

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

Thursday, July 22, 2021

The Council met at 9:45 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 Lukes.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker and good morning to you and my colleagues and all those that are watching these proceedings. I do want to begin by offering heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and former colleagues of former city councillor for Mynarski, Mr. Harry Lazarenko. I know Councillor Eadie will be speaking in a few moments and I want to thank him in advance for offering words on the record regarding this loss to our community. I also want to acknowledge and offer condolences to the family and friends of all of those that are being affected by the discovery of further unmarked graves that are being found across our nation. I know it's been a difficult time for many across Canada and from coast-to-coast-to-coast. And I just want to let everybody that is obviously grieving know that the City Council is grieving with you. I want to take a moment to just remind all Winnipeggers to be vigilant in our battle against COVID-19. Since our last Council meeting, there have been 1,737 new cases in the province, 805 new cases in the City of Winnipeg. Sadly, we have lost 17 of our residents due to COVID-19 since the last Council meeting. And with a test positivity rate at 2.9%, I just want to remind Winnipeggers to continue to be vigilant, be kind to each other and let's make sure we're doing everything we can to protect ourselves and our community. Since the last Council meeting, we have marked Canada Day with celebrations and commemorations and acknowledgment of our...the important work of reconciliation. We have marked Canadian Multiculturalism Day. The 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day poppy in Canada. We have seen our Public Service announce a new Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service Chief, Mr. Christian Schmidt. I want to offer him heartfelt congratulations. We have also seen elected leaders to various levels of government; RoseAnne Archibald is the new National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. And I want to wish her all the very best. Heartfelt congratulations. Arlen Dumas has been re-elected as the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Cindy Woodhouse has been elected as Assembly of First Nations Manitoba Regional Chief. Congratulations to her as well. Recently, I had the opportunity to announce the Mayor's Scholarship for Community Leadership. I want to thank Councillor Santos and others who have served on the selection community. Absolutely outstanding young leaders in our community each and every year. It should make you really proud to be a Winnipegger and I have a lot of confidence in the future. We have seen earlier this week, of course, the Federal Government announcement of \$12.8 million for the rapid housing initiative phase two. I want to thank our federal partners for that investment in our community as well as my colleagues and, of course, the Public Service will be putting our minds to that matter in a few moments. I also want to knowledge we've been named to the international top 7 list for the fourth time in 10 years and the ninth time for the Smart 21 List over the same period. This is a great acknowledgment by the work of many people in our community. And of course, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that this week Time recognized Winnipeg as one of the top 100 world's greatest places with a special nod to our arts and cultural community including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Qaumajug; a project that was supported by this and previous council. And, of course, I just want to acknowledge the work of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. I know Councillor Mayes has put a lot of time and attention to this as well, but mostly the artists; the Indigenous artists whose work is being exhibited in Winnipeg. And that's put us on the international map and I want to acknowledge their efforts. Last, I just want to close by encouraging Winnipeggers to cheer on...cheering our Canadian athletes that are competing at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, including many from Winnipeg, even from Oak Bluff, honorary Winnipegger. And I just want to wish them all the very best. We'll be cheering you on in Tokyo. Know that this community is going to be there in spirit to wish you all the very best of success. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie, your morning announcement.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am rising to just mention a couple of things about former Councillor Harry Lazarenko. Madam Speaker, it was my honour in 2014 and our honour, Speaker, that we were able as Council to re-name the Redwood Bridge after Harry Lazarenko. And that was to acknowledge his 30-year career of representing the North End and the Harry Lazarenko Bridge is one of the gateways into the North End. And Harry probably drove it many times to get to his job out at the CPR Rail...CN Rail out in Transcona. But Madam Speaker, the reason the bridge made sense is that Harry Lazarenko was a champion, he tried to convince all levels of government that we had a huge problem with riverbank stabilization as well as erosion of our riverbanks, and he did whatever he could. He would have an annual journey. He would take the media and other political representatives from different levels of government to point out these problems which today we actually have this legacy that maybe we will hear later on, look at trying to resolve that issue because our by-laws...our second reading talk about all this greenspace possibilities along our rivers, Madam Speaker. And essentially, the first time I had a chance to work with Councillor Lazarenko, Madam Speaker, it was in 1994. Harry got a Access to Information By-law Redraft Committee, got Council to agree to that. And I was appointed as one of the volunteers who worked on redrafting that Access to Information By-law. Now, the thing about Harry Lazarenko, he was all about openness, transparency and accountability. Whenever he was informed and had information that he believed was in the public interest, Madam Speaker, he would let the media know. And many people didn't think he should be doing that, but he believed that this public entity called the City of Winnipeg and this council needed to measure up to public expectations. And so, with this by-law, I am trying to...I'm pretty sure it was passed in the redraft. It had a...it set a precedence where a city...actually, we had a public interest clause in there. And Harry was grateful that that was there. So, the public interest said that if a record is in the public interest, it should be released as long as it didn't violate the provincial laws at the time. So, Harry was quite proud. Council passed that by-law and then later on it changed, but that is a legacy that he brought to today with our Mayor's career trying to bring more openness, transparency and accountability. And so, Harry's legacy, the belief that the public should know is very important. So, I will leave it at that and we will be, I guess, dealing with the condolence motion shortly. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Next is Councillor Allard, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. I rise today to speak from the floor of this council about the myriad of impacts extreme weather has had on regular people in our city, our country and across the world. What have we seen these last few months? Around Winnipeg, over 120 active wildfires. The air has been thick with smoke. People with respiratory issues can't breathe. Record-breaking heat this summer, massive North American-wide heat wave lasting for weeks, killing hundreds in BC and elsewhere, drought conditions across western Canada and North America, barely a drop of rain. Crop failures in farms across the continent. Wildfires in BC where an entire town burned to the ground. Flooding in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, many dead, entire villages and neighborhoods swept away. Deadly flooding in China. I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the victims of each of these tragedies whether they lost their livelihoods or in many cases, their lives. Beyond simply offering sympathy, however, I offer them all my commitment. To those who have suffered and been lost in these climate disasters and those who will suffer in disasters yet to come, I offer my redoubled commitment to tackling climate change head on. As we saw an incredible international resources mobilized around the COVID-19 pandemic, I dream of a day to see an equivalent response to this existential threat that looms in front of us. Climate change is real and climate change is here. The science is settled, it has been for decades. The solutions are available. They have been all along. The people and public are ready for action. Polls say climate change is a top issue for Canadian voters this year, rising steadily for years. The only thing that is missing is more decisive action; action from us, action from government, action from big polluters, action from those with power to act. We have taken some positive steps, but we need to do much more. Winnipeg's GHG emissions are unacceptably high. Thirty years since the Kyoto Accords were first signed, six years since the Paris Treaty, and our emissions continue to rise. The inter-governmental panel on climate change, IPCC which includes more than 1,300 scientists from around the world forecast a temperature rise of 2.5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit in the next century. Moving on, it's not some theoretical future person that will be negatively impacted by this. These are our children and our children's lives that we are impacting now and in the future. Climate change represents the single greatest threat to our city, province, country and humanity that has ever been faced. It is no exaggeration to say our survival to even the end of the century is no long a sure thing. Efforts from governmental and non-governmental actors in Canada at least have all been failing. They...we all have...they/we all have a role to play. The world is burning. I have a 6-year-old boy and a 12-year-old daughter and I hope to be a grandfather one day. I am in a position to affect change as we all are here today. And I want to be able to tell my kids that I fought tooth and nail for their future. This issue is more than a climate crisis for our youth. It's also creating mental health issues. Climate anxiety is increasing, being seen as a public health issue, especially for young people and children with surveys that found that 50% of teens...57% of teens...

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Allard: Is that it?

Madam Speaker: If you could just wrap up.

Councillor Allard: Okay. Feel that their stress...feel that stress related to climate change and it directly impacts their daily lives. Just get back into a recent example; quick example of the other day, talking to a friend, they shared with me how their teenage daughter and extended group of friends felt completely disconnected from the future. I am now seeing this with my kids. They know what is going on, they are woke. They see it on TikTok. They talk between themselves. They feel they have inherited a world on fire and their legacy will be to witness this destruction. There's less talk of future careers or starting families. I don't know about you, but I am honestly saddened to know that our kids feel this level of hopelessness. We need to act. We need to act now. And I am just wrapping up, Madam Speaker. I heard a quote the other day and it really spoke to me. "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." Together, let's ensure every single decision and policy change we make going forward will have that as its guiding principle. I had more, but I will leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Speaker and Council for your consideration.

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

Councillor Mayes: I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words in praise of Maurice Allard who has just retired as head of the Old St. Vital BIZ. Unlike some councillors like Councillor Rollins has about four or five BIZ's and some councillors have none, I have just the one. I've always just had the Old St. Vital BIZ. Maurice came on at a time a few years back when there was considerable difficulty in the operations of the BIZ. He's been a great, calm, steady, humorous, efficient hand at the head of the BIZ. I wish him well in retirement. He's still luckily in my ward already e-mailing me with other concerns in the ward. But, you know, we've done under Nancy Cook is now the president of the BIZ. I was part of the hiring committee that brought on Maurice and I think has been a great friend to St. Vital and did a great job as head of the BIZ. Oversaw the move of offices, oversaw operations during the pandemic and was able to get a grant back to the area businesses in the Old St. Vital BIZ. And oversaw the creation of this great public art piece that's at the junction, the Portage and Main of St. Vital, where St. Anne's and St. Mary's meet. Maurice oversaw that operation to the extent of, I think, physically helping move the public art out of the BIZ offices over...on across the street to get it set up. So, very much hands on. So, I want to thank Maurice for all he did as head of the BIZ. The BIZ is having a send off for him in late August. I wish we could have him here. We have done that in the past, but COVID restrictions. But hopefully when the Mayor's annual BIZ awards pick up again in-person, we can have Maurice Allard down here and thank him in-person. So, I just wanted to say thanks to Maurice and wish him well in retirement. And I am sure he will keep me busy with some texts and e-mails on a number of matters. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I live right by the Harry Lazarenko Bridge so named primarily due to the efforts of my neighbour across the river, Councillor Ross Eadie. And I would like to, as well, to offer condolences to the Lazarenko family whom we have known...my family has known for, well, decades. Actually, since the early '70s since the inception of modern Winnipeg and our first municipal election of this one great city back in the early '70s. In terms of climate change, in terms of our...and I want to thank my fellow councillors for these informative announcements this morning. They truly are inspiring. And in terms of climate change, I do recall there was a time when our Climate Action Plan didn't even include, in this city of all places in the world, did not include conversion from natural gas to hydro. And I do want to thank...if you're looking at historical moments when Councillor Brian Mayes took me up on the gambit to challenge this council and this city to include, of all things, that seem kind of simple, to include conversion from natural gas to hydroelectricity as part of the major discussion for our city to deal with our contribution to climate action...to climate change. Madam Speaker, in the celebration, the daily struggle to celebrate life and its value to us, I would like to mention someone dear to me. They...some would say this is an unlucky number, and I would not blame her if sometimes she would feel that way in terms of being with me. So, I will put it this way; it is my blessing today to start celebrating my 14th year married to my wife, Sarah. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Mr. Clerk, if you would now read the condolence motion for former Councillor Harry Lazarenko into the record.

MOTIONS

**Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of former Councillor Lazarenko, which occurred on July 9, 2021.

Former Councillor Lazarenko was first elected on October 23, 1974 in the Norquay Ward and served until 1977.

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Harry Lazarenko was re-elected on October 26, 1983 in the Norquay Ward. In 1989, after a ward boundary change, Harry Lazarenko served the citizens of the Mynarski Ward until October 2010.

Harry Lazarenko was Deputy Speaker from 1988 to 2006 and Speaker from 2007 to 2010 and, was often referred to as the "Mayor of the North End".

This Council extends to his family and its deepest sympathy and condolences in their bereavement.

Madam Speaker: Please rise for a moment of silence. Mr. Clerk, please read into the record the condolence motion for Mrs. Anne Orlikow, son of our colleague, Councillor John Orlikow, into the record please.

**Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,**

THAT Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of Anne Orlikow, Mother of Councillor John Orlikow, which occurred on June 25, 2021.

This Council extends to Councillor Orlikow and his family, its deepest sympathy and condolences in their bereavement.

Madam Speaker: Please rise for a moment of silence.

MINUTES

Councillor Klein moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on June 24th, 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Carried. We will now move into delegations. Mr. Clerk, the first delegation. Yes, Councillor Chambers.

DELEGATIONS

Councillor Chambers: I'd like to suspend the rules to allow James Van Gerwen to speak in delegation this morning on Item No. 1 of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works.

Madam Speaker: That is the Priority Seating Policy for Transit?

Councillor Chambers: Correct.

Madam Speaker: And that would be five minutes, no questions. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk, the first delegation, if you could name them, please.

Clerk: Our first delegation is Howie Paskowitz on behalf of Starlight Investments.

Madam Speaker: Good morning, Mr. Paskowitz.

Howie Paskowitz: Good morning, Madam Chair. Good morning Your Worship and members of Winnipeg City Council. It is nice to virtually see you again. I am here to support the recommendation before you to extend Council's previously approved motion regarding Portage Place. We are moving along with both the Federal Government and CMHC on our fully repayable loan application, not unlike what someone would apply for when purchasing a home as well as a federal grant of contribution. But based on our latest discussions, we will not be in a position to secure the construction financing for this project by July 23rd as required in the original City motion. We are very much committed to this project which will consist of 30% affordable housing as well as a 10,000 square foot community hub. We think it's much needed for downtown and what we are asking for today is a bit more time. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. Are there any questions for our delegation? Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much for your presentation, sir. How much more time do you think that you will require for this?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; thank you, councillor. We are asking for an extension to October 31st to wrap up our discussions with the Federal Government and CMHC.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, I just want to make sure, because it is...the plans that came forward were very robust and I agree that they are items that this community needs. And downtown development right now is very important especially after learning of the stats of what has happened because of the pandemic. Nothing else has changed in your plans. This is just really a request for more time, is that correct?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; that is correct. We are just asking for an extension to what Council has already approved.

Councillor Klein: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Several months ago, we were in a similar situation in terms of the delegation. And we asked some challenging questions in dealing with a serious issue. And one of them had to do with the millions of dollars that the City would be involved with. \$20 million, a good portion of which would be related to affordable housing is what we were told. We asked about this. In fact, Councillor Eadie was very helpful in offering information comparing Toronto to Winnipeg in terms of what the costs might be, what the appropriate ratio of income to rent what might be. It was difficult at that time to get any answer to that. So, I am asking today, since that time that we last were in delegation together here on this issue, is there any further progress, an understanding how they would use the \$20 million from the City of Winnipeg for affordable housing, given including the information that we offered, including from Councillor Eadie, on that very point?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; thank you to the Winnipeg City Council. When we first came in, you know, the project has always been changing, obviously, and the City of Winnipeg said, you know, that is not good enough. You have to give us at least 10% affordable housing, and we agreed to that. And that was a change that we agreed to last year when we came before council. Since that time, based on further discussions with the community, with community groups, with the Federal Government, we are now at 30% affordable housing. And that is our commitment even though it is more than what we originally asked to do and even more than CMHC program that we're applying to requires. We are committed to that 30% and those will be based at whatever the CMHC rates are for affordable, which I...do change as incomes go up, but I believe they are now focusing on making them or targeting the rent to focus on income and not just cap at a specific level based on average rent across the city. So, the answer would be that since that time, the rents have not gone up, but the amount of affordable units has tripled.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Final question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, I guess I have been asked the question, so I have to ask the question: how many units would there be for the amount of money that the Winnipeg taxpayers are putting into this project for affordable housing?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; I think it is important firstly to also state that part of the funding that we're getting from the City is earmarked for specific improvements; so streetscape, landscape and transportation. Not targeted directly at affordable housing. That being said, the City said, this is not good enough, we need 10% affordable housing. As the project evolves and continues to evolve just based on architectural reasons and getting a better understanding of what is happening within the building, the number of units has changed somewhat. So, I think when we first came through we talked about 500 units. We're now up closer to 550 or more. And whatever number of units we provide times, you know, 30% of that will be affordable. So, right now, we are in 165 affordable unit range.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. I think two questions: your June 30th letter that's on file here contains this sentence from Starlight, "there are many moving parts and elements that must remain confidential", which, as I indicated at EPC, I find troubling that we are being asked for an extension, but there are...in your own phrasing, there are many moving parts and elements that must remain confidential. Can you give us anymore light on what that...anything that you can add to what we heard at EPC? Any further transparency or clarification to those moving parts and elements or are they still confidential?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; we think that this extension to October will allow us the time we need to sort through everything we need to with CMHC and with the Federal Government to make sure that our repayable...fully pay...you know, repayable loan will be the right amount. That we provided the right amount of community space and affordable housing. The moving parts are some of these discussions about how much are we putting in, how much is that federal loan, and what program that that comes from. But we think this extension will allow us to put this one over the finish line and get ready to go.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes, next question.

Councillor Mayes: Considerable speculation about a coming federal election. That's obviously not something you control or we control. Would a federal election alter and require a further extension beyond October 31st or are you confident this is it or are you...given that that variable is out there and is being speculated on quite a bit? What is the likelihood you might be back here in October?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; I would much rather be back in October in-person for a great announcement that we are getting started. That being said, I don't know how to predict what will happen with the federal election. I don't bid on horses and I don't bid on elections. So, I would suggest that...it is definitely a wild card that we need to be prepared for. We specifically asked for an extension, not of another year, but of October because we want this shovel ready project to be good to go and we don't want to give everyone another year to figure this out. We think we are close enough that this extension will be the final one.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. Through you, Madam Speaker, to Mr. Paskowitz; if you could just elaborate, again, so that Council and I am clear on the affordable housing component. Is it market affordable? Are you working with CMHC to figure out something different? If you could just, for clarity purposes, maybe just for me, elaborate again on your definition of affordable.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; yes, Councillor Lukes, this will be capital 'A' affordable. This will not be us just saying these are a little bit cheaper. These will follow the CMHC guidelines for affordable housing.

Madam Speaker: Next question, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: So, sorry, just to clarify; my understanding of the CMHC guidelines is market affordability, percentage just below surrounding area market prices. And I say that only because I've put in 2,700 units over the last four years in the south of Winnipeg and many of the developers are doing CMHC funding. So, I just want to understand, is it the model of CMHC funding that you will be using or is it a different model?

Howie Paskowitz: Through you, Madam Speaker; because we are working with CMHC very closely on this, it will be affordable housing as per the CMHC requirements and rent specifications.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, I will ask; you know, we have seen tens of millions of dollars going out for housing through CMHC and the Federal Government. Should the taxpayers of Winnipeg and residents that we serve be worried about the continued delays into that federal response on this matter?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Paskowitz.

Howie Paskowitz: Through you...through you, Madam Speaker; I don't want to speculate on that one.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Seeing none, this concludes question period for this delegation. Thank you for presenting today.

Howie Paskowitz: Thank you for having me.

