From: Michelle Berger
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 2:52 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>
Cc:
Subject: Att: Executive Policy Committee - May 18, 2020 - letter in opposition to the sale of 409 Mulvey Ave East (Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry Ward)

May 17, 2021

His Worship, Mayor Bowman
Executive Policy Committee Members
Councillors
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Re: Item No. 2 Sale of City-owned Property – 409 Mulvey Avenue East (Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry Ward)

I am submitting this letter in **opposition** to the recommendation made in the Administrative Report of proposed sale of city-owned property – 409 Mulvey Avenue East

In *Medical News Today, a* 2019 article titled *"Green Spaces in Cities Can Help People Live Longer*"(1) describes the research carried out by The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) in Spain regarding the importance of green spaces in urban areas. The research team found that "for every 0.1 increment in vegetative score (2) within 500 meters of a person's home, there was a 4% reduction in premature mortality."

The article lists the many health benefits of green spaces. Green spaces:

- provide walkability, the space for physical activity, relaxation, peace, and an escape from heat
- reduce stress and boost mental and physical health
- are associated with better air quality, reduced traffic noise, cooler temperatures, and greater diversity
- are good for "climate mitigation through reducing heat island effects in cities and reducing air pollution effects"

Not only do green spaces have a positive impact on the health of people but they also have one on the health of the environment.

Newer suburban developments boast of kilometres of trails, playgrounds, and courts for various sports as described in the following:

"Sage Creek is home to a myriad of trails, parks and playgrounds, providing places to play, exercise or take in the sights and sounds of the community." (3)

"Eskar Park is the jewel of Bridgwater Trails, with 35 acres of native plants, trails, plus children's park, and courts for basketball, volleyball, bocce, and baseball diamond. Bridgwater Trails also has its own fountain/spray pad located at the centre plaza on Rose Lake Court." (4)

Nearby green spaces are appealing to home buyers. For example, the restoration of Prospect Park in New York City actually raised real estate values. Removing green space may have the opposite effect. It may even add to the challenge of curbing urban spread if the core areas of the city cannot offer at least some of the same amenities as are offered in the suburbs. Moreover, uneven access to green spaces aligns with social inequalities; the removal of any existing green space in the core area would only add to that imbalance.

Finally, since the beginning of the pandemic, we have all come to appreciate the ability to get out of the house and take a walk. Safe streets in the core areas have become very important as have park spaces. With no clear end to the pandemic in sight, continued adjustments to our lifestyles seem to be a given. Parks within walking distance play a huge role in this.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the sale of 409 Mulvey Ave and of any green spaces in the core areas of the city.

Sincerely,

Michelle Berger

(1) Green spaces in cities can help people live longer - Lisa Templeton on December 2, 2019
https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/327177

(2) Green spaces and mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies
https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanplh/PIIS2542-5196(19)30215-3.pdf

(3) Sage Creek website
https://sagecreek.qualicocommunities.com/community/trails-parks-playgrounds

(4) Live in Bridgewater
http://www.themooregroup.ca/bridgwater