to move forward. I'm glad we're discussing this motion today and I will be supporting it. It's critical for our Public Service to work with the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres and develop this plan now. I want to thank Councillor Rollins for her support at the committee she chairs, and for Councillor Chambers and Lukes leading on this. I was happy to work with them on drafting the initial motion. This is important work and we really need to move forward to make some short-term plans and then some longer-term plans because it's going to take some time to get out of this. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, are there any other persons listed on the speakers list? No? Okay, do I want a recorded vote or just a vote? Recorded vote? Okay, pardon me? Yeah, councillor…yeah, I was going to ask, I just…I forgot. Sorry. Tired. To close, councillor…Chairperson Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: So, Madam Speaker or Mr. Deputy Speaker, Madam…Councillor Rollins has clearly the best committee there is on Council is Protection, Community Services and Parks. And also, the most honorary members, which of course, is each one of you on Council. So, thank you very much for the enthusiasm. And I know that the community centres…and we really know community centres are beloved. And I think that you're holding them up today in your vote for this motion. So, thank you for that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. All right, all those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Excellent, thank you. Would you like to take over the Chair for questions? There's no by-laws or nothing.

Madam Speaker: I'll take back the Chair. Thank you, Councillor Eadie. We have Motion 10 that is moved by Councillor Mayes and seconded by myself. It's regarding establishing a greenspace corridor north of Inkster Boulevard, which can be ruled…which will be an automatic referral to the standing committee. Okay, following that, right into question period now. Any questions for Councillor Rollins? Seeing none…okay, Councillor Nason, yes.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
MOTIONS**

**Motion No. 10
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,**

WHEREAS Little Mountain Park is located within the Rural Municipality of Rosser, and owned by the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Little Mountain Park contains forest trails, an off-leash dog park area, as well as other park amenities;

AND WHEREAS the north west quadrant of the City has undergone considerable development in the past decade, adding large quantities of residential housing stock to the City's inventory;

AND WHRERAS there will be increased demand for green space and park amenities over the coming years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back within 180 days the following:

1. *Results of consultations with the Rural Municipality of Rosser and CentrePort Canada Inc. on the feasibility of establishing a Green Space Corridor north of Inkster Boulevard, bordered by Klimpke Road to the west, and including Players Golf Course, and Little Mountain Park.*

2. *Feasibility of including North Quarry, north of Little Mountain Park, as a protected wildlife refuge within the Green Space Corridor.*

3. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Nason: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker for recognizing me virtually. At our last Council, I asked a series of questions to the Chair and I've yet to get an email, hear anything, but I did get an email this morning about 90,000 litre spill at a site that we voted on just last month with regards to our energy plan that you know the City of Winnipeg is providing a services agreement to monitor. I'm hoping that the Chair can tell us how the residents of Transcona being better protected in the months since we voted on this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: So Madam Speaker, I'll have to get back to Councillor Nason with particulars, but last month when Councillor Nason asked me questions Madam Speaker, and he had some really good concerns and protective comments. I do believe that Chief Lane did get back to him with specifics, so in terms of the spill, happy to get back to him again.

Councillor Nason: Respectfully Madam Speaker, I'll…sorry, I'm going to wait for you to ask me for my next question.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Nason, second question. No preamble.

Councillor Nason: There was no email from anyone. Chief Lane did not get back to me, so when this is question period, I'll ask respectfully of the Chair. Is it not her responsibility to get back to me?

Madam Speaker: That's your question, Councillor Nason? Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: It absolutely is, Madam Speaker. And you can see me vigorously looking for my sent items.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, that concludes question period for this committee. Next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. There's no report today, but we do have Motion 11, moved by Councillor Allard and seconded by Councillor Rollins, regarding the annual updated vehicle for hire industry and amendments to the Vehicle for Hire By-law. This is an automatic referral to the standing committee. Councillor Allard, on the by-laws.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS

Motion No. 11
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council concur in the recommendations contained in the report of the Winnipeg Public Service dated January 28, 2021, with respect to the Annual Update on the Vehicle for Hire Industry and Amendments to the Vehicle for Hire By-law, namely:

1. *That the update provided on the vehicle for hire industry be received as information.*

2. *That the VFH fee schedule be updated as set out in Appendix A effective March 1, 2021.*