Madam Speaker: Next we have Mr. Riley Twovoice who is in support of the Executive Policy Committee notice of motion regarding Bill 64 - the Education Modernization Act. Mr. Clerk, is he on the line with us?

Clerk: He is, yes. We're just going to ask him to unmute his mic and start his video, please.

Madam Speaker: And we'll have 10 minutes on the clock.

Riley Twovoice: Good morning, Madam Speaker, His Worship and members of Council. I must apologize, I do not have a camera so I do not have a video of myself. I come to speak today in support of Councillor Mayes motion that would have the City Council formally oppose Bill 64. Seven other Manitoban municipalities in addition to more than two dozen First Nations have all opposed the bill. I am hoping Winnipeg is next on that list. The dissolving of school boards leads to a loss of local voice. While that mainly has been a problem...while that mainly has been a theme in rural communities, that would also become a problem here in Winnipeg. I live in Transcona. While I do care about education, I just cannot bring myself to care about an elementary school in Point Douglas or about a high school in Charleswood. The proposed legislation as it is would make Winnipeg its own district. There is a reason why six school divisions exist in Winnipeg alone and that is because this...and that is because this city is so vast. The proposed changes include having parents play a large part in schools. While that may sound good on first glance, I can say for certain, it is not. Parents are very much biased towards their kids which means they are not...they are the exact opposite of impartial. This would introduce a conflict of interest in school government unlike now which sees elected school trustees making decisions impartially. This also leads back into the problem with regional districts. A parent will only care about their children's school and that is if they can care. The changes most likely would be a huge time commitment which either leads to a large proportion of the parent population not participating or them taking time off work or the like to participate. Either is good. Furthermore, parents would be empowered to choose if their kids should be exposed to sensitive content like human sexuality, substance use and abuse prevention and personal safety. The last thing Winnipeg needs right now is to have kids and teens not learning about substance abuse. All kids require and deserve to be taught about human sexuality and substance abuse as it has been proven many times that learning about them lowers teen pregnancy rates and addiction respectively. Bill 64 would also see an increase in centralization of education to an uncomfortable amount. As time goes on, reconciliation becomes an increasingly important issue. While education and reconciliation may seem very far away from each other, they are not. We have seen from this provincial government what a lack of proper education leaves us with. What it leaves us with is ignorance, either willful or unknown. Already schools teach Indigenous topics in a subpar manner. Imagine what it would become if a government ignorant to residential schools has more power over education. I hope sincerely that the City's commitment to reconciliation does not falter now. Admittedly, for some of you Council members, I am asking you to go against the party that you belong to, that you have worked for and with for many years. But as Brian Bowman said recently, there are some public policy issues that transcend party ideology. The other day there was a rally at the legislature. People wore red and orange. Reconciliation and education are very much intertwined. For the City to honour their commitment to reconciliation, they must oppose Bill 64 in its entirety, not just the dissolution of school boards, but all parts of it. I believe we found the dead canary in the coal mine recently. If we do not look at this dead canary and see what it represents, we have failed our children and our future. A government that defends European colonizers is an...and is an apologist for residential schools cannot be trusted to teach those topics properly. On a personal note, I do not feel comfortable with them being able to control how those things are taught given my ethnicity. I'm hesitant to say my age as I feel that discounts me, however, I'm still in high school. No one I have talked to, teachers, students, parents have said they support Bill 64. When the bill comes into effect, I'll have two years left of school. It is my honest belief that those two years will be very bad. In the coming weeks and months, I will take every step I can to ensure that this bill does not come into effect. The municipal government can be an ally to me and my fellow students or you can be complacent. While the motion, as proposed, would ultimately be just words to the Provincial Government, it is important to make it known that opposition to Bill 64 is bipartisan and widespread. Life as a citizen as bred at the education level, and that must be protected. If the democratic institute for education oversight is demolished, that would be a travesty. Yesterday, Mr. Bowman said that the Provincial Government has a pattern of eroding local democracy. If schooling becomes nothing more than standardized tests and trying to cut costs as much as possible, then that is death to the citizenry, for it is abundantly clear now that education must be protected so that reconciliation with the Indigenous, so that the institution that makes citizens and continue to thrive as it is now. As a student, I can say for certain that we are thriving. As I said before, this motion to oppose may be nothing more than words in a formal record, but this puts the City on the right side of history. I urge all Council members to support this motion to support students now and to support our future. Thank you and I yield my time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Riley. If you could stay on the line with us and we will hear from the next delegation and then we'll get into questions. Next is Luanne Karn who is also in support of the same item. Mr. Clerk, is Luanne with us?

Clerk: Luanne is with us. We'll ask that you please go ahead and start your video, unmute your mic and you'll have five minutes to address Council. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Luanne.

Luanne Karn: Hi, I am here but I'm...the host has stopped my video.

Madam Speaker: Just give us a moment.

Luanne Karn: I could start with just my mic if you'd like.

Madam Speaker: Are you on Zoom, Luanne?

Luanne Karn: Yeah.

Madam Speaker: There we go. We see you now. Welcome.

Luanne Karn: Yes. May I begin?

Madam Speaker: Yes, there's five minutes on the clock for you.

Luanne Karn: Madam Speaker, His Worship and fellow councillors, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of today's motion on Bill 64 being presented by Councillor Mayes. I am Luanne Karn and I am here to speak for Parents for Public Education Manitoba, a volunteer group representing more than 4,200 parents from every school division in the province, at least 1,700 parents from Winnipeg and 2,500 parents from other regions in Manitoba. We are deeply concerned about and opposed to Bill 64 becoming the new government...governance structure for public education in Manitoba. We support today's motion by the City of Winnipeg to formally oppose Bill 64, the Education Modernization Act. If passed into law in the fall of 2021, one provincial education authority board composed of five to nine appointed partisan representatives of the Provincial Government will replace all elected English school boards in Manitoba. This new board will have all decision making authority over our K-12 schools. There are two parts of the councillor's motion being discussed today; the first part, be it resolved that the Council formally oppose Bill 64 which seeks to abolish school boards. This is a strong statement by the City of Winnipeg that we are in favour of. At least 10 other municipalities, 7 or 10 have already passed similar motions. And we fully encourage the City of Winnipeg to provide the same leadership. We do respectfully though ask Councillor Mayes and the committee to change the word 'amend' to 'withdraw' in the second part of the motion. Bill 64 is a deeply complex governance structure that seeks to centralize power and remove democratic control over local decision making to a very small partisan group of non-elected representatives. The legislation also intends to download the work of day-to-day school matters onto volunteer parent-run school community councils and principals. All aspects of this new governance structure need to be removed, not just the removal of school boards. The appointed Provincial Education Authority Board, the Parent Advisory Council for Education, the paid parent engagement officers assigned to school that will likely be teaching staff seconded from the normal classroom responsibilities to support volunteer parents. And, of course, the volunteer-based school community councils that are essentially window dressing to seek the...and create the illusion of parent and community engagements. Once all of these items are amended, the bill does nothing to change or reform our education system in any meaningful matter. So, therefore, Bill 64 must be withdrawn by our Provincial Government before its second reading. Once the bill moves to second reading and the committee stage, it will not be possible to change the essence of this bill and there will be a tide of catastrophic changes to public education. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the parent role, since that is the focus of our organization. This government is seeking to download more responsibilities on to women through this very sexist legislation. Women are still primarily responsible for the care of pre-school aged children, domestic labour, the care of elderly relatives as well as other unpaid care activities. Imagine the number of volunteer hours that would be required by parents, mostly mothers of school aged children, to replace the roles of local school boards and elected trustees to provide advice on matters of staff, hiring, capital expenditures, annual budgets, program evaluations, school policies on suspensions, expulsions, report cards, not to mention all the other details required to provide safe and equitable school environments for students. So, therefore, the second part of this motion does not support the first part of the motion, strong opposition to Bill 64. Bill 64 is based on a model of governance that includes more than just the elimination of school boards. It is based on a neo-liberal model of parent volunteers replacing and reducing our social commitment to the public funding governance of K-12 education. Schools are the backbones of our communities, cities and municipalities. They must be well funded, well governed with strong principles of local engagement. And to ensure this...we must ensure there's not just quality education for those families with the financial and social privilege to access private schools or home schooling. We must ensure all quality public education for all of our families. I think I am probably at five minutes, so I will yield the rest of my time and ask if there are questions about my presentation in support of the motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Luanne. I will take this opportunity to ask if there's any questions. Any questions for either of our delegations? Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I have to stand up. Thank you very much, Ms. Karn for your presentation. Yes, so, I would just like to ask you a few things. This is a...first of all, I guess...I don't know if you know this is a 'did you know?'; did you know that City of Winnipeg councillors have the lowest office resources in all of Canada? And to be honest, I have not read the 377-page Education Modernization Act. You say it is a deeply complex structure which I am sure it is. There's been lots in the

media. I completely respect the media, but the media doesn't always get the facts straight either. So, maybe you can help me with a couple questions here. So, I am under the impression, I could be wrong, that there are still changes that are being made or may be made to the...to the act. Am I correct on that?

Luanne Karn: There has been a statement by our Minister of Education that changes may be considered based on the report from the Parent Engagement Task Force that was set up by our Minister of Education in the spring. It was a deeply flawed process where many of the parents in our group and who I work with did not feel that their voices were even heard. We haven't seen the results of the report, but there may be some changes. I would expect some of the changes might be that there's more than one representative for Winnipeg for instance. Right now, there's 15 parent volunteers to advise the Provincial Education Authority Board and maybe there'll be more than one for Winnipeg, which makes sense. I don't see that there would be, from what we have heard from our government, significant structural changes to the model of governance. They have supported it in every turn that I've heard in the various press conferences. But there may be some small amendments. We (inaudible)

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: So, is there the possibility...is there the possibility that when the minister says that there may be changes, they are taking more consultation, is there the possibility that school boards may not be abolished? Is there that possibility? I'm not sure. I haven't...I have not been following this with a magnifying glass.

Luanne Karn: In order to return school boards to the piece of legislation and have the same kind of democratic power and local elected representation, the Provincial Education Advisory Board would have to be removed from the legislation because it is the only decision making authority currently in the legislation. And that would basically turn the bill into nothing because you would have to remove one piece and add the other and we would return to the same model that we have currently in our Education Act in Manitoba. I don't anticipate significant changes from our government before the fall sitting. I could be wrong. We are also working very hard this summer to lobby local PC MLAs about this bill to ask them to speak directly with their party about withdrawing it. It is an extremely un-democratic form of governance for public education. And there are a lot of parents in every region who are trying to reach their MLAs to ask that it be withdrawn before October.

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

Councillor Lukes: So, I guess...I guess what is being asked of me, and I am asking you if this is what your understanding is; I am being asked to vote on something that may change, that is not yet set in stone. That there is the possibility it could change. Is that correct that this still could change?

Luanne Karn: I believe that our Minister of Education has only briefly mentioned that there may be changes. He hasn't committed to any changes at all.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Through you to Luanne Karn; you have provided an overview of how this bill, this modernization bill, might affect school trustees, democratically elected school trustees. Can you provide some comment on how it might affect teachers that are providing this valuable service to our children? What are the potential impacts or ramifications of Bill 64 with respect to teachers? If you can provide maybe an overview on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers.

Luanne Karn: Thank you councillor, for the question. Teachers will be dramatically impacted by many changes. I can list a few. We will be required to...I am also a teacher and a parent of a 9-year-old. We will be required to negotiate...negotiate a new collective agreement, one collective agreement for the whole province. Basically, all of the current collective agreements will expire on June 22, and that means that they will have to be renewed in a new form of (inaudible) 37 from school districts. Salary will have to be changed because they are all different in different regions. And that will cause a lot of negotiations and labour strike for our province. If the collective agreements for individual school divisions could be maintained then we could avoid some of that labour strike. And it could change teaching and the responsibilities of teachers significantly. For example, our new employer would not be a school board, but it would be the Province of Manitoba directly, and we would belong to one group. And who knows what implications that would have for where we work, how we work, what policies are in place for our evaluation of our workload and our licensing, et cetera. A lot will change for teachers. I also wanted to say that principals are teachers, teacher leaders. They will be taken out of the collective agreement according to Bill 64 and the other labour legislation that's been introduced at the same time. Principals and teachers have worked together very collaboratively and this change could lead to principals as managers and teachers

as educators in a not so harmonious relationship within individual schools. I would also add that the government has stated that the parent councils will...and parents will be able to work directly with principals and teachers on all the issues that they have with their child's schooling or the schooling in their individual schools. So, all of those questions that tend to go to the school boards, the trustees, the consultants, educational experts will be happening between you, your child and a teacher and an individual principal about the length of a school bus route, the suspension policies of that school with direction directly from a governance body that is centralized in Winnipeg. And local schools, local communities are very concerned that there will be such a wide gap between their experience and those who are in charge of making that decision-making. And teachers will be placed in a less positive relationship with parents if those discussions, those problems, those concerns, that problem solving will be directly between a parent and a teacher and a principal at their school. So, you don't have that...I think Riley mentioned in his speech that there would be less of a neutral body to negotiate those issues. We have spoken to parents and teachers in Nova Scotia where parents basically cannot get the answers about almost anything with regard to their schools because of the lack of school boards and elected trustees.

Madam Speaker: Luanne, thank you. I think you have answered the question. Second question, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Yes, and thank you for that response, Luanne. Just touching on the comments you made about the collective bargaining agreements and the many different school boards throughout the province. If in fact this bill does go through and there is a harmonization of all of those collective agreements, is there a potential for it to cost the government more money than it is currently spending in terms of providing the Cadillac service as opposed to the VW service of collective bargaining agreements?

Luanne Karn: Thank you again for that question. In most jurisdictions where school boards have been eliminated or amalgamated, there hasn't been a lot of cost savings, if any. And those costs stand for public schools. It is a myth that there would be even \$40 million in savings by removing salaries of school trustees. And yes, there would be a lot of financial costs to this new bargaining including the whole question of will there be a elected...sorry, will there be any arbitration.

Madam Speaker: Luanne, if we could pause, the clock has run out. There are more questions. Councillor Eadie moves extension. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Councillor Chambers, next question.

Councillor Chambers: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Last question; I have had the opportunity since being elected to participate in some of the board trustee meetings. When I sit at the different tables and I have got three different boards in my ward. And when I sit at the table, I don't see a lot of people that look like me, whereas, in the classrooms, I see the diversity that is there. Is there an opportunity to create more diversity and inclusion going forward if, through the modernization of the education bill, is that something that you as currently elected school trustees can work towards increasing diversity at our school board level?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Luanne.

Luanne Karn: I think that we need to modernize and change our education system so that there is more representation from BIPOC communities, queer communities from Indigenous communities, but removing school boards and school trustees will not ensure that. In Nova Scotia, they did have an appointed Indigenous representative on every single school board. And that was a requirement of each school board. And those kinds of policies could be enacted in Manitoba to ensure more representation. But removing school boards and having one body of five to nine appointed reps will not have that effect at all. So, therefore, we must withdraw Bill 64 and go back to the drawing board and find something better.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions?

Councillor Chambers: Thank you.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you. I wasn't going to speak, but I will ask a couple questions. You know, because I look at this, we are not the official opposition for the provincial legislature. But there are some key components of this that, you know, I spent some time in Calgary. And I believe Calgary has a...sorry.

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

Councillor Nason: Calgary has two boards; it has the catholic education board and it has the Calgary board. Their population is probably fairly close to the entire population of Manitoba. I understand Alberta has a very heavy assessment

program. How would you gauge the amount of money we spend per capita per student in Manitoba and the poor outcomes we have in the assessment of our students?

Luanne Karn: Thank you for the question. It is true that we have a 20% of our population is...has poor outcomes in math and English according to the PISA scores, which are not necessarily the best assessment of student outcomes. But it is true that we have a large group of students who live in poverty and have difficulty accessing the same kind of services in the school system. But I don't think it is about how much money we spend, it is about how we engage those students locally, what kind of curriculum supports there are in place for those students. And we need to continue to fund, if not fund at higher level, to ensure that those students in those communities do prosper in terms of public education. I do agree, and I think that there are members in our group that are starting to come to terms with the idea of some amalgamation of school boards, but what they are proposing in Bill 64 is not creating 15 different school boards. It is 15 regions, they are not decision making authorities. In Ontario there's about 80 school board for a tenth of the population...we have a tenth of the population. So, yes, we could look at 8, 10, 12, 15 school boards rather than 37. That kind of new legislation would have to be written. It could not be an amendment of Bill 64, but would need to be written from the ground up.

Madam Speaker: Luanne, the time has run out. Councillor Rollins moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Councillor Nason, any other questions?

Councillor Nason: No.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Okay. Thank you to both presenters for coming today. We will move on to the next delegation. That is Chantal Shivanna Ramraj who is appearing in opposition to the same item, the notice of motion regarding Bill 64 – Education Modernization Act. Mr. Clerk, we have the delegation on the line?

Clerk: Yes, we do.

Madam Speaker: Yes, I see. Welcome and you have 10 minutes on the clock.

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: Thank you. Good morning. My name is Chantal Shivanna Ramraj. I am a teacher with Protect Ed Manitoba which is a grassroots campaign advocating for public education in Manitoba. Our Red for Ed campaign is aimed at stopping Bill 64. And I just want to note, answering the previous question that Canada has the highest child poverty rate of all of the provinces in Canada. So, that is something that we need to take into account. Anyways, sorry, continuing; it is my understanding that some of the councillors here today are former school trustees. And it is so good to hear and see that folks are still connecting with those experiences. But we must admit that there are experiences missing here from the City Council. The idea is that before you vote, you take into account the voices of people with experiences you do not have. I am asking that you listen carefully to what all communities on these lands are trying to tell you about Bill 64. Grand Chief Garrison Settee has written an open letter to the Education Minister's office requesting that Bill 64 be immediately withdrawn, not amended, and that any further education reforms happen in partnership with Indigenous communities. This bill, as explained by the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations, that both the language and the intent of Bill 64 submitted by this government, the Provincial Government relies heavily on American open source legislation prepared by a corporate lobby group called the American Legislative Exchange Council or ALEC. So, we have a situation here in Manitoba where American corporations who fund ALEC have had more say in education reform in our province than Indigenous communities and any other communities that live, actually live in Manitoba. In what world is this reconciliation? Grand Chief Settee explained in his open letter that MKO has reached out three times to Minister Cullen's office with no response. You may be asking why this matters. Why can't we trust Cliff Cullen who has made repeated statements that reconciliation...

Madam Speaker: Chantal? Chantal, I just want to ask you a question; you were registered in opposition, right? But it appears that you are speaking in support. Can you clarify that, please?

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: For sure. So, the two 'whereas' at the end of the motion, the second one states 'amendment'. I am opposed to that statement. The Bill 64 should be withdrawn.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you for clarifying. Proceed with the presentation.