3. *That Council endorse a 3-year pilot project (2021-2023) for "Improvements to Accessible On Demand Transportation Service" and authorize the expenditure of Accessibility Surcharge funds in accordance with the framework plan laid out in Appendix B, including the issuance of a request for proposal related to the centralized accessible dispatch system in order to improve accessible on-demand vehicle for hire service and the Accessible Transportation Incentive Program.*

4. *That the authority be delegated to the Designated Employee (Manager of Vehicles for Hire) for the administration of the program, as recommended in the Framework included in Appendix B.*

5. *That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

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

Councillor Allard: Yes, on the by-law, this by-law is required to install a solar powered warning light in the first school zone. This is the much storied solar powered…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard. I just want to…I think we're on…

Councillor Allard: I don't speak to by-laws?

Madam Speaker: We're on the by-laws. Just if you could read them out.

Councillor Allard: Okay, just a sec here.

Madam Speaker: I could read it if you'd like. Councillor Allard, would you move that…

Councillor Allard: I move that By-law No. 31/2021; by-law of the City of Winnipeg to amend the schedule in the reduced speed school zones by-law, be read for a first time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 31/2021.

Councillor Allard: I move that By-law No. 31/202 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 31/2021.

Councillor Allard: I move that the rule be suspended and By-law No. 31/2021 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Any questions under this committee for Councillor Allard? Councillor Nason.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: Right, I'll get the mouse over there. Relatively simple one. I know there was some dialogue with regards to installing active transportation along roads when they are renewed. I believe it was Salter, there was one area. But as part of budget 2021, there is a section in Transcona from…on Day Street from the existing AT on Pandora to Regent that's being renewed for roadway, but Public Service is not including active transportations part of this. Could the Chair please articulate as to why there wouldn't be active transportation as part of policy?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes. Thank you so much for the question. The active transportation facilities are…yes, they are to be in line with road renewals if there is a case where there is a road renewal happening and that road renewal is happening within the active transportation strategies, and that there is missing active transportation components. I'd be very interested in knowing more about that. If Councillor wants to follow up with the specific road and intersections, I'd be happy to look into it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions?

Councillor Nason: I'm just a little unclear if he's asking me to follow up now or after.

Madam Speaker: That's your second question? Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yeah, I mean I've got an email open ready to go, but probably if you are to provide me with an email, I could then easily forward that with Public Service. I understand we've already been starting work on this from our office, so happy to keep corresponding on this.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, and I will acknowledge that that is in fact the case with his assistant.

Madam Speaker: Any other questions of the Chair? Seeing none, that concludes question period. We're now going to move onto the Governance Committee of Council.

Councillor Eadie: Would you like me to move the consent agenda, Madam Chairperson?

Madam Speaker: I will move it. You go ahead and…

Councillor Eadie: Take the Chair? Oh, you want me to do it?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, if you could take the Chair, please.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you. Just let her get to her spot in front of the microphone there.

**REPORT OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

Councillor Sharma: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to move Item 1 and 2 of the report of the Governance Committee of Council dated February 19th, 2021.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, okay. Sorry? Pull 1? Okay. All right, does somebody want to speak to 2? Okay, so we're not going to vote yet. Mr. Clerk, can we introduce report No. 1 – Re-appointment of the Integrity Commissioner.

Item 1 – Re-appointment of the Integrity Commissioner

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right, would you like to introduce the report, Councillor Sharma?

Councillor Sharma: Yes, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Speaker Sharma.

Councillor Sharma: The item in front of us deals with the re-appointment of the Integrity Commissioner, Ms. Sherri Walsh. This report calls for Council to re-appoint Ms. Walsh for an additional two-year term to continue as our Integrity Commissioner from 2021 to 2023. As the City's first Integrity Commissioner, Ms. Walsh was tasked with developing the various mechanisms we have in place including the current Code of Conduct for Council, the City's Voluntary Lobbyist Registry and a process by which citizens can reach out to her regarding concerns. All of these systems are now in place and serve Council well. She also is continuing to improve and strengthen our legislative framework with more work ahead. Along with all of the formal structure she has put in place, Ms. Walsh continues to do what is perhaps her most important role; providing advice to Council. I have heard from many of my colleagues that they regularly reach out to the Integrity Commissioner on various issues to get her perspective and to ensure they are doing everything they can to act according to the legislation. This informal advice role is invaluable to ensuring that Council is acting as our citizens expect. I ask you to support the item today and I'll address any of your questions in my close.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Who asked to have it stood down? I'll let them speak first.

Clerk: Councillor Klein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein. Okay.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. And I'm sure some are going to take this the wrong way, but…and say that this is a very transparent thing. I'm just wondering, because I've seen it in the process now for two years, if we've measured the effectiveness of it. Other than being able to say we have one, I know that some policies have been put in place, but there's…you know, what has been the effectiveness? What is the results? How many cases have been reported? We get a year-end report, I know that, but looking at it as a whole picture as opposed to just renewing the contract. I'll note, it's probably a renewal clause in the contract, but there's no mention of the flat fee or additional fees charged when we do…when councillors approach for questions. How effective has it been in resolving issues? I don't think there was any conversation with councillors with respect to that. I may have missed that meeting. I don't believe we've had one. Is there a performance review that goes with this position? Do we…do we not look at other…other examples or possibly putting out another RFP or finding a way to use resources internally to deal with these things as opposed to hiring outside sources that aren't costing taxpayers money. We sit here and we'll talk about how tight money is and when we do our budgets, we hear about how tight money is. Is this the best use of taxpayers' dollars at this particular point in time? Is it effective? Is it working? I think these are all fair questions and reasonable questions. I just feel that we're…we get stuck in this status quo way of just renewing contracts, moving forward, just doing the same old thing and I think it's time for the status quo to be shut down and start looking at different ways. So, I won't be supporting it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much, Councillor Klein. Do I have another…any other speakers?

Clerk: Yes, we have Councillor Nason, then Orlikow, then His Worship Mayor Bowman.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Nason, you have the floor.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, the voluntary registry…the Lobbyist Registry was interesting that Councillor Sharma brought up because it hasn't been updated since February 16th, 2021. We're now almost through March and there's only two people that have lobbied the City of Winnipeg in 2021. If we've got an Integrity

Commissioner, you would think that she would be keeping on an eye on that. So, if we're, you know, reviewing and extending the contract, I don't know if this reflects on her or the Clerk's or who's responsible, but there seems to some things that have slipped through the cracks under her perceived watch and I am hesitant to support this position. It's late in the day and my thought process is a little lax, but I'm not prepared to support it today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Schreyer it was?

Councillor Schreyer: I'm not sure if I'm next, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You are next and then Mayor Bowman is after you.