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: Thank you. You may be asking why this matters. Why can't we trust Cliff Cullen who's made repeated attempts...repeated statements that reconciliation and Indigenous education are included and will be part of his Better Education Starts Today plan. All of these statements are made on the website, none of them appear in the actual law. What does appear in the law is the provincial education authority that will ultimately make all decisions, all legally enforced decisions when it comes to education in Manitoba. Keeping our elected school boards does not mean that we avoid this authoritarian danger of a provincial education authority. We can keep school boards and this bill will still be in

the lives of certain children as sensitive content and write them out as if they are something to be written out at the request of someone else, which our government will gladly...apparently, gladly affirm. I want to talk about something that I just learned about recently that is Township 22. And I want to thank Alice McKay and Cody Gabrielson, Indigenous folks who put their time into researching Bill 64. Bill 64 says, under certain powers, for northern regional catchment area, the Provincial Education Authority may for students north of Township 22, establish residences for those students attending a secondary school within or outside the regional catchment area with the minister's approval. Are we pretending to not know what happens to Indigenous kids sent away from their home communities? Or a secondary school in Thunder Bay? Bill 64 marks a removal of legal mandates in the current Public Schools Act to provide transportation and create schools first with residents' appearing last as policies for the northern school divisions. In the current Public Schools Act, these decisions are led by and decided on by elected trustees with approval of the minister. Bill 64 says nothing about providing transportation for the northern catchment or creating schools, it goes straight to residents. Instead, decision making power in Bill 64 is given to one person, not two as is in the current Public Schools Act. And who will be that one person? Will it be someone who thinks like Alan Lagimodiere? Like Brian Pallister? Now, couple this with the extended powers of school resource officers given by Bill 64 to literally search any public place without a warrant. Section 330 says...330 says, that a parent who fails to refute...who fails or refuses to comply with the requirement to send their child to school without lawful excuse is guilty of an offense. Nowhere in the current Public Schools Act has the term 'guilty of an offense' come up. This is the province of Manitoba; anything above the green line is considered above Township 22. These are the children...schools can be closed without democratic representation resulting in them being sent to residences or secondary school. Now, let's look at a map of Manitoba's demographics by ethnicity by 2016 data. The areas in brown are those in which Indigenous communities are the largest population. Residences are not acceptable for communities surrounding Winnipeg, but acceptable above Township 22. This bill is certainly not modernization nor reconciliation. Bill 64 must be withdrawn and any further education reforms must be done in partnership with Indigenous peoples. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Chantal. We'll now go to the next delegation, if you could just stay on the line and we will take questions momentarily. The next delegation is Alice McKay who is also appearing in opposition to the same item. Welcome.

Alice McKay: Thank you, (inaudible), and good morning, Your Worship, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: If we could start the clock, please.

Alice McKay: So, I only have five minutes, so I'm just going to go ahead and jump right in. So, currently the notice of motion states that Council requests that the Province of Manitoba amend Bill 64 to maintain the current role of school boards within the public education system so that continued collaborative dialogue can be facilitated between school boards and the City of Winnipeg. For the reason that, as outlined in OurWinnipeg Plan, public schools finance board and affected school divisions are to be consulted during the preparation of neighborhood secondary plans. However, OurWinnipeg Plan also states the number one objective under social equity is to uphold human rights so that no one is left behind. Unless the Council demands that the Province of Manitoba withdraws the bill entirely as opposed to just amending it a number of communities within our larger Winnipeg community will be left behind. More specifically, the SSLGBTQIA+ will become legislated as sensitive content. This will further perpetuate the harms committed against and the stigmatization the SSLGBTQIA+ community. Further to my next point I have readily available a comparison of the bill in question and the 1927 Indian Act. That being said, the Indigenous community will once again be faced with the threat of our children being forced to leave our families and communities and live in residences and attend schools in unfamiliar towns and cities and be instructed in a language that is not their own. Speaking of children, children who are currently protected under Bill 13 will be thrown into limbo as the Province has not provided a clear plan of what will replace Bill 13 once elected school boards are eliminated. Everything that I have just stated needs to be included in the notice of motion before this item is voted on. Furthermore, Council needs to demand that the Province of Manitoba withdraws the bill entirely to ensure that everyone's human rights are protected and that no one in our Winnipeg community is left behind. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Alice. We'll now take questions. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Question for the two opposed for the reasons that they stated, Madam Speaker. I am just wondering if...and I do support scrapping 64 personally altogether. But I am wondering, Madam Speaker, if the presenters understand that the City of Winnipeg actually doesn't run the education system. We do the property tax and we have relationships with municipal land development and that sort of thing and that this...did you know that this motion itself was created to meet the requirements that City Council has related to schools? It's...we're not...we don't have direct influence without this perspective that is in the motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: I would like to answer that. So, there is a motion that is written. And for a myriad of reasons, there...the language says 'amend' and it should say 'withdrawn'. And many municipalities in Manitoba have written about...have passed motions opposing Bill 64. And the rural municipality of Victoria Beach also has stated that the bill should be withdrawn. And so, it is sort of silly to think that, in my opinion, that Winnipeg...that the decisions made here don't affect other places and other people and that we need to be open about that. And the kids that will be affected by school closures in our province could well be sent to Winnipeg. And so, this is part of what our city needs to be aware of and to not allow, of course, for Indigenous children to be taken from their own communities and families. I don't think that is out of our purview to talk about at the City of Winnipeg.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you for coming today. And believe me when I say that yours is an absolutely friendly amendment, in my opinion, to this motion because you are just asking to go further in terms of the strongest possible opposition to Bill 64 which is to withdraw, abolish, burn. Question for you, with respect to...simple question, I think. Do you believe that people trust locally elected school boards more than they do this legislature, any legislature and moreover, an administrative body that some have called a behemoth?

Alice McKay: I think that absolutely, they do for reasons that elected school board officials are easily accessible and, in most cases, they are also members of our own communities.

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: And the simple fact is that they are elected, right? And so, if we have a minister that's appointed, Alan Lagimodiere, there is no opportunity for democratic process for us to say he does...he should not have that file, which he should not. And so, if similar comments are made by the person who...the education minister who leads this provincial education authority made up of people that we don't even know who that will be, there is no democratic process for the people to request the change. That is meaningful.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Second question: experts match many papers...academic papers have been written at how important local municipal officials, school trusteeship, not just in Canada but in...across North America, around the world is to the political pipeline to get us to black, Indigenous, people of color and women in office. Are you worried about that? If we see Bill 64 eliminate municipal officials, are you worried about the health of the political pipeline in Canada, in Manitoba, in Winnipeg?

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: Absolutely. Any of us can Google the PC caucus and take a look at, there's a picture of the PC caucus sitting around a table and that picture does not represent Manitoba. That picture is a collection of white, cis, straight men and a couple of white women, but that does not reflect Manitoba. And so, that is sort of the connections that they have with each other and there are people who are left out of that. And these are the folks that will be appointing the Provincial Education Authority. And there are folks who've researched the...our elected school boards. Currently, the representation of women on those boards is much higher than the representation of the PC caucus.

Alice McKay: And I just want to add that that image, also, certainly does not represent Winnipeg where I believe the last statistics I saw showed that 89% of Winnipeg student population are BIPOC children.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for our delegation? Seeing none, Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to clarify that number, did you say 89% of the student population?

Alice McKay: I believe that was the last statistics that I saw.

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: Yeah, so that means that of all the BIPOC kids in Manitoba, 89% reside in Winnipeg. And so, where you have an advisory...a provincial advisory board and an education council that gives one seat to Winnipeg with its population size and then the same amount of representation to a town of a couple thousand, that takes away the voices of BIPOC children because the majority of BIPOC children in this province live in the City of Winnipeg.

Alice McKay: Thank you for clarifying that, Chantal.

Madam Speaker: Seeing no further questions, thank you for your presentation today. Have a great day.

Alice McKay: Thank you.

Chantal Shivanna Ramraj: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, do we have Mr. David Grant on the line?

Clerk: Yes, however, I believe there is one delegation ahead of him.

Madam Speaker: Who is before?

Clerk: Christy Dzikowicz on behalf of the Toba Centre for Children and Youth to appear on...

Madam Speaker: I have her listed after just to clarify. We can go to Christy or? Okay. I will proceed with Mr. Grant. David Grant is here to speak on a number of items. He is in opposition to Item 1 of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks, the report dated July 5th, 2021. It's regarding the Community Incentive Grant for Louis Riel School Division. He is in support of Item 2 of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated July 7th, 2021. It's regarding Street Signage, the Pilot Project in the Exchange District. He is in opposition to Item 6 of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated July 7th, 2021 regarding Fare-Free Transit for Immunization Clinic Super-Sites for volunteers. He is in support of Item 1 of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste dated June 29th, 2021. And it's regarding the Use of Retention Ponds for Recreational Activities. He is in opposition to Item 1 of the Report of the Governance Committee of Council dated June 15th, 2021 regarding the Lobbyist Registry. David, we have 10 minutes on the clock for you. Welcome.

David Grant: Hello. Thank you again for letting me speak. And I guess the most important one, I think, I'm not doing it in any order that's been presented in your agenda, is lobbying. This is one of the most important issues in governance at city hall. Whenever voters see strange decisions made by the City, the topic comes up to some. I strongly favour the survey of other cities and how effective their rules are. Any registry which is voluntary can be used to signal virtue, but it serves no other real purpose. Don't look to the folks on Broadway on this one, their registry is no better. There are places that do this right, I believe it is time to emulate those places. Next topic: winter fun. I am in favour of people enjoying winter. Winnipeg is famous as a winter city. I believe that our city ponds can be used safely for most of the winter. I have circulated to you my decades of lived experience as the safety guy for organized winter fun on rivers and ponds. I was in charge of aspects of this for 30 years. We had lots of fun all across Manitoba on frozen rivers. Using the Red and the Assiniboine for winter fun requires a bit more caution as road salts, river currents and combined sewer outfalls can make the ice get thin. Be assured, the ponds are much safer than rivers. Please look over my guidelines for measuring ice thickness. That is the primary danger of people playing on the ice is the ice being too thin. And it is very easy with a drill to make sure that you have 6 inches or 10 inches of ice. And it will not be dangerous once you have enough. On the topic of free transit; vaccination of Manitobans is \$100 million effort. It is very well funded by other levels. I believe in a strong transit system. That was my transit shirt. I believe that the super-sites should subsidize the travel costs of workers there, especially volunteers. But remember, this is a provincial matter and not the job of Council. I am actually in favour of free rides on our bus systems. It is clear that such rides should only be during the hours when most bus seats are empty. We have a huge dichotomy on our transit system. If you try traveling at 8:00 or 9:00 in the morning you may not ever get on the bus because there are just too many people wanting to. Whereas after supper, after lunch, there may be only three people on the vehicle. So, offering free rides then is a great idea. I know that councillors like Ms. Santos and Matt Allard shared my interest in this free and almost free bus service. We only differ in the details. But I think the vaccination and medical workers should not really be our target. Street signs in the Exchange. I am in favour of improved signage in general. Many signs on our streets are confusing and misleading. This is a step in the right direction. We have good people thinking outside the box and they have come up with some innovative designs for signs. Some people have criticized them, but I think it is better than just a bunch of texts and fine print. I am also strongly in favour of gentle enforcement and in favour of a person's first contact being respectful. The first time you notice that you have been parked improperly it should be respectful notice. Warnings are part of that respect. Too often, the first notice any person sees of a rule comes with a huge fine. We can do better. So, if you read through, it is one thing to change the signage but also to warn people gently so that the person who's making the first trip into the city and misread the sign isn't hit with something that's going to cost them a week's pay for that simple mistake, but then lean on them when they don't follow the rules. The heavy discounts for admitting right away. In the '60s when I learned about parking tickets, parking signs, we had that provision. We had a huge discount if you rushed right over and paid the fine. So, that is another part of good enforcement. And on Item No. 1 on Parks regarding free money. The City can help with the funding of the work of outside groups, but only...according to the rules, that only happens when most of the funding is provided by others. So, I am okay with that rule. But there are guidelines governing the way city hall works. The City, in general, only works when we all follow the rules. That's kind of how I was raised. Having great power does not mean city councillors should break its own rules and give money out just because it is a good cause. The rules are there that you chip in a little bit if somebody already has almost enough money to do their charitable work, but not to be the primary funder. So, I know I've only taken a couple of minutes, but I would ask you to give some thought to these things. Thank you very much for the time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any questions? Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Grant. Just your characterization, I feel obliged to correct the record here. The...are you aware that the Community Incentive Grant does not allow us to chip in a little bit if almost all of the money has been raised by other charities as you stated. It...the normal rule is a 50/50 allowance and that councillors are allowed to come and seek waiver of the rules as I am doing today on Item No. 1, that you are pointing to?

David Grant: Sure. Yes, well, half is not most. Good point. Thanks, Brian.

Councillor Mayes: Are you further aware that the Food Matters Manitoba did a study in 2012 of food needs in St. Vital. They identified the Alpine Place neighbourhood of St. Vital as ranking 165th out of 177 neighborhoods in Winnipeg in terms of median family income. St. George School serves that area, Alpine Place, it is the lowest median family income outside the core. They don't have the money to put in, the folks who go to that school. So, are you aware that St. George School services very-low income population in the Alpine Place neighborhood?

David Grant: I hadn't got into the demographics. I received as much as you had, councillor.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Grant, if you could bring your comments through the Chair. Just a reminder.

David Grant: Yes, Ms. Sharma. I am aware that there are parts of the world where the school is the only place where the family gets decent food. And there are a lot of places where if the school is not in service because of the flu or the virus, the neighborhood has a big problem with getting enough food and nutrition. So, I am aware there are places like that. I was just suggesting that the rules were there for a reason. And on the other hand, a deliberative body like Council has the power to change any rule that is in its jurisdiction. So, you are certainly free to do that. I am just suggesting that keeping to the rules is the better route. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, thank you for your presentation, David. Our next delegation is Christy Dzikowicz. She's on behalf of the Toba Centre for Children and Youth. She's in support of Item 5 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. It's the report dated July 6th, 2021 regarding the Lease Agreement between Toba Centre for Children and Youth and the City of Winnipeg located at 700 Assiniboine Park Drive. Welcome, Christy. We have 10 minutes on the clock for you.

Christy Dzikowicz: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Your Worship, councillors. I am thrilled to be here to speak with you today about Toba Centre formerly Snowflake Place and our hope to develop 700 Assiniboine Park Drive into a child advocacy centre for Manitoba; a new centre for justice, hope and healing for children and families impacted by abuse in our community. Each year, there is approximately 4,000 child abuse investigations in our province, 4,000. We know that there are significantly more that go unreported. Child advocacy centres are recognized across North America as the more child-centred and better coordinated approach to child abuse response. They're known to improve outcomes for children and for systems and our province is long overdue to have one. Plans for a child advocacy centre were announced in 2007, they were never fully actualized. There are child advocacy centres across the country in almost every major city: Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Red Deer, just to name a few. We have an opportunity right now to build what will be the most progressive community-led child abuse response centre in our country. Over the next year, we would like to develop the space to be a warm welcoming environment where children and youth and their families come to deal with the aftermath of abuse. We will see the co-location of Winnipeg Police, RCMP and other systems and services designate...designed to respond to child abuse and more importantly, to work to restore what is taken from children and families in these situations. One place where children can be interviewed, to receive medical care and can be supported by the community. Today at Toba Centre located on Portage Avenue, we are only able to offer a fraction of the necessary services. We need space to build the centre that our children and this community deserve. We need space away from the busyness of downtown. We want to create a softer landing for children and for families in our community who have been hurt. Our community is ready for this and the support we have received from the community so far has been remarkable. When we were first looking to find a new location for this centre, 700 Assiniboine was brought to our attention from somebody within the Winnipeg Police Service. Its beautiful surroundings were striking and the thoughts of hurt families visiting there seemed really important. We serve children and families from across this province, so the proximity to the airport is very valuable. Additionally, the possibility of the men and women who work in this very tough field, being surrounded by nature was exciting to us as well. Their wellness is always on our mind. But it was when we reached out to our dear friend and adviser Theodore Fontaine who we sadly lost recently, we knew for sure that we wanted this to be our new home. Theodore has been a huge supporter of what we are building for Manitoba. I asked his wife Morgan if I could share his words (inaudible) on the location and she said he'd be honoured. I had the opportunity to share these words with SPC, so I apologize, but I think they bear repeating. I will caution, he does speak to his experience in residential schools, which could be triggering for some. Theodore wrote to me, "The location you envision for being the home of this unique centre is excellent. Here are some thoughts on its particular value. It's a facility long under-utilized and offers an

opportunity to add child abuse emergency services to an existing City building which would create synergy and collaboration. The building features extensive workspace and parking, easy access and is within 20 minutes of anywhere in Winnipeg. However, it is the outer environment that is most important. It's calm, close to nature and away from the frenzy and crowded venues of human activity. It offers a natural shelter for families and staff of the centre to step outside with privacy and dignity to cope with the emotional impacts of the crisis and the moment. This is a place that calls one to sit on the grass, lean on a tree, go for a walk, to find one's own inner strength and the composure to go on. It's Mother Earth instead of concrete. It allows the sun and the moon to shine down on it where one can experience fully all the elements of the season and the quiet that surrounds this building like a blanket of comfort. It evokes an understanding of being part of a system of nature that transcends one's own life story. The land, trees, water and animals, the little bridge through the woods, the walking paths all create the serenity of this wide open space where one feels the fresh air and the wind, sees the sky, sun and stars. Imagine a scenario where a child has just been interviewed and has the opportunity to go outside to feel the warmth of the sun, to touch the land, to see a family of deer stroll by. To hear the birds singing in the trees and the rustle of leaves, a place where one can cry and breathe deeply. When I was incarcerated in residential school I would lie awake at night terrified, abandoned, abused, confused and lonely beyond any comprehension. I would ask myself, why am I here? What did I do wrong? What saved me was to cast my mind back to the reality I had known before; to the woods and the animals, to the memories of my kokum and mushum caring for me so lovingly, to the freedom I enjoyed in the wide-open spaces of my home and traditional land. I believe that my inherent ability to treasure those experiences is what kept me alive during my 12 years of being locked up. Venue at Assiniboine Park will give children the opportunity to experience that freedom, space and breath, a respite from the trauma they are undergoing. Theodore Fontaine." Your Worship, Madam Speaker, councillors, I can't imagine a better or more important use for this space. People do some unspeakable things to children, but I can tell you, young people are amazing. They are resilient and they can recover from just about anything if we make that our priority. We have such an important opportunity right now to do something for the children and families in our community that are impacted by abuse. This building is tired and we have an opportunity to restore it and give it new life and purpose. We hope that you will support this moving forward. We have much work to do. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Christy. Any questions for our delegation? Councillor Gillingham, followed by Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you very much. I just...just an 'are you aware', I think, on behalf of everyone around this chamber, Christy, we really appreciate your work and the work of your entire team. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Christy, thanks for bringing Theodore's voice back into Council and into councillor's lives and in particular his words of comfort and sharing with youth that have been hurt all across the province that you interview at the Toba Centre. And you do so with a stuffy and in the most trauma informed way. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart for that. And I am really excited to visit when you take that tired centre and bring that snowflakes of magic that you have at the Toba Centre. So, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Christy Dzikowicz for your presentation today. Have a great day. Next is Patrick Stewart, he's on behalf of the Independent Living Resource Centre. He's in support of Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, the report dated July 7th, 2021. It is regarding Reporting on a Winnipeg Transit Priority Seating Policy. Welcome, Patrick.