Councillor Schreyer: Okay, thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A couple of things to say. I think…I think we have to go at least through a phase of having an Integrity Commissioner. And I think that's fine. I honestly believe that part of this…it's sort of like the (inaudible) to the councillors. Bit of a red herring to make the perception that the councillors are…geeze, if you don't…this…these are the really the ones you watch…of course, you have to watch the whole…the entire system. My concern is that by having the audits, having the Integrity Commissioner, we've solved something. And therefore, don't look in other directions. And so, I'm going to support the renewal of the contract of the Integrity Commissioner. I think it's a good thing. What I want is, and what I've stated before, just like when I voted with the Mayor and Councillor Gillingham, for maintaining the audits on the councillors because we need the same standard on the rest of City Hall. That includes the Mayor's Office, that includes the administration. So, I'm not going to ask for less on the councillors. And so, I'm going to, you know, vote in favour of renewing the contract with the Integrity Commissioner, but of course, Councillor Klein makes good points. I can't answer his questions. You know, maybe someone else can, but I mean, what are the answers to Councillor Klein's questions? Has there been a type of performance analysis? And what are the rates involved and things like this. Nonetheless, I do believe that there will be an opportunity through the course of this year if not the next few months, if not within the next course of meetings of the next month for Councillor Klein to have his questions answered or processed for this. Because not only does he deserve it, we're all accountable. And on that basis, I would support his…continuing his endeavour to find out the answers to these questions. Now, Councillor Nason has said that the Lobbying Registry hasn't been updated, but I mean, bear in mind, one of the first conversations I had with the Integrity Commissioner was about the fact that I brought forth an amendment when we had our debate on the Lobbying Registry to just add the word 'voluntary lobby registry'. And that's what it is, it's voluntary. And I also thought it was important to make that distinction. There's no point in telling the people of Winnipeg that we have a Lobbyist Registry when we don't if the assumption is that it's somehow mandatory or realistic in terms of letting people know who's lobbying the City. Because it was voluntary, but not stated so in the title of it. That's misleading. Therefore, I brought up the amendment by adding the word 'voluntary'. That was true, accurate and accountable to the people. So, and that passed easily. And I think that could be an indication why there hasn't been necessarily an update in the sense that…maybe this is the answer, because people don't have to sign…register their lobbying. And so, be it, that's the state of Winnipeg. My concern is that, had I not brought up that amendment to add the word 'voluntary', it would be part of the red herrings I believe at City Hall in which people would think we have an actual registry, Lobbyist Registry. That would have been, obviously, the perception by many people. Why? Maybe because of the title, because it says we have one? Or because of the way it would have been played that way using the resources of City Hall, their communication resources, to say, look, we brought in a registry. Now, it looks kind of uncomfortable when I look at it. We brought in this voluntary registry because of this amendment, but at least true. It makes people wonder why are we doing it. Well, it's these phases we go through. It's part of the process. It's part of the progress. And we'll see where we end up in the years to come, including with the Integrity Commissioner. We need to deal and it's our accountability to deal with the integrity of City Hall, not just fellow councillors, but at the same time, it's hard for me to say that the people of Winnipeg are going to have trust and faith in city councillors, but their city councillors can't show to, you know, be going…go through the…go through the standards and the vetting of various types of accountability. And let's face it, city councillors go through many, many facets, many layers of vetting. You know, our integrity goes through many sieves, let's face it. And here we all are, an election's just one, including our monthly report, including annual audits, including the Integrity Commissioner, including question and answers at Council meetings, debates with each other at standing committees and community committees and dealing on a daily basis with our constituents. There's a lot we go through. And this is a part of it. And I just want to see where this goes because it is not my perception, nor has it ever been my perception, that the city councillors are the primary cause for concern for mistrust at City Hall. But having said that, just because I think that, just because I believe it, doesn't mean when we brought an Integrity Commissioner, we should do it. If we're going to look at the standards of integrity, if we're going to look at the standards of the vigilance on which we observe and judge our integrity amongst councillors, that should be done as well amongst the other institutions. It's just logical. It's just fair. And it's unrealistic to think that all will be well when we see our councillors on a monthly, daily, seasonal, annual basis, you know, follow the rules. That's not good enough. And that's the least we can do. And on that basis, I will vote in favour of this report to renew our good Integrity Commissioner's contract. And having said that, I will also be supporting Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason and whoever wants greater accountability in terms of what this entails in the days to come. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mayor Bowman, speak to the…?

Mayor Bowman: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'll be supporting the re-appointment of Ms. Walsh. I want to thank her for the service that she has provided to Winnipeg's City Hall and to the residents that we all serve. She is someone that I believe has acted with integrity and with diligence and confidence. And I know from my interactions with her, I have sought her counsel. It's been valuable to me. And I understand other members of Council have sought her counsel from time to time. I know she's briefed members of Council and she's also…I understand she also will investigate matters. And so, if you have questions about the work she's doing, there are open, transparent public reports that she has provided on an annual basis. And another source of information is Ms. Sherri Walsh. If a member of Council has questions for her, they can contact her and ask questions. And so, if members of Council are confused how to do that, I would just encourage them to check out the contact information on the website. I know she's provided it to us since she's repeatedly told all members of Council she's available to answer questions about her activities and specific matters. I'm not sure why that's a challenge. We also have, of course, this matter derived from the Governance Committee of Council. It then proceeded to Executive Policy Committee, and then also proceeded here. So, this is not a surprise. There was ample time to do so. With respect to the Lobbyist Registry, again, I'm very proud of the fact that that's one additional measure that we have taken as a council in recent years to improve and strengthen residents' trust and confidence in City Hall. I know there are some that want to go back to the good old days in times when there were issues at City Hall that we don't want to repeat. I think we need to continue moving forward with some of the checks and balances that we've introduced. And I can understand why some would oppose having an Integrity Commissioner, and they obviously can vote that way. In terms of the Lobbyist Registry, it is a lobby…it is a volunteer lobbyist registry. And I think it is incumbent upon all of us, as members of Council, to encourage people that are lobbying us to register. That's something we can all do. To hear criticisms that less people have registered than a member of Council would like, well, there's a simple solution to that; let's all work together and let's let people know that they should register for the lobbyist, and encourage them to do so when they're meeting. I have on my website, and I'll just read this out; when folks are requesting a meeting, you can see it states in writing, "Winnipeg's first Voluntary Lobbyist Registry was recently approved by Council. Anyone wishing to meet with myself is strongly encouraged to review the registry website to determine if they meet the definition of a lobbyist and to register their meeting activity accordingly. Additional information about the City of Winnipeg's Lobbyist Registry is also available by downloading the information brochure" which is made available. So, I would encourage all members of Council, including those that may have criticisms about the numbers of parties that have registered. I would ask Councillor Nason to provide me with what has he done to fix the problem he's raising here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I would be happy to provide a link to my website where he could, you know, copy and paste the information that I'm making available to encourage people to register. That…these steps alone don't strengthen the checks and balances and accountability at City Hall, but it adds to many measures that we've introduced over the many years. Previous councils have done their part. Last council and this council are doing their part to strengthen things. And so, I'm proud to vote for Ms. Walsh. I appreciate the work that she's doing. I know it's been valuable for members of Council. And if members of Council had questions for her in advance, I would have expected that they'd be able to demonstrate they did their due diligence as a member of Council to seek out the answers in advance of just making statements at the eleventh hour. And I would encourage people if they still have questions for her, read the reports and seek out questions from her. I know she's available and is willing to answer questions. But I would encourage all members of Council to renew the Integrity Commissioner, to support Winnipeg's first ever Integrity Commissioner and support this Governance Council report coming forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Point of information, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yes, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: The simple way to deal with it would be to make the Lobbyist Register mandatory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We're not debating the Lobbyist Registry.

Councillor Schreyer: Like all the labour unions are willing to do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, you're out of order. We're not dealing with the lobby…that's for another matter. We're saying…questioning, are we hiring Ms. Walsh as the Commissioner. Right now, the law says that we hire a Commissioner. So, if we want to change the law, that will be another review. So, do I have anybody else who wants to speak to this report?

Clerk: We have Councillor Orlikow and Rollins.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, Councillor Orlikow, could you please take the floor?

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Mr. Chair…Chairman…Speaker. I guess, I have to…I was very leery, you know, about having a third-party start coming in and, you know, saying what is right or wrong. I also am part of the cadre of councillors that had to go through when we didn't have an Integrity Commissioner. And I am convinced now and I've also been following other Integrity Commissioners and what they're doing in Ontario and Alberta and other places, and I am fully convinced that Ms. Walsh is very suited for this job. We can just take our last example of the issue regarding social media. In other provinces such as Edmonton and even Ontario, they…the motion would be coming forward and council would be blindsided or…and it's rejected. Ms. Walsh, what she does, is she brings it forward, the idea, we all have the chance to have our input and then she listens. And then she brings forward some…an idea that is informed. I may not always agree with it, but I know that she had listened to the views of, not only the councillors, but also of the others. I have never had a problem contacting her about a question. You call her, she gets right back to you. It may be about, you know, should I be voting on the McMillan property? She…I didn't agree with her there, but she ruled that you probably shouldn't and I take her advice. And then I ask her for, can you please put that in the summary in the annual report, which she provides us, of why that ruling…why you did that. She listens to me, and then she decides. So we can have…I hear point of order?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah…

Councillor Nason: Deputy Speaker, it's Councillor Nason. I know there's been a past history where the Integrity Commissioner had to recuse herself from ruling on Councillor Orlikow. I'm just wondering if he might be…

Councillor Orlikow: That's not a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I don't see the point of order. Councillor…okay, stop for a minute. Quiet. Councillor Nason, I don't see a problem with what Councillor Orlikow is mentioning. He, actually, like our Speaker at Governance had had the passed experience of what was in place before. And we'll let Councillor Orlikow continue.

Councillor Orlikow: Yeah, and I understand that Councillor Nason and some other councillors don't want to have an Integrity Commissioner for whatever reasons, and that's their choice. But I can tell you, today's (inaudible) Integrity Commissioner…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Actually, Councillor Orlikow, they didn't say no commissioner, they want an evaluation.