Patrick Stewart: Hi. Thanks for the opportunity to speak today. I am really excited to talk in support of this report...this policy that is really meaningful, really important and historic, to be blunt. It is going to make a big difference in our community. For the first time in Winnipeg Transit's 138 year history, we are going to have a priority seating policy for passengers with disabilities and join 75% of Canadian cities that have a policy in place right now and to realize that first come first serve is not fair. It doesn't meet the needs of passengers and drivers and doesn't meet the values...21st century values that our community has stepped into that prioritize inclusion and the protection of human rights. I'm really looking forward to highlighting some of the particular merits of this proposal that are rooted in the lived experience of passengers with disabilities. I believe are going to be highly efficient and effective as they leverage existing infrastructure and sound ideas from other jurisdictions and come with a pretty low price tag to Council. There is a lot of bang for your buck here. But what we are also celebrating today is how we got here. And it has been quite a journey over the past years. In the end, very much worth it as the highly collaborative nature of this process means that the broadest number of stakeholders were able to contribute their knowledge. And in the end, this is why this is going to work. So, a lot of people to thank. I want to start off highlighting our nine steps project that was really instrumental in this process and all of the organizations that came together, community organizations, to support it and lend their knowledge and expertise like the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Cerebral Policy Association of Manitoba, Functional Transit Winnipeg, Manitoba Supported Employment Network, 1010 Sinclair Housing, the University

of Winnipeg Student Association and the University of Manitoba Student Union, Transportation Options that Work with Seniors, Canadian Centre on Disabilities Studies. As well, of course, there's so many passengers with disabilities that showed up, shared their personal stories that often put them in a vulnerable position to share, you know, personal things that they had experienced; personal barriers and unfortunate encounters. And that, I think, really needs to be recognized because that is where our knowledge comes from is that experience. And we have to really appreciate those members of our community that are willing to bear that and to share that with Council. That is not something that comes easy. I absolutely need to recognize the Amalgamated Transit Union. For as long as I have known them, have always stood for and not in the way of accessibility. They are really great people to work with that have the community's needs at heart. And what they have asked for is training, resources and a clarity of policy to support them as they support passengers. And this proposal really delivers on that. We need to thank Winnipeg Transit and, in particular, Teresa Platt for drafting this policy and being really committed to the process of consultation. Not as, you know, some sort of box to check, but really to work in partnership with the community. I would like to thank Mayor Bowman and every councillor present today who I have over the years had the good fortune, I think, I have talked with many of you, badger some of you, your passion for the community is really appreciated. I would like to highlight Councillor Nason, one of the first councillors to really listen to us and connected to the community on this issue. And he should get a lot of credit to where we are today. Councillors Mayes, Rollins, Gilroy, Eadie; I've had some great conversations. And in particular, the members of IRPW: Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers and Sharma. Especially, you know, the latter can change in Sharma. I think we discovered some secret sauce earlier this year. We had a meeting at IRPW where what we have been really asking for, you know, is for councillors to, you know, pay attention to the issue, of course, but to take some of the specific ideas that the community has, some real tangible stuff, not platitudes, and translate that in direction to the Public Service which is something that, you know, the community really needs councillors to do. Not just to listen to, but to put those words into action. In working with Chambers and Councillor Sharma, I think, was really instrumental in bringing this policy forward. And lastly, it's a long list to thank, Jesse Turner who's going to be speaking in a moment, who was the Chairperson of the AMA Transportation Standard, the provincial legislation that has motivated a lot of this work. Very knowledgeable and passionate advocate. A tremendous leader and someone I'm really proud to call a friend and colleague. But specifically, what this proposal is going to do; number one is bring clarity to the issue. It's been something I think that we've been afraid to address and to touch because, you know, there is a lot of what if this, what if that, and those sort of idiosyncratic issues that could be thrown at it. But until we acknowledge this problem here, we can't really take steps forward to find a solution. And why this policy should work is that it doesn't say it's this silver bullet. It's a lot of things that we have to do: improved signage letting passengers know what the policy is, a robust public education campaign. Really common sense things like a priority boarding policy where we don't load the bus full of able bodied passengers and then tell somebody who uses a wheelchair, well, there is no room, we can't make any room in the accessible seating area. As mentioned, you know, using some of the infrastructure that we have like our stop notification system to provide notice to passengers when the accessible seating area is required. Training, of course, for bus drivers not just on how to use the mobility device securements, but also in disability awareness, how to support passengers with, you know, many different disabilities. And physical identification features like coloured seats and tactile identification that make it obvious and intuitive to the public that this is what the expectation is. And that's what this policy's all about, it's about changing attitudes, changing awareness, changing, you know, really, the results through education and through doing, you know, really simple and, I would say, common sense things. You know, I could share with you, you know, a lot of stories that I have heard from the community over the years. People that have had, you know, confrontations, have been, you know, told to get off the bus, get on the Handi-Transit, there is no space for you here. You know, I think sometimes people are surprised that even this policy is needed. But you know, what I want to say about it, is that what this policy is going to do, you know, hopefully avoid some of those things in the future, but it really is going to support Winnipeggers and drivers and passengers and members of the public that have been doing the right thing all along. It's really going to back them up. And at this point, you know, people with disabilities, passengers with disabilities deserve to have a bedrock of policy, you know, not charity, but ensures that their rights are protected and really elevates all of us, and that's what accessibility is all about. We have a lot of improvements that we've made like low-floor buses, our stop location system, grab bars and like, you know, so many...so many results of universal design. And it's really often the case, you know? They are brought forward by people with disabilities that identify their particular needs and erase barriers. But these types of improvements improve the experience of everybody. And I really think that's what is at the heart of this policy here. It is a desire to improve the experience of transit for everybody and ensure that everybody (inaudible) have rights to participate in the economy, to participate in employment, in education. Without transportation, a lot of these things aren't possible. I guess the last thing I want to say, and a particular thing I want to highlight; a good friend of mine who many of you know, Allen Mankewich, he told me once that accessibility is not a finish line, it is a methodology, it's a way of looking at the world that prioritizes inclusion, leverages lived experience of people with disabilities and benefits everybody. And that is what we have before us today. And the big ask is an Accessibility Coordinator. Somebody to oversee the implementation of this policy, but also to connect Winnipeg Transit and the needs of passengers with disabilities with the future. And we really need a person in place for that. The Winnipeg Transit Master Plan, as I'm going to remind everybody, has some frowned implications for people with disabilities. Blending Transit Plus with the fixed route system so we have more people with disabilities taking the bus. And to do that, to get there, you know, we're going to need a lot of tools and we're going to need somebody at the seat to show some leadership here. So, that is a really key component of it. I guess, last thing I want to say is encourage everybody to,

hopefully, show unified voice today on this issue. Support people with disabilities in our community. So, I'm encouraging every councillor to vote yes on this policy. And you know, then we're going to have a real reason to celebrate. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Patrick Stewart. If you could just stand by, we'll hear from the next delegation and then come to the both of you if there's any questions. Welcome, Jess Turner. She is in support of the same item. We have five minutes on the clock for you.

Jesse Turner: Thank you. Good morning, Mayor Bowman and councillors. It is great to see you all and to be able to share my thoughts with you again. As we know, Winnipeg Transit bought its first low floor...floor...low floor accessible bus in 1994, which was 27 years ago now. This is when we as a community should have started addressing the needs of riders with disabilities. The disability community has been stressing the need for a seating policy for at least a decade now. So, the proposed policy addresses a good majority of our needs. And I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the time and effort Teresa Platt, the Manager of Client Services has put into this seating policy. I have collaborated with Teresa for many years now and her passion for meeting the needs of the disabled community is very much appreciated. There is only one comment or suggestion I would like to make regarding the proposed policy. So, since signage and public awareness campaigns will be a priority starting this year, and other features such as changing the colour of seating will be more long-term initiatives. The wording we use in this policy is going to be really, really important. Personally, as a disabled person, I am not fond of the word 'priority'. I do require an accessible spot on the bus, but my need to ride the bus is no more important than anyone else. So, I would recommend that the policy just be called Winnipeg Transit Seating Policy and that we remove the word 'priority' from the title. Then have three categories within the policy: one being accessible seating. So, for people with mobility aids or mobility difficulties. Priority seating; so, this would be for elderly or elderly community members, people with strollers. As a community we always give priority to our elderly people, pregnant people, parents with strollers, kids, et cetera and then courtesy, which is for all general riders, right? Really, our seating on the bus is courtesy based. No one is guaranteed a bus...or sorry, a seat, especially during busy times. And many prefer to stand. So, really, it is a courtesy that we extend to all riders. And of course, lastly, I just want to extend my great appreciation in every one involved in moving this policy forward: Winnipeg Transit, of course, Patrick from ILRC, the Amalgamated Transit Union, Brian...Mayor Brian Bowman and Councillors Allard, Sharma, Chambers and Browaty, in particular. As Patrick said, this really has been a team effort. And so, I do hope that all councillors vote in favour of the policy. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Jess. Any questions for either of our delegations? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting the...to finally have a policy. And I was, actually, there when they were demonstrating the first low floor bus back in '94, being one of the advocates. I can't remember the gentleman's name who's passed who convinced City Council and Winnipeg Transit to buy their first low floor bus. But Madam Speaker, I am just curious; there was a lot of consultation. I'm just wondering, was there some consultation...I heard the CNIB, but was there any consultation with, what I call, the independent blind movement organizations?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Patrick or Jess, who would like to answer?

Patrick Stewart: Sure. I'll take a go at it. You know, what I can't really, you know, comment on Winnipeg Transit's process of consultation. Of course, you know, we were a stakeholder that was consulted with. And sometimes that process means that we are, you know, working in partnership with other organizations. Particular, it was CNIB and they have an advocacy desk there and a group, really...a community group, a group of consumers to consult on these issues. In terms of...I am not really sure the independence of that movement there in particular, but definitely CNIB and it was very meaningful consultation as well. That is where, you know, the element to have tactile identification features on the seats, you know, came from. And they were really, you know, instrumental, of course, speaking from their experience in our nine-steps process and what we were able to contribute to Winnipeg Transit.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie, next question.

Councillor Eadie: Second question is; do you feel that this policy will appropriately be able to address educating both other users on the bus as well as...as well as those persons with disabilities? Because a lot of people just don't understand, right?

Jesse Turner: Can I take this one, Patrick?

Patrick Stewart: Yeah, please do.

Jesse Turner: Yeah, I think it does. You know, the policy covers a bunch of different aspects: so, public awareness, changing signage, and eventually, the colour of seating on the bus and, of course, creating a new position, the Accessibility Advisor within public transit who will be responsible for training and educating the public. It's just a matter of when these investments will be made, the timeline and what not, that I think is still...really needs to be fleshed out.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Jess. Any further questions? Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to thank both Patrick Stewart and Jess Turner for their collaboration and working on this with our Winnipeg Transit. The credit really belongs to you folks who have been such strong advocates towards this policy. And Jess, your comments just this morning about...your thoughtful comments this morning about the word 'priority'. Again, taking that into consideration, I think this is something that, you know, as Winnipeggers we should be courteous in providing that seat or, you know, that arrangement on our transit bus. I am glad that education is part of this and that, moving forward, it will be an opportunity to educate all Winnipeggers. But I truly believe it's something that we should be more mindful of and being courteous on our transit bus to yield our seat to somebody with a mobility device or needs that type of assistance. So, thank you very much for your collaborative work. I would also be interested in seeing a year from now or 18 months from now how this policy is rolled out and the impacts to customer service that have resulted in terms of the education to the citizens of Winnipeg. So, again, thank you very much for your collaborative work, and it was a pleasure working with you on this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers.

Patrick Stewart: Thanks, Councillor Chambers.

Madam Speaker: Would you like to respond? Would you like to respond?

Jesse Turner: Just by saying a quick thank you. Thanks.

Patrick Stewart: Yeah, me, too, absolutely. It has been wonderful to work with you and everybody on the Council on this. And I think we really have something here. This is very exciting.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Seeing none, thank you for your presentation today. We will move on to our last delegation, James Van Gerwen. He is in...also in support of this item. There will be five minutes on the clock with no questions. This was addendum delegation added by Councillor Chambers. Welcome, James.

James Van Gerwen: Welcome. I won't take much time. You know, I would like to thank the councillors for allowing me to speak. Special thanks to Councillor Chambers for asking to suspend the rules to permit me to speak. And lastly, to Patrick whose dedication to the disability community made this happen. He is a role model that I take on this and he is my expert opinion on it. Just in short, the Amalgamated Transit Union, we're excited to welcome the riders to a more accessible and equal transit system. The decision...the decision to create a priority seating for persons with disability upholds the Transit Master Plan's recommendation to integrate Transit Plus services with traditional transit services. And by distinct policies, training for your bus drivers to meet the needs of all our passengers and bring more accessibility services in house, we are creating a transit system that will work for all riders. That is basically what I...I just would like to say. I just want to say kudos to Patrick and Jess and everybody else who has done this. And we look forward to having more people on our bus. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, James. And that concludes our delegations for today. Moving forward into reports. We'll now move into the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated July 14th, 2021. Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JULY 14, 2021**

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 11. I would like to pull report...or Items 1 and 2, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: 1 and 2 have been pulled. 9, Starlight. Call the question on 3...Item 3 through 8, 10 and 11. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, after a pause due to the multi-year balanced budget process in 2019 and the onset of a global pandemic shortly after, it's been a long and winding road to today. But I would like to thank members of the CAO Recruitment Committee, specifically Councillor Rollins, Councillor Eadie and Councillor Allard as well as staff for their perseverance through this process. I would also like to thank our interim CAO, Mr. Mike Ruta who has been providing outstanding leadership through a number of challenges including the unprecedented weather event in October of 2019, the City's first ever multi-year balanced budget process and a global pandemic. His leadership has been exemplary and I hope that all members of Council will join me in thanking him for all of his efforts and, of course, his steady hand during this time. I would also like to thank external consultants and all of the candidates who fortunately put their names forward for consideration. Unanimous recommendation of the Recruitment Committee was Mr. Michael Jack. Mr. Jack has over 20 years of experience volunteering, serving on boards and working at a senior level in the City of Winnipeg's Public Service. Over his time in the City's Public Service, Mr. Jack has been an integral part of the City's efforts on reconciliation, supporting unsheltered Winnipeggers, human rights, the Illicit Drug Task Force, Downtown Public Safety Strategy and rapid housing initiative among many, many others. If approved by Council today, he would be well positioned to drop on his experience to lead our Public Service today and into the future. And for that, I would ask for members of Council's support that he be appointed our next CAO. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Allard: I would just like to speak in...

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: My maternal language.

Councillor Allard: A little bit as I welcome or hope to welcome, Michael Jack to this council as our CAO.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, I would like to first thank Mayor Bowman for the opportunity to be on the CAO Recruitment Committee. In Michael Jack, I see an exceptional member of the Public Service. We had a rigorous process. We had heard from candidates across the country and after all that, we found that Micheal was really the best candidate for the position. So, I can say that with confidence as a member of the committee. I know that I have had many experiences with Michael Jack as a city councillor. He always answers my calls. Every time I had an issue that was a bit complicated (inaudible) across Council, Michael always had creative ways to address the problem. He always knew who to talk to to get the issue moved. So, I think that if we name Micheal as Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Winnipeg, we are making the right choice. I am very confident in the recommendation that we made as a recruitment committee and Executive Policy Committee. So, I hope that we can be unanimous today in naming Micheal Jack. I think he will serve us well at the City of Winnipeg. He has the experience and the passion and he has the energy to move the City of Winnipeg forward. Thanks.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I rise, Madam Speaker, to rise in support of Michael Jack being selected as the C...CAO. I find it incredibly disappointing that it took leadership two and half years almost to appoint a CAO in a time when the City needs strong administrative leadership. And I also find it absolutely bizarre that one of the reasons was the first consultant was laid over or laid off because there was a need for more diversity. I...you know, I appreciate the fact that there was a need for more diversity, but you know, we have had Michael Jack here. And we are hiring Michael Jack or hopefully. Anyways, the whole process I think was personally shameful and an embarrassment that it took so long to get leadership in for our staff of over 10,000 people. But I am very pleased that it is Michael Jack. He's very responsive. He's an out of the box thinker. You don't find that much here at city hall. And he's been joy for me to work with. And I think that he, unlike others, completely respects the fact that people do bring value and do bring good things to the city and have the potential to bring good things to the city even if they're not on the Executive Policy Committee. So, I'm very supportive of seeing him nominated.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Any further speakers? Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to rise today in opposition. And I want to be very clear that this is not about Mr. Michael Jack. I admittedly have had very few interactions with Mr. Jack personally. The ones that I have had have been brief, they've been polite and they have been professional. My opposition to this is that we really have missed an opportunity. We missed the opportunity to bring a new approach to the City of Winnipeg internally. We missed the opportunity to bring on different ideas, creative solutions. To bring in somebody who has no history or relationships with the Public Service. A fresh, new outlook on the city. I am not going to say that Mr. Jack cannot do that. I wasn't involved in the interview process and I certainly have been involved in many of them during my life time. And I am not going to judge that person when I was not given the opportunity to be a part of the interviews. But this was the perfect time. And anybody in business management will tell you this was the best time for change. This was the best time to say no more status quo at city hall. We are going to move forward. We are going to take a different direction and we're going to focus on a different direction because people in Winnipeg are a little tired of the status quo. If you look at what has happened over the last just few years; million-dollar cost to residents because of the police pension debacle, the impact of the court loss of impact fees. We missed filing a \$50 million lawsuit for the Deacon Water Treatment Plant. We hired that same company on other occasions. If we look at the saga of the police headquarters, we don't know how many change orders were approved and by who. But we do know that the company that we have claimed at fault, we have hired. These are things that maybe an outside perspective could have helped us address into the future. And I am sure colleagues will stand and they'll...after this and stand and speak about the great abilities of Mr. Jack. And you may be correct, but it is time to change that direction, to change that status quo. And this was the perfect opportunity. I'll say it again. It has absolutely nothing to do with the person because I was not part of the interviews. But I am asked to vote on it. So, if I am being asked to vote on it I have to look at what I do know and that's from a business perspective. We've missed an opportunity to bring about change. We've missed that opportunity to bring in a new direction. This is why I moved the motion that was not supported by this council to wait. Now it would have been one more year before an election. But we haven't done that. How long are we locked in? What are the terms of the contract? What will it cost us if that gets changed in a couple of years? Not us, what is it going to cost taxpayers? These are all questions that should be answered before any intelligent person makes a decision. We don't have any of that information before us. So, I wish Mr. Jack best of luck. It is his opportunity to prove me wrong and to shine. I welcome that for him, but the motion before us as it is presented and with the information I have, I don't feel comfortable supporting that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to rise and, of course, I support the selection...the selection committee recommended to EPC and to Council. Having been involved in this process...and actually, I was involved in the beginnings and parts of other CAO hiring processes. And I just have to say, you know, there were stops and starts, Madam Speaker. And it was in some ways frustrating. But first of all, I just want to really thank...well, I think I can mention...Jordana Greenberg served our committee quite well on behalf of the City of Winnipeg as well as other employees, Madam Speaker. But you know, essentially, we went to a better process. And then we did have a number of difficulties get in the way. You know, it is important to have a CAO selected. It is...the CAO...we are talking about a corporation with, you know, 10,000, but we also have to remember that a CAO, in the position that they are in, is not just about 10,000 employees plus Council members. Mr. Jack is a consummate public servant, understands governance and administration and will do an excellent job in trying to meet Council's needs, but not only that, we have heard him. The concern he has for Winnipeggers. So, it is not about 10,000 employees only. It's about the City of Winnipeg. A growing population with many difficulties but also many advantages and many good things. And I believe that he is up to the challenge. So, you know, the process again, it was, you know, difficult in that, you know, you want to have a good, diverse candidates. We received that. We underwent our process and as my quote said for the media, you know, there was a lot of good qualified diverse candidates and it was not very easy for us to decide on the final selection, but we did. It was...wasn't unanimous...for us, it was...we all agreed. So, it wasn't...we talked things through, we worked it out and it is there. Now, Madam Speaker, I can understand the difficulty when you become a new councillor and there is this past history, Madam Speaker, of many things that went wrong with this city. And many of the issues that was mentioned by my colleague. It was...we don't have the private seminars anymore, Madam Speaker, but you participated in ones where we signed agreements not to disclose information and, you know, there are public faces to a number of these issues. But ultimately, you know, since Mayor Bowman was elected, I have to say, Madam Speaker, that much of the problems have been cleaned up. The issues of, for example, the Deacon Water Plant, you know...actually, the Province of Manitoba, and I would invite colleagues to take a really close look. I got somewhat of an opinion from our Legal Department about the changes to the limitations act, I think it is called. And there is a number of dynamics in there that, you know, hopefully it makes it better or easier because it is a matter of when do you find out, Madam Speaker, that there is actually a deficiency that is there. And you know, accusations of maliciousness because, you know, I don't know that those contractors necessarily intended directly to...I am talking about the Deacon Water Plant. I am not talking about the police station. But Madam Speaker, you know, hopefully, the changes that the Province makes to the limitations, which needs to be proclaimed yet, will make it easier for us in the future to be able to...like, sometimes you've got to go to court. I mean, private business against private business, they are in court all of the time. So, Madam Speaker, anyway, I just want to express that I believe that Mr. Jack is not the status quo. Status quo, we as Council, and we need all of our colleagues to