Councillor Orlikow: Whatever opposition they have. And that's fine. Everybody has their own opinions. My opinion is, that having an Integrity Commissioner of the caliber that we have with Ms. Walsh is very beneficial, not only to Council, but also the public we serve. If anybody has any concerns about her performance, I've never heard them. I have been very impressed with the reports that she gives every year. And that the fact that she does listen to our input, not exclusively, and sometimes she doesn't listen to our input, but she listens. But she will act on what she believes is best. She…and so for those reasons, and the fact that she…I believe she's done a very good job at this point. So, the fact that she…Councillor Nason's trying to smudge over that she donated $50 to me way back when, is that he reasoned not to be speaking in support of her, is ridiculous because I have had the opportunity to work with her. Started off pretty, I would say, not very supportive, but I have turned the corner. I think the Integrity Commissioner for, not just for me, for Council today and tomorrow is required to instill that confidence in the public that, you know, we as a Council are working with integrity. And a third-party such as her is a very good asset to have to promote democracy and confidence in the system. So, I'll be supporting her renewal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Orlikow. Councillor Rollins, you have the floor.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Ms. Walsh is a human rights lawyer, and she worked with the Honourable Ted Hughes when he presided over the public inquiry into the circumstances of the death of Phoenix Sinclair. And this was a case that I watched very closely and it was actually inspiration for one of the first motions I did at the school board to create an Indigenous Advisory Council at the school board inspired by Phoenix Sinclair, a member…in consultation with Chief Crane…Crate, David Crate. So, I was really glad in 2017 when Sherri Walsh became the first ever Integrity Commissioner. I had known some of…what of her work at University of Winnipeg where I had been a student and had sort of followed the career in the way that you might follow a career that we're lucky enough to do in Winnipeg, not that I knew her very well. But in and around that time, in 2017, the Municipal Board I was serving on was being brought under the ombudsperson. I do believe this is fairly recent history in Manitoba and amongst cities. And since taking the job, she has presented a new Code of Conduct, revising a 1994 document, and I believe it received unanimous consent back in 2017. Our Integrity Commissioner is one of a few and among a fairly new cohort of integrity commissioners across the country, Councillor Orlikow mentioned Ontario and Calgary. And in fact, she's brought integrity commissioners to come speak to Council and that's been, you know, certainly a highlight of her work during this term. Ms. Walsh is sensitive to

the public interest aspect of the work, and I appreciate that. And I think…I think that we should recognize her as an innovator, including the social media policy that Councillor Orlikow mentioned. She has taken care and been concerned with the role, and I think punches above just and beyond the city into her role of…among integrity…in ethics commissioners across the country and perhaps across North America. And I think that that's something we should recognize. Sherri Walsh has a professional relationship with this council, and I think in turn we should have a professional relationship with her to the Mayor's…some of the Mayor's comments. And I want to stand in support of continuing our relationship with our Integrity Commissioner.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Is there anybody else on the speaker list?

Clerk: No further speakers.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, could you just take the Chair, just for a moment while I speak to this very quickly? Thank you. I just rise...I'm in support of renewing the contract. You know, it's interesting in terms of many of the positions. We were supposed to have an evaluation of our CAO and different positions, and I'm not sure about how we evaluate our City Auditor, either, which is kind of interesting that in the past, you might have gone to the City Auditor for some of the…wherever there was like a financial conflict. What we have as a council members code of conduct is a way better process with a third-party person than what existed as Councillor Orlikow and Councillor Browaty and others would know because if you wanted to file an official complaint as another member of Council, you'd have to launch a municipal conflict of interest act thing, and then get involved with uh-oh, are you messing around with the powers that be, uh-oh, on Council? The way it works now, this is good. And I think that, while I don't always agree with Ms. Walsh, I have to say, she knows her business, and you know, what's debatable or not, I don't know. But one of the things I can tell you is that this is a very valuable position that I would expect was in place for all of our...for our statutory officers. Right now, the head of who else is a statutory officer is the one who would evaluate whether or not there's employee code of conduct issue, and that's...that's actually going to be...Madam Speaker, that's going to be my...you know, we don't have to worry about it now, but I don't think the right checks and balances are in place on the other side. But that's not the report we're talking about. Again, I think there should be some way to evaluate the performance of whoever we hire to do it. You cannot have an internal employee of the City of Winnipeg do it. I mean, the Auditor was in a position to do some of it, but while the Auditor looks at other compliance issues including our next report...or may not be anymore, but ultimately, what we have here, it could be evaluated, but I think we're always going to need an Integrity Commissioner to interpret whether or not there are violations. And I'll leave it at that, Madam Speaker. I think she's, again, done a great job, but do I agree with her always? No.