understand that we need to make those changes to governance that we talked about, they haven't happened and I still have concerns about them, Madam Speaker. But ultimately, you know, Council needs to refresh so that the City's administration refreshes because supposedly we are the overall governance, Madam Speaker. And I think that Mr. Jack understands that completely. And I believe he will be...I think he'll be still the CAO...you know, we're talking in the future, there is an election next year and there's always speculation about this or that. But being the consummate public servant that Mr. Jack is, I think we are going to have a good CAO for the next five years. Thank you.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I will be brief in my comments. I do want to support Mr. Jack's appointment to the role of the City CAO. He is a very capable individual. He's always been very responsive to requests that I have had as I have advocated for the citizens in my ward. I know Mr. Jack is a young father. I think that represents many Winnipeggers' interest here as he raises his family and wants to see our city thrive, not only for himself, but for his children as well. So, that is an important piece for me in terms of making sure that his thoughts and his actions are congruent with that of many Winnipeggers who are raising their families and want to see this city move forward. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ruta for his time as CAO. You know, since being elected, I have had the opportunity to work with both Doug McNeil, our former CAO and Mr. Ruta, our current interim CAO. And I have had always positive interactions with him and with his office in my role as a city councillor. So, thank you again to Mr. Ruta for your time here. And I look forward to working with Mr. Jack. Again, in just some of the presentations that he has done on areas of concern in Parks and Community Services and Protection among our most vulnerable citizens. I see the passion and I see the intent that he has to make our city better for those that are most vulnerable in our city. So, with that, again, I will be supporting this motion to have him appointed as our city CAO. And again, thank you, Mr. Ruta.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Councillor Eadie, a motion to work past 12:00 noon just to finish this item.

Councillor Eadie: Yeah, I'll move a motion to go past noon until we finish this item.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Next speaker. Mr. Mayor, back to you.

Mayor Bowman: Just building on Councillor Chambers comments about Mr. Jack being a new father. He has taken to heart our desire to grow the city to a million people strong. And so, with that, I will just ask that we call the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. All in favour? Contrary? Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason recorded in opposition. And the item is carried. We will now have recess and reconvene at 1:15 p.m.? 1:15. Thank you.

**Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
July 22, 2021, at 1:22 p.m.**

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon, I would like to reconvene our Council meeting of July 22nd, 2021. We are on Item 2 of the Executive Policy Committee dated July 14th, 2021. It's the Grants Evaluation and Review Process Policy. Mr. Clerk.

Item 2 – Grants Evaluation and Review Process Policy

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll move that the Public Service recommendation be supported. And with that, I will look forward to hearing from council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Any speakers on this item? Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thanks. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I spoke to this at EPC the other day when it was there, Madam Speaker, and like, I understand and I think it is important. Some of the provisions in there, Madam Speaker, about anybody who receives, you know, these grants that, you know, that the financials are provided and those sorts of things. Because actually, I believe our community centres do provide through to the City somehow their financials. And those kind of checks and balances to make sure that the money is going towards and doing what is expected under the grant request, Madam Speaker. But I don't particularly subscribe to the concept of in legislation and then the interpretation words. So, for example, in there I heard it says, well, heritage doesn't specify museum. So, therefore, you know, why

should we consider? It is not in the by-law. It's not in legislation, therefore, we don't support it. But museums are heritage, Madam Speaker. They are the City of Winnipeg's heritage. Actually, Ross House is a historical house. Seven Oaks House is the former Inkster home, is historical. It has provincial and federal designations. You know, I just...I have some concerns. And the committee...this is basically being handed off to the administration to somehow avoid what one might say are politically influenced decisions in providing grants. Now, giving it off completely to a committee of the administration is not necessarily, I think, appropriate. The motion that I originally moved and had many discussions behind-the-scenes about raising some property tax dollars to provide grants to prevention operations by non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations like the Gang Action Interagency who do a lot for us, and are trying to relieve the pressure off our Winnipeg Police Service. And the Winnipeg Police can't do peer prevention. They can get involved, they're...you know, they suppress it, but the real prevention work, the police service doesn't do that. There are some preventative things that the police service might do. But that is just one example. We have a committee called Protection, Community Services and Parks. And I believe, I think the last time I read the terms of reference to it and stuff that I believe it mentions the word 'prevention'. And recreational services are prevention, of course. And we have that in our legislation. But there are councils in the past that have said, well, the City shouldn't be involved in any recreation. You know, different aspects of that kind of thing, Madam Speaker. So, I have a problem with there not being some kind of governance representation on the committee as well because the discussions were, if you're going to give out these grants, it would be good to have the chairperson of the Winnipeg Safety Committee and other...you know, another councillor on there reviewing to make sure. So, what I would like to see, what should be in our policy is to define the kind of things that we want to do. I don't want to hear, no, we can't do it and there is no money when it comes to, for example, the Main Street Project van and the east side offering, Madam Speaker. Because some of that stuff, it doesn't follow under the legislation. So, I don't think this is a good policy. I don't think we should be supporting it, Madam Speaker. It tries to address what has happened in the past where some individuals on EPC get their...I don't want to use important, but pet projects funded through the grants thing. But I don't want to put it that way because the...all the...all these not-for-profit groups that are out there, they are trying to resolve City of Winnipeg issues. Yeah, you might say, well, the Province should be paying for that part, but ultimately if the Province isn't doing anything there is an expectation on us, Madam Speaker, on us to do something. And you know...you know, you get elected to represent an area of the city and I love all of Winnipeg so what happens in Mynarski is happening around the city as well. Because my ward, while there is no suburb, there is definitely, you know, areas that are stable in terms of various difficult issues we see downtown and on what I call the shoulder communities of downtown. And anyway, so what I don't see in this policy, and I am really worried about it, is that administrative committee isn't going to come ahead with a recommendation. I think we should be having what are priorities. So, we have some really difficult issues right now. And you know, if it doesn't quite fall in a by-law legislation, then we need to deal with it and that is why Council, I believe we voted unanimously to support these vans out there that are out doing that outreach and trying to help people who really aren't in a circumstance where the police service or the fire or paramedics are going to attend. But ultimately, it is important that somebody is out there doing that. So, I just...I can't support this. It just doesn't support a proper concept that we should have when we give grants to communities. And there is also the issue of, you know, capital grants and so on and so forth. So, we have legislation stuff and yeah, it is talking about not having an effect on lease space that we provide to organizations that are doing things like supporting seniors or whatever it is that they are doing, Madam Speaker. But you know, I still believe...and we are waiting for that policy. I don't know that I'm going to support something that goes comes down the pipe because these are traditionally the things we can do to help efforts. Like, for example, Madam Speaker, it won't be covered here, but when we provide a piece of land to an Indigenous organization that is going to help them achieve reconciliation and healing in this country, in this city, in this province, those are important things. So, again, I...if there was something...so, again, there's many things in here I support, but there's...I just...it just...there is an improper evaluation of grant requests is basically what I am saying. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I agree...I think I agree entirely with what Councillor Eadie expressed his concerns about this. I did not support it at EPC, I will not be supporting it here. You know, when I was chair of the now defunct downtown committee, we had a process where there was an RFP to put in a new restaurant to replace the one that had gone under on the esplanade Riel. And staff came to me at one point and said, well, we determined the RFP matrix and we took a look at the submissions and the winner is submission C with 36 points. And now it's up...you know, there's our recommendation. We can't tell you anything more. Now, if you think, well, Council is still supreme. Council would try vote on that. So, Council is still supreme. You technically, yes, but I said, I am not voting for that. I don't know any of the details of how you arrived at that. I don't know any...for all I know, someone I am related to may be behind bid number C. You've got to...we've got to have some actual involvement from the elected people. And we did. And we worked that through. But I am reminded of that here. The staff are saying, well, for more transparency and openness, we will have a closed-door process whereby only unelected people will sit on the Grants Evaluation Committee and we'll give you a list of what we recommend and what we don't based on whether we think it fits legislation or not, but you are still supreme. Well, why would we flip the onus? So, why is it that some grants now would be on the outs unless some councillor goes to bat to save them and other grants would simply be fine? They would go through unless some councillor has a particular desire to kill them. I think they should be treated equally. We have the power to look at all of them. We have the ability to

look at these grants as elected people and say, well, I favour some, I want to bring some more new ones forward or to reject them. But I don't think you can put forward a document that talks about transparency and then say, we are going to have this Grants Evaluation Committee of unelected people and that will be a closed-door session. That is not transparency. I'm sorry, it just isn't. Now, I am not dumping on our civil service. In fact, I want to commend Catherine Kloefer who is our new CFO, very good hire I think, who called me and said, look, you know, this was a request from Council and the budget. Here is our proposal. If you don't like it, basically, you can defeat it. Well, if you want us to come back with something else, you can. So, I want to thank her for her thoughts and reaching out and talking to me about this. But it certainly doesn't change my position that this is a part of democracy. When I ran in 2011 and I had my leaflet out here at EPC, I said I wanted to give a grant to Save Our Seine because they didn't have any operational funding. They just laid off their one staff person. I had to go to bat to get that. It took me multiple attempts, but it's been in there since 2014. I don't apologize for that. Was it a legislative directive? Was it a City Council staff recommendation to start funding Save Our Seine? No, it was not, but it was one of my election pledges and I am proud to have lived up to that. So, that grant lives on. Others, you know, I find it somewhat incongruous that we would have a process that would say, you have to fit under the legislated duties of Council. So, what is one of the things that would go down? Oh, the Winnipeg Housing Rehab Corp, that is not legislated. What do we see about three items later on the agenda today? Rapid housing initiative. Everyone is in favour of that. We all spoke in favour of that at EPC. So, there seems to be some lack of connectiveness there. We have done a number of things that did not connect to our legislative responsibilities. The Bruce Oak Centre, in no way was that a legislated responsibility of City Council, but we, I think, took some leadership there and did the right thing. Save Our Seine's another example where we took some leadership on conservation and environmental issues. So, we've done a number of things that would not fit narrowly within the band of legislated responsibilities of the City of Winnipeg. And I am actually quite proud of some of the grants we've approved. We give \$200,000...slightly less than that now, \$200,000 a year to the University of Winnipeg to run an inner-city work-study program. I was talking to the Mayor this morning that enrollment there is up to 42 students a year up from 16 I think the first year. They're working in the community. If you're working for some of these very groups that we would propose taking the money away from. And then on the fifth day, those students are all in the class studying the calls to action on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Great success from U of Winnipeg. Royal Bank is in for \$500,000. They liked what we were funding, so there's a grant that frankly I championed. It was also in my election material back in 2014. I don't apologize for that. Was that our on legislated duty? No, I don't think so, but I think it was the right thing to do. I think that's a good reconciliation effort by the City of Winnipeg. So, I'm...I appreciate that there was a requirement in the budget for staff to come back with some recommendations. I do not favour this framework. I think, ultimately, it is up to Council and councillors to make the decision about what the appropriate grants are. Yes, people should comply with the rules. Yes, people should prove that they spent the money on what...on the thing they said they would. I have no problem with that. But I do have a problem with creating another hurdle to elected people having control over the budget. A hurdle that would say, well unfortunately, the Grants Review Committee said Winnipeg Housing Rehab Corp, you are out. You don't get anything. And then somebody has to go to bat and try and rescue that one from the scrap heap. I don't think that is democracy. I don't think that's the way we should be proceeding. So, ultimately, I think this is not an increased step for transparency in democracy. I would rather take the slings and arrows of whatever the public has to say in terms of our grants, but let's fight it out as elected people and land on a mix. I have trouble that we aren't saying to the public, these are all the ones that would be at risk. And there are some very fine organizations and progressive causes in there that would be at risk. So, I did not favour this at EPC. I am glad to see Councillor Eadie is joining the four of us at EPC who voted against this. And I would hope this is voted down today and then we can go back to the drawing board and talk some more about grants in the future. But I don't know what...Councillor Eadie was talking about pet projects of councillors. I suppose some of the projects approved by grants might be referenced that way. But to me, things that have been approved in the budget that are grants, some of that...some of those projects have been some of the best things I have done as a councillor, I have to say. So, I would like to keep the current arrangement. I don't always agree with what other people want, they don't agree with what I want, but at the end of the day, it is democratically arrived at and we go forward with that package. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: I just wanted to ensure that my interpretation, I shouldn't have used it. I did say all projects that get grants are important.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Next speaker is Councillor Lukes, followed by Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. Well, I want to commend the Public Service for this report. There are times when the Public Service's report soars and this is one of them. It has taken seven years to get this report here. No fault of the Public Service, but as a result of the direction of leadership. When elected in my first term, the granting process and structure were discussed extensively at EPC. And the need to deal with the grants has been discussed every single budget process that I have been here, seven years and counting. So, to see this comprehensive report here is a huge step forward. I have been a grant writer for upwards of 20 years. I have taken formal training and received certification. I have written applications for millions of dollars of funding and secured millions in funding. I have never ever seen a grant application that has no criteria associated with the application like the City of Winnipeg's. I have never ever seen a grant application that was not aligned to the organization's criteria like the City of Winnipeg's. We have invested millions in hiring staff to

advise and guide in our decisions. We are entrusted to use the taxes residents pay wisely. And this is why we should be supporting this report. We need a process, a clearly defined process to hand out millions of dollars. We need criteria before we give away money...millions in taxpayers' money. We need to focus and to align to city priorities before we give away millions in taxpayer money. Millions of taxpayer funding is given away through grants year after year with no criteria to adhere to and nothing that says what we need to align to with the city's priorities. So, how is it determined how millions are given away? Somewhat to what Councillor Eadie noted; political deals are cut, extensive lobbying is done by those who sit around the table during the budget process. I am not saying any of these aren't worthy of funding. I'm just saying, the process is not transparent. The Mayor and his EPC who are in charge of the budget have the influence over who receives, who doesn't receive, who is in the budget and who isn't. And this is not right. This is not the way we have been entrusted to oversee taxpayers' funding. And to comment on some of Councillor Mayes' concerns; Council can take the recommendations of the Public Service just like we do with virtually every other report and then we can decide who to fund. In my opinion, this report equals the field for all councillors to secure grants. In my opinion, it does make the process more transparent for all councillors and not just those that sit on EPC and in the budget process. I will be supporting the report today to put a process in place on how we give away millions in taxpayers' money.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Councillor Gillingham, followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the motion to establish a grant evaluation framework. Some of my comments will be similar to that of Councillor Lukes. This is about responsible and judicious management of taxpayer resources. And it's about combating Mission Creek for what the City of Winnipeg funds. The City of Winnipeg receives funding requests from multiple organizations every year. Combined, those requests represent millions of dollars. Of course, the City cannot afford to grant every request nor should we. Many of the organizations, though they do good work, provide services that fall outside of the City's legislative mandate. Council is supreme. Councillor Mayes did note, some of the...some of the grants that we provide that fall out...that would fall outside the legislative mandates and I've supported some of those grants. But the City needs to have a vetting mechanism to adjudicate which grant request should be approved and those that should not. Cities across Canada have evaluation frameworks that outline criteria necessary to qualify for municipal grant funding. So, Winnipeg would be following suit with what other cities are doing. By establishing a set of criteria that applicant organizations must meet, the City of Winnipeg can better assess which organizations should be approved for funding and those that should not. Ultimately, Council will decide. As the report says, this framework shall include but not necessarily be limited to a review of each of the respective grants alignment with the core service responsibilities of the City of Winnipeg. As well as an assessment of the outcomes that are or will be achieved from each of the grants. It is very reasonable. In fact, I think it's prudent to ask organizations what their targeted outcomes are, to provide some financial statements of the organization so that we as a body of elected officials could determine whether or not the grants that we are giving are to those organizations who are doing work that aligns with the work the City of Winnipeg is legislated to do. There is a demand on every dollar in the City's budget. And so, Council must be disciplined to fund those services that are the responsibility of the City as a priority and not to start funding services that are the responsibility of another level of government. That is Mission Creek. It's expensive and it's unsustainable. The City of Winnipeg must be diligent in combating Mission Creek. It's about responsibly managing taxpayers' hard earned money that the City collects. And I reiterate; there are times that we may go beyond what the City is responsible and fund organizations that do work that is not specifically within the City's mandate. I have approved such grants because ultimately, Council is supreme. But we need an evaluation framework. We don't have one. We should have one. Just because there is a gap in City services...pardon me, just because there's a gap in services, doesn't mean that the City of Winnipeg should be the level of government that steps in to fill the gap. The City cannot afford to do and to pay for the responsibilities of other levels of government. I believe this is about being responsible to the citizens of Winnipeg. In a few moments we're going to vote on federal funding that is coming through the City of Winnipeg...to the City of Winnipeg to go through the City of Winnipeg for affordable...rapid affordable housing. To me, I will be supporting that because the City has not initiated that. The City is not funding that. The City is acting in partnership with a level of government to be a conduit and to be a manager to enable the need to be met. That to me is good partnership. It is important that the City adopt an evaluation framework to review all current and any future City grants. And therefore, I will be supporting this report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Councillor Schreyer, followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just have a couple points to make on this issue. As it occurs to me this might be changing the weighing out in the decision-making process for important budgetary issues. It occurred to me that I recall my first term, last term, as a city councillor. There was a move to move things more towards the administration because you have less politicization of the decision-making process. And I do agree with that in some instances. There can be benefit to that. The difficulty is trying to assess to what degree that is the case. And I've got to try to work out here how this applies here. And I do want to make a few things, not just this case, but how we are applying this argument to other aspects of City governance. Because although I do appreciate the idea in general and in reality of creating a more objective approach to decision making by putting certain aspects of the discussion or decision within the administration,

one must also be vigilant of the fact that the reason we have democracy and accountable elected representatives is because in the process of doing this, putting more of the deliberation on the administration, we also have to deal with the human reality of the politicization of the bureaucracy and the politicization of the administration. And that's...no one should take offense to that point. We all have our biases. And I will be very specific on a couple instances. One is the issue of decisions being made regarding prioritizing riverbank stabilization of funding. Where we should prioritize the riverbank stabilization. So at this point, we have some sort of process within the administration by which they create a priority list. Happens to be then when I ask about the factors, the matrix by which these decisions are made. The point is made, I can't see that. I am not allowed to see it. It doesn't actually exist in the criteria that I might see because there are other intangible factors or other human factors or whatever that play into a list that the administration might be making, supposedly.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, if we could just pause. Could we have the clock running, please. Thank you, Councillor Klein.