Councillor Allard: Madam Speaker, I'd like in on this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'll take the Chair back.

Clerk: Councillor Allard wishes to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I'll be supporting this contract. If anybody had an issue with this contract, there would have been many opportunities. Oh, I see I'm…the lighting's not great. I guess the sun went down. I was relying on solar power earlier, Councillor Schreyer and…anyway, there was many opportunities to address this contract going through the commitee system. I think if you're voting against this report at this time, you're voting against an Integrity Commissioner. I see no motions to amend the report. There are other policy considerations…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hold on, Councillor Allard. Councillor Allard, hold on a moment. I heard the point of order, Councillor Klein. Councillor Klein, I know what you're going to say. I heard him talking about if somebody votes against and that's his perception. He's not accusing somebody of saying they don't want a…like Councillor Orlikow did. He's just saying, if you…you know, whatever. It's his opinion. He hasn't accused you of anything. He's giving you his opinion. So, are you okay with that, Councillor Klein or do you want to challenge the Deputy? All right. All right, let's keep it all civil here. I don't even know why we're fighting. Okay. Councillor Allard, please continue.

Councillor Allard: I don't believe that I...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, I'm not accusing you of anything.

Councillor Allard: Uncivil in any way in my comments. I was just pointing out the fact that, at this point, we have a yes/no vote. One side of the vote is integrity, the other side of the vote is the opposite of integrity. If my colleagues had had an interest…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You know what, you don't have a point of order. He's giving…

Councillor Klein: I know that. This is not voting about integrity, this is voting on a contract. My points were specific to the contract.

Councillor Allard: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, are some members of Council allowed to speak more than once on this item or not?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Allard. Councillor Allard, everybody's tired and touchy here. Let's not…

Councillor Allard: Well, there are still the rules of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let's not be aggressive in our dialogue about this. Okay, please? Thank you.

Councillor Allard: May I continue? I've been interrupted twice now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Yeah, no, please continue, but let's not get all aggressive here. It's late. Everybody's tired. Let's take it easy. All right.

Councillor Allard: So, I guess the point I want to make is that there's a very clear question here's because there's been no amendments, there's been no proposals for changes, there's been multiple weeks in which members of Council could have engaged with the process, talked about the Integrity Commissioner. Perhaps, you know, if there was issues around evaluation, if there was issues around RFPs, all of these are articulable through motions or words, and I didn't hear any of those till tonight. So, I think for a set…the way I see it framed is, do you believe in having integrity on City Council or not? That's the way I see it framed. Because nobody's given any alternatives to that. And I can say that I've benefited from the services of the Integrity Commissioner when I need to ask for advice on an issue where I'm not 100% certain where the line should land, and that's been very helpful. I've also been investigated for a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner. So, I think it's good to have that check and balance there. And I think the Integrity Commissioner's done a great job and I think we should continue the contract. And if my colleagues who do not believe in integrity would like to…or those who do not believe in the way in which we are managing our Integrity Commissioner, I welcome them to bring forward motions where we would actually inform the process and not play this zero-sum game at the eleventh hour and vote against what I believe is voting against integrity at City Hall. So, I am going to be supporting this report. And I'd encourage my colleagues to engage earlier in the process if they want to do a no vote on something like this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. And okay, I just want to clarify before I ask if anybody else wants to speak just to clarify here, there's only one person we're looking at renewing a contract. There was no RFP put out to find another one. What we have here is a contract renewal to provide the services that I think everybody agrees needs to exist. The question is…anyway, we're voting on the contract which is the point that's been made by others. So, is there anybody else who wants to speak?

Councillor Allard: Recorded vote.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We're not there yet. We're going to let the head of Governance close. Speaker Sharma, please close on the report.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate all of the comments made here this evening. It is late, and we're tired, but we still have important work to do. We're not finished the meeting quite yet. Councillor Orlikow actually nailed it. We are so lucky to have someone of Ms. Walsh's calibre in this role. We worked with her to put together the Code of Conduct in a very collaborative manner a few of years ago, and we always welcome updates to it. We're working on the social media policy, that was mentioned again, in a collaborative manner. I did not hear anyone here say that they don't believe that we need an Integrity Commissioner. So, I'd like to press the reset button on those comments that I just heard recently. I jumped out of my chair a few times, but it wasn't my time to speak. She has done excellent work. I also agree with the comment that Councillor Klein made about accountability. I welcome accountability on any file, any topic under the purview of the City of Winnipeg. That's what we're here for. And I would love to have those conversations through the Governance Committee. Councillor Nason raised some comments. He is a member of the Governance Committee, so I look forward to working with him on this in the future. But today, yes, it did come to the Governance Committee, that isn't any member's only opportunity to speak to an item, but that is an appropriate place for certain conversations to start. Speak to the Integrity Commissioner directly, that was mentioned. Certainly speak to me as the Chair of Governance or our City Clerk. She has done excellent work. I strongly recommend and suggest that we get behind this and appoint her for the two-year term. And in between that time, if there is a desire, which I did hear today, to

build in some accountability and look at what that might look like, let's work on that together, okay? But for today, we have a very, very professional individual in front of us that has done very good work, and I'd ask you to support the item before us for her reappointment. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you for your recommendation. Okay, all those in favour of renewing the contract? Yeah, we'll have a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Orlikow, Schreyer, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillor Klein

Mr. Deputy Speaker: How's the…did I hear Councillor Nason voted for, right? He's not…could you…

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1, with Councillor Nason absent from the chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, thank you. Okay, report…Mr. Clerk, could you introduce the next report. I think it was stood down by Mayor Bowman.

Item 2 – Amendment to Councillor's Ward Allowance (CWA) Fund Policy – Random Audit of Councillors' Expenses

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Speaker Sharma, could you please introduce the report?

Councillor Sharma: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It looks like I've gotten a lot of exercise here today. Back and forth to the podium. The item in front of us deals with the amendment to the Councillors' Ward Allowance Policy. It's regarding external audits. It follows up on a report that we had from our City Auditor, noting that a professional standard review called for the removal of the City Auditor from conducting these audits as he reports directly to Council which would create a conflict of interest. The policy is being changed to have an external auditor undertake the audits of our CWA expenses. The same report from our City Auditor noted that Winnipeg was the only municipality in Canada undertaking such an audit and that there was no charter requirement for it. He also noted that the CWA expenses were already heavily scrutinized with all expenses approved by the City Clerk's Department and Corporate Finance. Also, the expenses were the most open and accessible of any expenses at the City of Winnipeg. Councillors' expenses are posted for public review on the City of Winnipeg website. He also noticed that…noted…he also noted that from a business value perspective, significant costs are incurred to perform the audit with few findings in recent years. One option the Auditor proposed was to eliminate the audits completely. However, the recommendation before us strives to find a balance between no audits and a full audit every year. It proposes that we do random audits annually. The new process would randomly select five councillors to be audited each year. Each councillor would be subject to an audit at least once per term and every councillor could still be selected in any particular year even if they have already been audited during that term. This process along with the many safeguards already in place will provide the assurance that taxpayer expenses are only being used in accordance with the Council approved policy. We have a policy for the CWA. That is a very good thing. At the same time, it will avoid a potential conflict of interest with the City Auditor and reduce the costs of audits considerably. I ask you to support this item before us. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. Mr. Mayor, I'll let you speak first.

Mayor Bowman: You know I just wanted to call for a recorded vote. It's fine. I just asked to pull it just so…

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there anybody else who wishes to speak to the report? It's a good report. No speakers? All right, so it's call for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Orlikow, Nason, Schreyer, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins, Santos and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

His Worship Mayor Bowman and Councillor Gillingham

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Gillingham? All right.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Deputy Speaker, Yeas 13, Nays 2, with Councillor Allard absent from the chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Right, thank you. So, the report is passed. Thank you. Would you like to have the Chair back, Madam Speaker?

Councillor Allard: If it's not too late, can I be recorded in support of that last report?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Well, you…

Councillor Nason: Were not present.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm afraid the problem is, is that the vote has already been done, and it is too late. I didn't…I already called the yeas and nays, and you...

Councillor Allard: I was just checking.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If I'd only called the yeas and not the nays yet, then you could have said, I want to be recorded. But we've already called it.

Councillor Allard: All right. I'll know next time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Thank you. Councillor Gilroy, will you move adjournment? All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Please stay in place, the camera will be on you. Mr. Clerk, roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Councilors Allard, Nason, Orlikow, Schreyer, Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Rollins and Santos.

Council adjourned at 8:23 p.m.