Councillor Schreyer: Oh, Madam Speaker, don't worry about the clock for me.

Madam Speaker: That's a compliment. Good debater. The clock plays. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: And on that basis, my concern is that even with the attempt of creating a greater objective process before which the councillors or elected representatives make their decisions, I am still worried about that process before it comes to us. Yes, it's been said here today Council is supreme. But I also admit, Madam Speaker, that it can be very difficult to sort of amend things by the time they get here. Not that it doesn't happen. It just can create difficulties. So, I am just saying that as a general caution in the process, Madam Speaker. Another one is, Madam Speaker, just as an example, when it came to our Climate Action Plan which was done, I would say, with due diligence by members of the administration to come up with our Climate Action Plan. In the process, I did mention to them, well, where is, you know, in our special obligation in this city, where is our obligation to bringing the issue of changing over from natural gas to hydro or at least in future plans. Where is it part of the plan? And it wasn't really systemically inherently part of any substantial framework within the Climate Action Plan, a climate action plan, Madam Speaker, that would be for 25 years in the future. Councillor Mayes actually had to add it in. But my point is there was inherent bias. And no offense to anybody. We all have them. And that includes councillors as well, Madam Speaker. And so, we were able by virtue of sheer force of logic to bring an amendment to include conversion either retro or future plans conversion from natural gas to hydroelectricity. My concern is that it is an indication of even how a purportedly and with due diligence a report or deliberation before it comes to Council has already inherently its biases. And Madam Speaker, you know, I have been asking for years for the City to take on in a very extremely tangible role, a very tangible way, robust way, the greatest challenge we have to our budgetary problems spanning decades and generations, not years like COVID. In terms of the greatest challenge to our taxation, our services and our annual increase in debt to the next generation which is construction inflation, Madam Speaker. And so, finally, after I put out a report, right after that, this last budget it was said that we would have our report on construction inflation. But Madam Speaker, to all...you know, with all respect to those that created the report on this from the administration, they could not answer my questions when that report came to the Finance Committee. And I will be more precise; when there was an increase of over 25% in some aspect of construction inflation in recent years, I asked given they said that there was a decrease of 20% in that year in some aspects of construction inflation. But in another page of the report, it said that there was an overall increase by 5%. I just asked the obvious question, Madam Speaker. That means biologic because by virtue of balancing out the average, there had to have been about a 25% increase in construction inflation and other factors. I asked why. My answer was, I think this is a quote, "It's complicated". And Madam Speaker, with all respect to the administration, these are some of the biases in terms of prioritizing what Council needs to make their decisions. And to me, I find that extremely serious because we can't solve our problems with answers like that. With the inherent...I don't know what else to call it. I mean, I don't mean to insult any member of the administration. But please, anyone tell me what you would call that when we're talking about a specific issue and I can't get the answer to that specific issue which is why it was put in the budget in the first place. And it was...of Councillor Gillingham's brief few minutes in which he explained why the budget was a good budget, how he prioritizes his 10 minutes to explain why the budget was good. He bothered to mention the construction inflation report that came out a month or two ago and which I found highly inadequate because we can't use it. We didn't get the information we need in order to solve the problems of construction inflation. Madam Speaker, why am I talking about construction inflation again with eight minutes left on the clock or something?

Madam Speaker: Forty seconds.

Councillor Schreyer: Forty seconds left on the clock. When it comes to making these decisions by Council. So, I know this sounds a little extraneous. My point is Madam Speaker that, you know, we won't be solving these things in, I guess, one vote. The challenge of administration and elected representatives working together will continue. And we must...we must continue to be vigilant on attaining the right decisions regardless of a process.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I stand in support of the motion from the Public Service. And I think that a lot of what my colleagues have said rings true and doesn't need to be repeated. This is something that we all have to consider as we go forward. We need a process. We need processes for items and this is something that I think is timely because I know last year during the budget process I had reached out to the Public Service on a particular grant that we give, and could not be provided what that grant was really for, to who and the address. But nobody could tell me what it was for until finally I got a hold of the group myself through a lot of work to track them down. So, that tells me we have a problem. And the problem is is that we have one taxpayer and we have core services that we have to take care of. We're giving out grants and it's been the same grants for the last several years with the exception of one or two being changed, the amount increased or decreased, it's just continuing again with the status quo. And, really, I would rather see the City focus on its core responsibilities. Every level of government has a responsibility and an obligation to take care of what is within their jurisdiction. And this, again, not saying that they are bad, but if you look at the report that was sent to us from the Public Service, \$69 million in grants in 2020. Now, some of that was operating grants in kind, capital and reserves: \$69 million. A brief review; I asked the Public Service for a list of what grants would be...what are legislative, what is not, what could be affected. They did provide that yesterday. Very quickly, I might add, and thank them for that. But there...you can see in there, there's three or four grants for graffiti control to different organizations. Some are legislated, some are not. And if you try to find the actual legislation, just because we used the word legislated, it is difficult to find. It's how you read the Winnipeg ad. So, again, I think the process is necessary. I think that we have to start thinking about how we spend our money and the tax dollars that are given to us because we could certainly use this time now and use these funds to focus on results. Focus on results for the taxpayer. Focus on getting things done. So, I will be supporting the Public Service on this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Councillor Gilroy, followed by Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, Madam Speaker, I really want to encourage all my councillor colleagues not to support what is in front of us here today. This is going to be detrimental to the many different organizations which make up Manitoba and support some of our most vulnerable people. We all had to sit through many delegations when Save Our Seine came up for cutting and I think every single one of us supported it. And now we are looking at...looking at some severe...severe cuts that will be affecting many different organizations because of the word 'legislative', non-legislative. Why are we even talking about that when we have a document called OurWinnipeg that each and...well, most of us around the room supported? That is our primary document that we are using to guide how we plan Winnipeg. And that is what we should be using and not something like a word called non-legislative. What does that even mean? We have so many things that we are working on that is non-legislative. Right now, we are dealing with reconciliation, non-legislative. We supplied supports and grants to arts organization, non-legislative. We support heritage, non-legislative. What does this mean? I do believe we need criteria. We do need criteria, but this is not it. We need criteria that matches and balances the document that we all worked hard to get here today, and that's the OurWinnipeg document that looks at sustainability goals, non-legislative. So, we just had an OurWinnipeg document that has many different goals in there that are going to support a lot of the same organizations that we have in here and we're going to start to say, well, you know what, they are not legislative even though they meet OurWinnipeg goals that we are trying to achieve as a city. I would be very disappointed if we did that. Very, very disappointed. I also believe that this is our core responsibility as councillors is to be able to make some of these decisions. Very concerned with grants coming forward through a process that I am not even going to know if somebody applied or didn't apply. I won't know if Main Street Project came and applied for a grant to help support the mobility van. And on that, right now is a time and need where we aren't...there are sometimes where we make decisions that really impact that are non-legislative. For example, the Main Street Project was one of them. We decided we really need to keep that going right now and we put in funds for that. That wasn't something that the administration did, that was something we did as Council. Another thing we did as Council is economic support for our businesses out there and our communities out there that came through Council. That is something that was non-legislative but we did that. This is our responsibility. So, I believe there needs to be a criteria, but I don't believe we have it here today. I believe that there is some room for the...our administration to do some work here. But I believe that we need to be at the table whether that through a separate committee of Council, whether that is through Community Services. We have Councillor Santos is on the Winnipeg Committee of Safety. We do have some councillor groups that would be able to deal with some of this work and bring it forward onto Council. The work that we see here today is not what I would like to see. I would like to see something that reflects OurWinnipeg, our supporting document that we just approved. I'd like to see something that makes sure that we are...making sure that we are supporting the things that truly matter to this council and the next Council forward and the next Council forward because this is what we are here to do is make those decisions that reflect our different communities. So, if you look down in this...in here, you're going to also see that right now they are not looking at evaluation free market. You know, it doesn't look at the dollar leases and all that, but it does say in there that all of those are going to come into effect once the renewals come up. We don't know how this is really going to impact things. We have this report in front of us. We don't know how the administration is going to be moving it forward. Are we ever going to see that? What are the impacts to these organizations that we are dealing with? And how does it impact the service that we're delivering here because a lot of these organizations are actually providing services to residents that we're not providing because they do it cheaper. So, like, it is cheaper for us to get...to give these grants to these

organizations than for us to do that work. So, I really...this is not...I agree that we need criteria. And I agree that we need a process. But what is in front of here, I implore you all, do not support it because we need to come back and do more work on it. This is...this is...when we had all those people come for Save Our Seine, I want to remind you what we're setting up here with this. It needs more work. Thank you very much.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank the robust discussion that has been occurring on this report. Councillor Gilroy gave a very passionate oration there. You know, I look at this evaluation review and process policy that has come forward and I am encouraged by what I see here in terms of some of the elements that are being proposed in this framework and the fact that there is a grant evaluation...I refer specifically to the qualifications under section 5, section 5D and section 5E that talk about increasing the accountability, which I believe is what citizens of Winnipeggers are interested in seeing; that increased accountability if we are, as councillors, providing grants to these organizations. And I want to be respectful and mindful of what Councillor Gillingham said about Scope Creek and the fact that we do have some of these grants that are legislated and others that fall in other parameters. But you know, we have to stay in our lane to some degree and provide the support where we can to these service groups that are providing such great service to the citizens of Winnipeg. And if there is an opportunity to improve upon that by using metrics that this policy is calling for, it will help to streamline...help to streamline some of that and potentially improve the services that are being delivered through this grant process. So, I am in support of this report. I believe it's on its way to insuring that there is that level of accountability, there is that lens that provides an understanding that as they submit their application, as it's evaluated, as the funds are delivered, that at the end of the year it can be evaluated again to ensure that they've met the marks that they set out to accomplish. And in that way, they can continue on with funding for their program. But if they are not meeting the marks and not meeting the metrics that they've set out, then we have got to look in another direction to provide those services and create that accountability and ensure that the citizens of Winnipeg are receiving the best possible service that is out there. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I could just speak, through you, Madam Speaker, right to the folks that elected me, who are listening to this debate and considering, whoa, your lane, Councillor Rollins, is what I think they'd say to me, is arts and culture. Your lane is housing, homelessness, public washrooms. Your lane is sports and recreation and youth and equitable City services. And your lane is social services, community development and the health and welfare of this city that includes climate justice change, environmental, not-for-profits; that is your lane. Madam Speaker, through you to my ward residents. And I hear you and I am uncomfortable, I would say to them, with this conception of the work. The grants list, I do acknowledge though, is amongst the most precarious work and budgeted and held within the City of Winnipeg. Folks shouldn't feel comfortable and they won't. And we won't hear from them in July when I will argue, likely, if this passed, to you, Madam Speaker, that we shouldn't even hold this meeting because of the \$13 million organizations that are implicated here today who are not present. Arts and culture non-profits; they are not within the fold, I think we can say, of these terms that we are talking about today. Those who promote cultural traditions through music, dance, theatre, painting, sculpture, literature in our city, multimedia that have come before us concerned about this very item, by the way. Mr. Eddie Ayoub was here. It's our city's artists and cultural workers that I stand again to oppose this item. Folks that have, in this pandemic, I have thought a lot about. Sports and recreation not-for-profits that promote youth sports and activities, training, fitness, wellness and who, as Chair of Protection, Community Services and Parks, I can...I cannot argue that we have equitable community services in this city without them. They activate our spaces, Madam Speaker. Social services and community development not-for-profits like some that have been mentioned from my colleagues. It will give them no comfort that Council reigns supreme if we create a framework, a framework that I will call facile because I will not use another F word. The framework that doesn't see social services and community development not-for-profits doesn't deserve your support today. They have been working full out on basic health needs of the most vulnerable during the pandemic. Will it give them comfort, oh, that you don't see them in our legislative purview, that they are not in our so-called lane, but that Council will reign supreme. No. Let's have a framework that actually sees them that's built on OurWinnipeg. Finally, the environmental non-profit climate change who came to us; like Save Our Seine, OurWinnipeg, who came to us to say, change your strategic plan of the City of Winnipeg. Change it. And we did. We changed it. It was one of the most significant amendments that we did to OurWinnipeg-Complete Communities to create more greenspace, to share their concepts of the riverbank views of parks to create more, in fact. My fellow Councillor Gilroy, Madam Speaker, said it best, OurWinnipeg, the strategic planning priorities should guide this work. And in fact, if anyone saw the debate of July, 2020 EPC where we moved this aside for a year, sure, that was the disposition, but the debate, the debate of Councillor Mayes and Councillor Gillingham, Madam Speaker, was a very good one because it followed the logic of maybe this appendix A, this legislated/non-legislated dichotomy, false dichotomy, what I am calling facile to be polite, maybe it isn't what we should construct a grants framework on. It should be OurWinnipeg-Complete Communities. And the logic of that debate and the postponement fell out of that logic and I supported that. The framework was directed in a multi-year budget to determine who should receive grants and who should not by using legislative and

non-legislative and by some councillors, number one, they didn't like the existing framework that we had. The existing framework that...we do have one. It was developed in the '90s, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. And they wanted to see number two. And many councillors who are supporting this item today wanted to see in the multi-year budget up to 25% cuts. A moment that I remember that divided, Madam Speaker, Councillor Lukes and I. So this, through no fault of the Public Service, this framework is facile. This appendix A that outlines legislated, non-legislated, whatever that means, this framework, this disconnected from the charter and our strategic plan at the City of Winnipeg, we could do better. It doesn't deserve to be passed today. It really doesn't.

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

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have said on this floor many a times about, you know, the three Ps of municipal government: pipes, pavement and policing. And I've often included parks on there as well. Today I am going to acknowledge that there are a lot of other things municipal government provides that are also very important. And in a lot of cases, some of those things are delivered by partner organizations. You know, our Animal Services doesn't deal with cats, for example. We've got a contract with the Winnipeg Humane Society that can probably provide that service to us for a cost that's lower than if we tried to do it in-house. That is fine and that's great. Municipal government can't be everything to everyone. You know, social programming, for the most part, is, you know, provided by the Province of Manitoba. Social housing, in many Canadian cities, is municipal, not so much the case here in the City of Winnipeg. So, again, you know, it is a good idea to have criteria, to have...you know, to listen to our Public Service do a first evaluation, apply their lenses to it and then, ultimately, Council is supreme. If we really do want to provide a service, if we want to partner with an organization, if we want to provide support, we have that opportunity. This doesn't preclude us from doing that. At the end of the day, we are responsible to the citizens of Winnipeg. The taxpayers of Winnipeg, they pay a lot of money for the privilege of living in the City of Winnipeg for a whole basket of municipal services. We have to make sure that what is being funded is consistent with their needs and their desires. And I believe that, you know, we do need to have a particular focus, we do need to have criteria. And ultimately, at the end of the day, as the elected officials, we are responsible for the decisions that are made, you know, based on the best advice from our Public Service. So, again, I want to say thank you to a lot of the partner organizations that are out there. We have a great relationship with them. They provide important services for Winnipeggers. And again, you know, perhaps some programs are no longer relevant. Perhaps there's other more worthy programs out there that should be funded while other ones, perhaps, you know, aren't as relevant anymore. Having a lens and re-evaluating these on a regular basis is a good exercise, it's responsible government, and I am supportive.

Councillor Rollins: Call for a recorded vote.

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

Councillor Nason: I see Councillor Orlikow waving his hand, too.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow next.

Councillor Nason: You know, hearing a lot of language, Madam Speaker. Your lane, unelected body for grants, for naming places. Some of those are good things, some of those aren't. You know, we're talking about Bill 64, you know, an unelected body, that is not a good thing. Transcona has a graffiti program that's been celebrated for many years, I believe, by city hall. The Transcona BIZ operates it on. They get a small grant for it. The Transcona Museum, I know recent budgets tried to cut funding for the museum. You know, when I reached out to them yesterday...I think it was yesterday, when we got the list of all the legislated, not legislated bodies that were receiving grants, they were on there. They were surprised that this has come up yet again as a sort of potential backdoor of cutting their funding. There is no doubt that we are in a lot of areas that we need not be, but I think we need more consultation before we make these changes. And I am not going to support this today. Thank you.

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

Councillor Orlikow: Lower my hand, sorry. Thank you very much. And I do want to really thank everybody for the debate today. Still, I've been a little bit absent, but this debate has been (inaudible) fair bit recently. And today, a lot of the conversation I've heard have been very enlightening for me on both sides, both supportive and non-supportive. So, here's what I've heard so far, and at the end I will say where I'm kind of at. The idea about criteria and evaluation, that's...there's no question. Where I really hear these...the...I don't think anybody has any problem with that. I may be a little scared about how administrative overburdening it will be. Like, you know, creating a beautiful space, how do you evaluate that? Criteria they're going to have to use and then how much money they're going to spend on administratively trying to figure this stuff out. Some of them aren't very hard (inaudible). But again, we are of our duty to taxpayers and we need to work through that one. So, again, I think we are all on the same page. I don't think there is anyone in here stating that we should

just throw money to the wind and see where it goes and we generally don't. We know that the people who are accepting these grants are incredible people, are doing incredibly good for Winnipeg. Now, are they doing things that perhaps are not City obligation? Again, I think that is where we are getting to the crux of the problem. And Councillor Gilroy put it very appropriately. And we talk about legislative; how long ago was this legislative response to (inaudible) built? Cities have changed. Cities all around the world are becoming the centre hub for...and we can ignore healthcare, we can ignore homelessness. We could ignore all these things, but as we know, we can't. We haven't, we won't. But again, having this bound by the legislative authority of the Province, I think that is really our responsibility as Council. So, unfortunately, in the report, I see a very simple word change that would be very simple to address most of those concerns. On page 7, where it says, "Confirm that the grant request aligns with the City legislated services". But rather than saying "And conform with the request aligns with the following proposed Council priorities", put "or". We just did...again...so again, it still has that accountability but some of our core responsibilities as OurWinnipeg has said, are not legislated. We've already passed that. That's very important to remember that. But is climate change ours? It is. You know, is education...what would work with schools? We want to help schools out. We want them to become another community centre especially in some of our areas that need more and open up their doors and want to work with them. So, if we just had that change with that wording, it would really make it much better for me to be able to support this. I am very...Councillor Rollins put it very clear. I do feel this is very stealth oriented here. In the (inaudible) all of a sudden, budget's going to come along and we say, well, we had a policy. Sorry you've lost your grant. You know what, that's...to me, that doesn't pass the smell test. I think we need to be...if we're going to go to this policy, there should be the catchment of who's using their grant or not because then we have those people. I know we don't all those people coming, hundreds and hundreds of people come forward, but we should hear their stories and why they feel that grant's really important and then make decisions. So, say, well, the policy says, kind of...you know, well, we love to give you a grant, but the policy says we can't. Oh, you're doing very good work, but we're going to have to go to Council now and we will see how that goes. Again, I think we've got to be a little bit more honest and little...and say, this is how this policy went backwards to see grants and talk to the people as Councillor Mayes has talked about. So, that doesn't leave a very good taste in my mouth at all. So, based upon that, I agree with Councillor Rollins. I do believe this has lots of merit. And Councillor Lukes was very clear on that as well. But again, I would definitely say we should hold off on this, even lay it over if you'd like to have a more work at the actual wordage on it. And I think we can come to an agreement that will be accountable, it will be directed to our...generally, our core activities, not just the legislative ones, and they will provide that clear guideline for people and to the taxpayers to know how we're spending their money. So, I won't be supporting this as it is today. I thought I was going to before I heard everybody talking today. But after I've heard the comments today from everybody, and I appreciate it, I won't be supporting, which is a little more confusing, the administrative report. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, Mr. Mayor to close or Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I will be very brief. Thank you to the Public Service for the report. It's part of the budget. We ask them to do it. Here's the report before us. I think, for me, the main objection I have is that I think legislative versus non-legislative is the wrong frame. I think it's antiquated. I think the right frame is more OurWinnipeg. The right frame might be something along the lines of something similar to our asset management...our Asset Management's Offices matrix, which is much more rich and complex how we evaluate these grants. But Legislative and not, I think is just too blunt a tool. And 20% grant reductions is something that would be very, very difficult I think for any council. So, my main issue is the frame. I don't think it is the right frame. And for that reason, I will be voting...I will be voting against the administrative report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. Mr. Mayor, do wish to close?

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, I'll be brief. I want to thank all of my colleagues for their...for sharing their thoughts. And this is a very politically thorny issue of what third-parties receive grants from any level of government, including municipal government. And so, the challenge, of course, is what is the appropriate lens? I know members of Council, our Finance Chair and others have tried to provide that leadership and direction, as have I, to allow Council to be...to receive the benefit of advice from the Public Service on grants that is framed through a lens that is at least attempting to get at what are our core services. Of course, the debate becomes, as you can hear today, and I respect the views on both sides of this issue. The debate becomes, okay, well, what are our core services? There is a wide range of what those core services should be. I do want to acknowledge and thank under the leadership of, at least for today, Mr. Mike Ruta. A report that responded to the direction that was requested during the budget process over a year ago. And so, we did lay this matter over for a year to allow members of Council to further consider or discuss with each other and Public Service the contents of the report. So, I am pleased that we will...we will take a vote today. And Council, just like the budget process, Council will be supreme. And the direction of this council in this matter today will be...will be that direction. I for one...you know, when I was first elected, I won't name the...which previous mayor, but a previous mayor, I am the 43rd mayor, it was the 42nd, but the previous mayor mentioned something to me in the transition period of, you have got to do something with the grants because they do, generally, expand each year. And, of course, I jokingly said, well then, why didn't you deal with it? I could have said that on a few matters, but on that one I thought it was good, gentle ribbing. And it's because it is difficult. We have community leaders around this chamber and joining us virtually here today that care passionately about

our community. And so, we do fund a number of initiatives, including myself. I've been very proud to support some of the...sort of the third-parties that have been referenced by my council colleagues today that do incredibly important work in our community. And some cases where we are filling a vacuum of support from other levels of government. And I'm sure we can...we have heard many of them here today. And I'm sure those that are watching these proceedings can at least acknowledge where the City of Winnipeg has stepped in. I would argue, well beyond our core services, certainly our legislated responsibility. I'm going to be supporting this because I would like to have the benefit of that critical lens on our grants. I do appreciate the concerns of members of Council who fear that it could lead to some organizations not receiving funding in the future. And I respect that view because that is the intent is to have that greater scrutiny. I wouldn't make the jump, however, that all organizations or any organizations for that matter necessarily would have their funding eliminated because ultimately, Council could say, thank you very much, Public Service. We appreciate the scrutiny. We appreciate the lens. We are choosing to fund the organizations that we want to fund. But at least there would be that greater openness and transparency that this level of government is stepping in where other levels of government are not. And so, that is the reason I'll be supporting it. But again, great discussion. And on this one, it is not an easy thing to refine. You know, whenever you're getting into core services, it can be very subjective and the legislative framework is perhaps arguably the most objective. But like I said, this vote, I think, has been a long time coming. And of course, the determination of this council will be just that, will be the determination of Council, which I certainly would expect to be respected. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Call for a recorded vote.

Councillor Gilroy: And point of order, sorry.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Gilroy: Can we just maybe get some clarity from the Clerks?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy, could I ask you to rise.

Councillor Gilroy: Oh sorry, yes. Sorry.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gilroy: Could we get some clarity from the Clerks on how this...how we're voting on this? Because it went through EPC and was lost. So, just so everyone understands.

Madam Speaker: Yes, I will have the Mayor clarify, or pardon me, the Clerk clarify. The Mayor did mention in his opening remarks that he was moving the administrative report that's before us. Is there anything to add, Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: No, your interpretation is correct, Madam Speaker. There's no recommendation in front of Council as the vote at EPC was lost. There was no recommendation that came forward. The Mayor, when he rose, moved the recommendations of the Public Service which are contained on page 4 of the report. Three recommendations in front of Council.

Councillor Allard: Point of order.

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Are amendments on the Council floor not supposed to be made in writing? Is this an exception?

Madam Speaker: This is...yeah, this is not an exception. It is in order. And in fact, Councillor Gilroy did this not too long ago, I believe, as Chair of her committee. So, it is in order. It's the administrative report in front of us and the Mayor did make note of that in his opening remarks.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, I was just going to say, the...I did move it forward at the beginning, I believe in order. And it was really just to provide everybody with the clarity of what you were voting for or against. The intent with moving it forward is, if you do support the current grant evaluation and review process policy that is before us, that would be a vote in favour. And if you are opposed, as many members of Council have indicated, that would be in opposition.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, we'll have the vote. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Klein, Lukes and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Nays

Councillors Orlikow, Santos, Allard, Eadie, Gilroy, Mayes, Nason, Rollins and Schreyer

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

Madam Speaker: Okay, so Item 2 passes...or is lost. Was lost. Okay, Item 2 is lost. Let's move on, Item 9.

Item 9 – Request from Starlight Investments for extension of time to satisfy approved condition of financial contribution to Portage Place Revitalization Project

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to introduce the item.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be brief. This is a vote to provide an extension of time on previous council support for this particular project. I note we are still awaiting the outcome of dialogue between Starlight and the Federal Government. And I'll be supporting this in order to provide all parties involved with that additional time that's been requested, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Speakers on this item? Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Mayes: I'll try not to go on at great length. I was on the losing end of this vote almost exactly a year ago today. And I suspect I may be again. So, I won't go on at great length. The trouble here, I mean, this to me seems like Mission Creek that we are now looking at...it was a \$20 million package that was voted on 9-7 last year at Council to benefit Starlight. Not just tax increment financing as some reported later, but grants in addition to that for projects they were doing. I am troubled by the process here and I've been troubled throughout by the process here. July 15th of 2020 admin came in with a recommendation of a \$5 million package. That was, I believe, at EPC amended to 11.3. Why 11.3 people said to me. Well, they want \$40 million between the Province and the City. The Province is in for 28.7, so we're going to make up the balance. By the next week at Council, that had morphed into \$20 million from the City because Starlight was then saying, well, no, we said we wanted 40, but what we really wanted was at least 20 from each two levels of government. That troubled me. There was a motion that I supported last year from Councillor Nason to...or at least a request to have a special meeting into August to debate this. At the time it was, there's simply no time. Starlight has said its due diligence deadline is August something of 2020. Sorry Councillor Nason, there's no time. Here we are a year later less a day, they're...whatever deadline that was in August has vanished right into the air and we're back here looking at another extension. So, I am troubled by that process. I'm troubled by the...their chance to put their best foot forward in their June correspondence, it's in front of you, it's schedule A. It contains the phrase, "There are many moving parts and elements that must remain confidential." Here we are a year later, that's the disclosure. That is the transparency. That troubles me. They say they're in talks with the Federal Government, all signs point to an implement federal election, but they can't control that. We can't control that. But I am not sure they will get whatever answers they're looking for by October. And we may be back here again. So, and I am troubled by the process in the way this has been undertaken throughout. It seemed rushed to me last July. Here we are a year later and we really don't have any greater clarity. There are some...I don't blame Councillor Gilroy for going to bat on this. It is in her ward. I would, perhaps if I were saying, look, this will help downtown, this will help my ward. This will be a revitalization project. They've gone from a pledge of 10% affordable housing to 30%. But let's keep in mind, this was a sale of an asset that generated money. The parking garage generated money. I don't want to oversimplify the ask here from Starlight, but they're getting a vast part of the purchase price back and still keeping that asset that's generating millions of dollars. So, I would like to see something done on Portage Place. I'd like to see promotion of housing at that location, but I am not sure this is the right dance partner, to be blunt. And a year on, I don't feel I have any more information than what I had standing here July 22nd of 2020. So, I will oppose the extension. I did think the speaker today, Mr. Paskowitz, actually at EPC gave blunter, more factual answers than some of what we got last year. So, I respect that. And clarified some of the elements. But to me, there is still a lot of loose ends here and I just remain concerned about continuing to extend, continuing to go forward. Finally, there's one huge loose end here that no one seems able to answer which is, the Province is in, the Province is in with this 20 year pledge or 25 year pledge of forgiveness on education tax. The very tax they say will be nonexistent in 10 years time. How does that math work? Are we...are we making that up? Is that the next ask? We're told at EPC, no, no. No more asks from the City, but we went from 5 to 11 to 20 in about nine days. We haven't really shown much resolve in saying no to these folks. So, I don't know what the Province is in for. I don't know what the Feds are in for. You know, I really don't begrudge Councillor

Rollins, Councillor Santos, Councillor Gilroy, all spoke last year about going to bat for downtown. That is fair. I can't criticize them for that. I just don't think this is the right dance partner for the City in terms of moving forward on this site. So, I will be opposing the extension.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Nason.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, right off the hop, I'll just tell you, I'm not voting to extend this. And actually, I voted against the project the second time it came to Council, Madam Speaker. So, I just want to quickly review. So, a public organization called The Forks North Portage whose shareholders are the City of Winnipeg, the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, Madam Speaker. So, it's a public entity that owns it because it's The Forks North Portage who's selling it. That was the approach that we got. And really, it is the privatization of the overall ownership of the asset because we know that private companies from when it was first built were the ones who were...took over basically the inside and the business operations of Portage Place. And actually, Cadillac Fairview a long time ago made lots of money, and I guess they had the foresight to say, well, are...you know, we're running this thing, and you know, that got sold off or whatever to a corporation in British Columbia. I don't know who the last one was that basically was running it, but they wanted out. So, in other words, The Forks North Portage couldn't find anybody to buy that operation as is today. So, they requested from its shareholders, we want to sell this and privatize everything. Okay. So, I...you know, I had meeting, I had discussions with Starlight. They projected that they had the financial wherewithal and ability to take over and privatize this entity and build on, which was decided many, many, many years ago to make sure that there was a foundation in place that towers could be built for more housing, which downtown, even back then in the late '80s needed more residential. Today, yesterday, we heard from the Downtown BIZ, and we're hearing that, you know what? The future is going to have to be, we need more residents downtown to support it because there'll be less people working downtown at businesses. So, anyway, I digress a bit. But so then, they ask for money, and what I hear they were asking for, they were asking for government subsidy for it to get to the point where, basically, they were getting their money back for the purchase price as Councillor Mayes accurately pointed out, Madam Speaker. So here's the thing: you know, they want an extension, and they go to the Federal Government, and they ask for a \$200 million loan. Public dollars to loan. Yeah, they'll pay it back, okay, big deal. But we're going to loan them the money so they can make over whatever years those apartments exist because only a small portion of them are going to be affordable. And even affordable, it's...that model is not affordable. Rent geared to income is the reality because the market-based assessment of what affordable is, like, my son is looking at renting a new apartment, Madam Speaker, up in our area, in Lord Selkirk, up in the newer areas. \$1,600 a month. That'll be the same price for whatever gets built there, but by the time it's built, it's going to be what, \$2,000 for...anyway, like, the market value, the people who need the affordable housing, basically, they need it to be rent geared to income, Madam Speaker. So, I don't hear even this helping the housing cause in down...in this city, actually. That's the problem. So, Madam Speaker, like, I think we should just not extend the date because obviously they can't do it. And if the Federal Government is considering giving a \$200 million loan, okay, why don't we...there's many not-for-profit housing developers in this city who are quite capable to build those towers. They can do this project, and we wouldn't be supporting a huge business called Starlight to make major profits into the future. And we, the taxpayers, helped them make that money. Like, come on. This is...like, you know, if it was going to be a pure privatization or whatever, I would have supported it, but here we are. They want the public...public dollars to do this project and there's going to be way more suites at higher rents. And there will be a market for it. Honestly, Madam Speaker, there's a mark...there's going to be a market for it because the cost of a house is huge. That's why my son is actually having to make...he makes good money, but he's having to move into an apartment because he can't get together a down payment for the big cost of a house. So, anyway, that's the market. So, the idea here is, what I'm suggesting is, if loans...the provincial, the federal, and the city government can back mortgages for not-for-profit groups to go ahead and do this needed, it is needed, I have to admit, and that's why I originally said, okay, we do need to do something about Portage Place. It is important to open it up so that the communities, all of downtown is connected because, well, central...like, you know, if I go to...if I'm going to Central Park, I can't walk straight up Kennedy, can I? No, I can't, from Broadway. So, like, there's no connection to the community. So, anyway, I just...like, I think we should just not extend it, let the deal fail. Obviously, the Province's commitment is pretty shaky as well. And you know, it is still currently publicly owned. The parking lot generates money, whatever. The not-for-profits can run all of the housing, provide...you know, and that amount of rent geared to income housing. At the same time, rent at market rates, the full market value, and whatever surpluses they come up with goes into reinvestment into more housing, rather than into private pockets for profit. Anyway, I'll just...I just...like, this thing just got great. So, you know, if you're going to privatize it, privatize it completely. That's it. They're going to make tons of money. That's what they believe. Look how committed they are. They want to get even...make even more money. They want more public dollars. They want to...they said they had the money to finance the whole thing. That's what they presented to me, really. It's just private companies lining their pockets with public dollars. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Yes, there's no brown bag lunch today, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Just start the clock. Thank you.

Councillor Nason: Yeah. Thank you. I'm hungry now. Anyways, we've got a Federal Government that's going around handing out money left, right and centre, but yet, this deal is languishing. As Councillor Mayes indicated, a year ago we were like, we have to do it now. We have to hurry up, we have to approve this. You know, the sky is falling kind of approach to this. We had a flurry of motions, amending motions, and then amending, amending motions to the one that we ended up landing on. And here we are, a year later and we're still at the starting block. We're still waiting for the Federal Government to give an answer. Without a doubt, there would be a lot more hostile language being used if it was the Provincial Government holding this matter up, but alas, it's not. You drive along Portage and we see...you know, since this time, we see the Bay building boarded up. The dynamic of downtown has changed. You know, we hear the downtown report and the devastating news that they're talking about with regards to the downtown economy. If I was the applicant in this matter, I'd be coming back and trying to renegotiate with us because I think the dynamics of our downtown have changed and will be changing for a very long time. So, I think this deal has had its sunset, and I won't be supporting today.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just...I appreciate everything that we're hearing, but I mean, let's look at the reality. How many times have we all voted for an extension on various things, whether it's reports or developments and so on? It's a regular thing that we do at City Council, and we know that. And sometimes, it's warranted, and sometimes I think it's just done. So, they need a few more months to deal with another level of government, and I think we all know at what speed all levels of government work, very slowly. We've had COVID. We've had a pandemic. And I think we're also forgetting a really big, big factor. Nobody else wanted to buy it. They tried, and they tried, and they tried. Nobody else wanted to buy it. And now, more than ever, we can certainly use the half a billion dollars in investment in our city, in our downtown. We need to think of that before anything else. Our downtown needs help. Half a billion dollars will help with that. It's a few months. It's a few more months, and we've granted time for other things. I'll just end with this because I really...I'm not sure why this has become a debate for a couple of months. We have nothing to lose. What do we have to lose to wait three more months? We don't have session in August. Nobody's banging down the door right now to give us more money for it. And we certainly need the help. So, what do we have to lose by saying yeah, no problem. We'll wait till October. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Councillor Lukes, followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting the extension of the Starlight project. I want to put on the record that I've always been in support of this project, but did not vote on it initially due to the absolute chaos in process by the City, EPC, whoever as noted by Councillor Mayes. This is a large, transformative project. There are multiple levels of government involved. It's a very complex real estate deal with land and building ownership being different. To Councillor Klein's point, making it very, very difficult to sell. And knowing how long it takes to pull together funding for smaller projects and partners in the ward that I represent and observing what I've seen over the past few years on \$100, \$150 million deals, things take time. When I look at the options on the table to deal with downtown challenges, and the options to deal with Portage Place, I truly believe the Starlight proposal should be given more time to allow a deal to either come together or fall through. The report is just asking for an extension of more time, and I encourage Council to support this motion to allow for more time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Councillor Gilroy, followed by Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And you know, I have to agree with Councillor Klein. Loves when I agree with him. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this extension. And I really want to really paint a picture for everybody. We just finished having a report that came out that talked about 72% of our residents are really concerned about the state of our downtown. We had a report that came out that said 17% of our commercial tax base comes from downtown. 14% of our tax base, the most economic driver and employer is our downtown. 70,000 people work downtown. We have unique districts that are different from any other city in Canada, from our arts district to our sports district, our downtown is a place where people gather. We know that with this pandemic we have been truly...it has been really impacted. Transit dropped by 60%. Students and staff are working remotely from the universities. Businesses' foot traffic are down 65%. \$139 million in lost revenues. We are at a state where we are saying we need help here in the downtown, and we have somebody that's right now willing to invest, and all they're asking is an extension from us so they can deal with our Federal Government, with our federal partner. And those things do take time. If they're looking at adding more affordable housing or not, those things will, you know, happen with the Federal Government. But I want to paint that picture because it's important to remember that right across the street from the mall, Portage Place Mall, where they haven't been able to sell, where we know foot traffic is done, where we know we're having issues with people not wanting to come into our downtown because they see that nobody's down there. It's not vibrant anymore. There is a concern that that mall could close, just like many, many malls in North America that are seeing more things go online, seeing malls are closing, and

that's a reality. And right now, we have somebody that's willing to invest money into our downtown in an area where right across the street we have a boarded up Bay building that we know is going to cost millions, millions and millions of government funding and government grants to be able to make that a workable space for anybody. So, I am concerned that if we don't support this group that has come forward, that is willing to put their own money into this, we can lose it. Now, there could be non-for-profits that could come forward, and I...but this...but you've got to remember that this is a mall, this is a business right now that is trying to sell their own asset. Ours is only on the parking lot. Like, this isn't just up to us. So, what's in front of us is trying to figure out how we're going to piece this together. If I could be making all the decisions, you know...you know, it might look different, but it...this is what's in front of us here today. What's in front of us here today is we know we have a downtown that's hurting and the pandemic has truly hit it. We have a downtown that has just been seeing poverty because there's nothing else going along down there. If you go to Vancouver, and you walk down Vancouver, there's poverty, but you don't see it because it's active, right? We need people to live, work and play downtown. We need people to be here and not just leaving at 6:00. We need festivals. We need all those things to bring people downtown. That includes businesses at Portage Place. They rely on people living there. That's why they're hurting, there's not enough people living there. So, they need housing. So, I really...I'm really nervous about...like, maybe we can find somebody else. That's a maybe, but there's somebody right now in front of us right now, that is working with the Federal Government. Let's give them their extension, let's hear what they have to say, and let's support the work of our Downtown BIZ that is doing...is trying to do an economic recovery, which includes housing. So, I hope that you support what's in front of us here today. Thank you.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is probably the second time in a council session that I'm agreeing with Councillor Klein. Second time in the afternoon.

Madam Speaker: Let's make it a home run today.

Councillor Chambers: And I want to thank Councillor Gilroy for also mentioning a lot of the points that I am just going to briefly discuss as well. You know, I had the opportunity to reach out to Kate Penske yesterday and just ask her where the Downtown BIZ stood on the development or redevelopment of Portage Place, and the Downtown BIZ is in full support of the redevelopment of Portage Place. You know, it's a matter of leveraging, you know, this space being developed to accommodate retail, to accommodate office space, and of course, to accommodate, you know, the many thousands of people that can move downtown and stay downtown after the 6:00 hours. It's critically important to the businesses that are down there downtown, the many restaurants, the many shops that are downtown, that we have that core population that can support those businesses. You know, I...and just off the beaten track here, I...I, you know, am on a few Facebook...Facebook group pages, and one of the ones I subscribe to is a vintage Winnipeg Facebook page that shows a lot of pictures of Winnipeg and what it used to be, and how families used to dress up and come downtown and spend an entire day downtown. Sadly, we're not seeing that these days because of how isolated our downtown is. How many businesses have closed throughout this pandemic. And the need to revitalize those businesses and present new opportunities for businesses to move it. So, we have, not only people living downtown, but people coming downtown to support those businesses. It also provides the opportunity through this redevelopment to position us for the concepts of crime prevention through environmental design, which is what this redevelopment is looking at, as well as the concept of crime prevention through social development and having that nucleus of people downtown to have those eyes and ears on the ground and contribute towards crime prevention. The opening of Qaumajuq, again, we want to encourage people to come down. With the fact that the Jets are now playing this season here in our city with, hopefully, capacity crowds. Councillor Browaty, during break, was indicating that the Goldeyes are returning back to Winnipeg. These are all positive things that we need to revitalize our downtown sector and community post pandemically. And I'm hoping that this is all part of the economic recovery plan as we move forward post pandemically as well. You know, Councillor Gilroy talked about the decline of malls throughout North America. Of course, the billionaire that just went into space, talked about, you know, his ride was paid for by the customers of his company as well as the employees. And we're seeing as more people move to online shopping, there's going to be less people in malls. So, we have to have something that does attract people back to the malls to have that hand-on experience on the products that they're purchasing. And of course, having a revitalized mall will have that initial attraction. Again, in looking at some of the YouTube video or Facebook video that has been provided of when Portage Place opened back in 1985, I believe it was, I saw the hoop and holler that took place as I believe it was Bill Norrie was mayor of the city at the time, opened up Portage Place Mall. And it hasn't really lived up to the hype that it was initially built on. And now, here's an opportunity to add that mixed-use component to it; including office, including residential component that will bring people downtown, and hopefully, that'll be the silver bullet that allows Portage Place to live up to its hype, as well as creating or separating that monstrosity of one large building into active pedestrian corridors and having people being able to walk between those buildings and create those greenspaces and safe spaces that I know that Councillor Rollins is very much an advocate of and so am I. And making sure that there is that safe place where people can gather and feel welcome and safe in that environment. So, for those reasons, I'm supporting the extension. I recognize that in working with government as a former civil servant, that things in government

do take time, sometimes at glacial speed. And giving the opportunity of Starlight Investment to work out a proper deal that works for them, they're in business to make money, they're in business to help grow cities as well. You know, giving them the opportunity to work a workable deal that will also benefit the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg and revitalize our downtown, bring that core nucleus back downtown, get people...citizens of Winnipeg excited about coming to their downtown area as well with all the rich offerings that we have, whether it's festivals, whether it's arts and culture, whether it's sporting events, whether it's the fine dining of all of our multi-cultural restaurants, that is what we want to see in our downtown area, and supporting this project, supporting the extension of the timeline that's been given, I think will position us in an opportunity to revitalize our downtown. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, this is within the realm of a grey area, I would say, which merits the discussion we're having today. And to me, they're honestly truly good arguments for voting for and against the motion. I voted for the motion the first time that this came to Council. I believe it was in 2019 this came to Council. We were in favour of it in terms of doing our part and in terms of the City's part regarding Starlight's involvement with renewing Portage Place. I think it was unanimous at the time. There wasn't much opposition to that. So, I was one of those that voted for it. As Ross Eadie mentioned...as Councillor Eadie made the point, he voted for in favour of that as well. Then Starlight came back to us and asked for further taxpayer involvement. And yes, we did scramble. My understanding was Councillor Gilroy was in the middle of this as well of providing greater taxpayer involvement on certain conditions, which to me were reasonable, that a good fraction of that funding would be conditional to affordable housing. The problem I had a year ago, after I first voted for it, after we first supported (inaudible) at city hall, was that no one was really in a position to answer our questions in terms of what would be the actual results regarding affordable housing as it applied to the funding from the taxpayer. We didn't know what the rent would be for the affordable housing. We didn't know what the cost would be, how many units we'd be getting for the affordable housing units. What I do know is this, and Councillor Chambers did bring us back to the initial inception of this back in the '80s, and I did speak of this a year ago, asking the question here in Council, not that I should be asking questions here, Madam Speaker, to Council, but I did say and I did get away with it, do we remember...and I'm just quoting myself, Madam Speaker. Do we remember the core area initiative back in the mid '80s? And that was to revitalize downtown of Winnipeg, which is an ongoing challenge, it's an ongoing concern. And so, back in the day, with three levels of government, Councillor Chambers mentioned Bill Norrie was there to cut the ribbon. Howard Polly was Premier of Manitoba. Lloyd Axworthy was the Senior Federal Minister at the time to help put the three levels of government together to bring about what would be considered a pillar in the long-term strategy for maintaining our downtown. It was well thought out. To me, I still consider what they did back then, part and parcel of a long-term strategy. Why is that? The foundation laid conceptually and physically in terms of its design allows for us to build upon this for years and decades to come. The example of what was going to be considered the retrofitting of the building to allow for the two towers on either end, the...I'm not sure if I would call them retrofitting because we're not trying to change the structure of it to allow the towers. As I made the point by virtue of Ross Eadie's comments last year, made the point that it was the actual design and the way they constructed it which allowed for the towers, allowing for this long-term development in the middle of our downtown. And so, the taxpayers have done their duty in terms of creating what is part of the core of long-term infrastructure that we can rely on. Now, the question is, you know, it came back to Council in terms of funding. We were told this was...it was going to start in 2021. We never did get, even a year later, any further understanding of the reason some councillors...I'm not putting words in their mouth. Some councillors said the reason they're voting for it is because it would allow for other aspects of social progress including affordable housing. But even a year later, even today, I did ask the question this morning. A year later...we were very helpful last year in trying to assist on what the equations would be in terms of the rent and the number of affordable housing units. A year later, we cannot get these answers. But even though I didn't vote for it a year ago, I voted for it a year and a half ago, I didn't vote for it a year ago is because I...when it comes to the accountability for the taxpayer in terms of what they're going to get when it comes to those things, which we construct, the devastating cost of construction in terms of how it applies directly, especially to affordable housing, and couldn't get some answers today. So, it is unfortunate that, here we are, a year later, when I thought we would be getting the...beginning construction and the answers for why the City was involved a year ago, scrambling to create affordable housing as a notable aspect of this construction can't be answered, but we're asked for a delay anyway. So, I have to admit to you, I don't believe we're going to get those answers with the delay. So, what am I supposed to do? It absolutely is true, as Councillor Klein and Councillor Gilroy and others have made the point, that we do need the investment. My concern is that when it comes to these large construction projects, that we live in an era of sort of the politics of despair. If we don't put the taxpayers' money into it, we're not going to get the benefit out of this private, for-profit construction, which is okay. I voted for this a year and a half ago. I was okay with that despite the fact that the taxpayers built the foundation of this. I was okay with it. Not all exactly okay with it, but that's life, and that's politics. But my concern is we're not really addressing the issues of an economic recovery plan. Well, you want poverty, we've got poverty and it's not just downtown. I live a half a block on foot, a half a block on foot, just walking a half a block, and I'll be...as mentioned by one of our delegates this morning, I live in the largest...I live a half a block on foot from the largest urban area...the poorest urban area in Canada, and that's where I raise my family, and we're not solving it. And I don't think...and I don't even think we're even trying to solve it because we're not dealing with the issue. Here, we're dealing

with the issue of increased costs and trying to manoeuvre in terms of greater profits or feasibility of this. This, a year and a half later, after I voted for it. And I've got my concerns that we're not really dealing with an economic recovery plan by putting more taxpayer money into it, any level of government.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Moving on. Mr. Mayor, this is your opportunity to close.

Mayor Bowman: I would just call the question.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Call the question on Item 9 – Starlight Investments. There's a call for a recorded vote. All in favour of Item 9, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillors Allard, Eadie, Mayes, Nason and Schreyer.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 5.

Madam Speaker: Item 9 passes. Moving on to the next committee report, report of Executive Policy Committee dated July 20th, 2021. Mr. Mayor.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JULY 20, 2021**

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the rule 10(1) of the Procedure By-law be suspended and the report of July 20th, 2021 be adopted by consent.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Now that was...excuse me, that was to be the addendum motion to walk on the item? Yeah. Mr. Clerk.

Councillor Nason: That was suspension of the rules we just voted on? Without being worded appropriately.

Madam Speaker: Yes, that's what I was referring to. We can do it again if you'd like.

Councillor Nason: Yes.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, it was...that was...was that clear, a suspension of the rules to hear the item today? Okay. Okay. Is that clear? I think the Mayor moved consent. Is that the same thing? Is that the same thing, Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: They're two different ones. The Mayor moved both at the same time. It is allowable for Council to vote on both at the same time.

Madam Speaker: Yeah. I don't...I just don't think it was heard properly, so if we could just call it once more, Mr. Mayor, if you don't mind.

Mayor Bowman: Sure.

Madam Speaker: So, we'll have the suspension. That's normally what we do is the suspension. Yeah. Yes, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Point of order just for clarification. Is...like, really, I believe it requires two separate votes, Madam Speaker. I don't want to spend a lot of time speaking to it, but I'd like to. So, by moving both at the same time, I don't think we have an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Madam Speaker: Sure. It is in order to move them both, but I'd like to go back and do the...because I was under the impression it was the addendum motion first, and I think that's what the past practice has been in this chamber. So, if we could go that, Mr. Mayor, move the addendum...suspension of the rules to add the item to be heard today if you could move that one first.

Mayor Bowman: Sure. I was just using language provided from our Clerk, so I thought it was in order. But...so, we need to do two motions?

Madam Speaker: That's normally what we do in the chamber, so let's do that. Yeah.

Mayor Bowman: Okay, so I'm sorry. What would you like me to move?

Madam Speaker: Do you want to clarify the wording, Mr. Clerk? Let's do the addendum as Councillor Eadie was suggesting that we normally do because it's not on today's agenda.

City Clerk: That's fine, we've had one vote to suspend the rules. And now the Clerk can introduce the item, and we can have the Mayor open on the item.

Mayor Bowman: Sure, okay.

Madam Speaker: That's what I thought we were doing. Okay. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'm happy to move suspension of the rules, please, to hear...

Madam Speaker: The addendum report?

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, the addendum report of July 20th, 2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour of the suspension of the rules? Contrary? Okay. Councillor Nason recorded in opposition. Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – City of Winnipeg Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Round 2 Federal Funding

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to introduce the item, Item 1.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I...I'm pleased that the majority of members of Council have voted to at least vote on trying to facilitate \$12.8 million of federal funds to help support affordable housing in our community. There...this is something that...firstly, I want to thank the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Big City Mayor's Caucus have been lobbying for sometime for additional supports from the Federal Government. We'll continue to also, of course, advocate to other levels of government like our Provincial Government to do more on the housing front, but this is welcomed news and is a result of advocacy from many people in this chamber, myself included at the federal level. We have been the beneficiary as a community of rapid housing initiative funding in the past. This is a second round, and in keeping with the Federal Government's rapid housing initiative, it is rapid. And so, I want to thank our Public Service. Many members of Council have been advocating for these kinds of supports and initiatives for many, many years. Councillor Gilroy has been bending my ear since we were both first elected in 2014. I think within days, she was already telling me, we've got to do more on housing. Councillor Rollins, Councillor Santos, many others around this chamber have added their voice as well, and this is a good news...a good news announcement that the Federal Government made. I had the pleasure of joining the Federal Minister, Ahmed Hussen earlier this week for the announcement about the dollar amount. The Public Service has moved very quickly to facilitate a report. Executive Policy Committee passed this unanimously in a special meeting earlier this week. And of course, the objective is just to deploy these funds in our community as quickly as possible. We know that the need is there, and I think this will go a long way to help a lot of people. And so, I just want to thank everybody involved, of course, starting with our Prime Minister and the Federal Minister who have responded to the request and the advocacy of Big City Mayors, other municipal leaders across Canada, myself included. And you know,

when governments are able to respond to those calls, I think we should obviously applaud their efforts, and it's going to go a long way. So, I'm hopeful that members of Council can support this today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Nason.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this motion...report to facilitate the Federal Government's rapid housing initiative dollars, Madam Speaker. You know, and the wonderful thing about this rapid housing initiative is the housing is actually very affordable, Madam Speaker, versus the market, you know, methodology of, say, pay the median market value rate, which, who knows, probably around...right now probably around \$900 a month, Madam Speaker. So...and it's important for the City to facilitate it because we do have the close connections that are required with housing groups, and we have those relationships for many different reasons, but, you know, we do support the Winnipeg Housing and rehab, and this is all based on providing housing through not-for-profit groups. And so, I think that's really important. And, you know, actually, to some degree, there's an advantage where it's mostly where it is, like federal money coming directly to us, Madam Speaker. But you know, I just wanted to sort of speak. And you know, the last round, really, it was all federal dollars. And what's really interesting though, Madam Speaker, is a very important motion that we passed some time...was it last month? I believe on the...having MPI take over, especially in certain areas of the city, to provide all the property related insurance that's needed because essentially our first round that we helped facilitate, and they're coming along quite nicely as I understand it, but the challenge is this, Madam Speaker; these opportunities are all in the very area where it's very difficult to find an underwriter to support, to ensure that the assets are protected in case something, you know, happens. And it's important to be able to make sure that those assets continue on because under the rapid housing initiative, there needs to be that housing support for 20 years, I believe is the mark. And so, many of these buildings are in those areas, and in order for it to be sustainable and affordable, Madam Speaker, there needs to be a not-for-profit way to underwrite the potential for these multiunit housing, multi-family if you want to call it. That's what they are; multi-units, whatever. Ultimately, I just wanted to point out how important it is, you know, we want...every level should really be participating in providing the kind of housing that we're trying to do here. You know, Starlight is not going to...that's not going to be the kind of offering that really is going to help us deal with homelessness and those kinds of issues. Well, not even homelessness. Like, try to find a good safe place to live and rent, you know, for the amount of money that you can afford. And so, I think this is very important. But I just wanted to make that point in regards to this that...that, really, that's going to be a challenge for any new groups as well as the groups who already have come forward, because you know, it's hard to sustain that affordable...affordable, like, I mean really affordable housing. So, I'll leave it at that. And as I said, I'm totally in support. And yeah, anyway, that's all I have to say. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, many of the true big cities, they have housing authorities, they have infrastructure to deliver housing. Manitoba, you know, the City of Winnipeg, we have Manitoba Housing under the Provincial Government. They've chosen, under this government, to not invest in new housing. They've chosen a different direction. Now, through that void, the Federal Government, as part of their election campaign or pre-election campaign, have come out with round two, but we don't have the infrastructure on this. We don't have dedicated resources for this, to pick the winners or losers of these opportunities to support our vulnerable community. I will be supporting this today, but we really need to get a handle on this because we were just talking about scope creep a motion or two ago. And if delivering housing isn't a bit of scope creep, I'm pretty sure it is because we are not a housing authority. We do not have the institutional knowledge that Manitoba Housing has over many years through many governments. NDP primarily, the last few years, under the PC government, and the stock has been terribly maintained. Now this is...a lot of this stuff that we're talking about is, you know, for persons suffering addiction, homelessness, in crisis, transitional, it is sorely needed. We just need to walk outside the doors here and we see it. COVID-19 has made it worse. Now, rapid is an interesting concept, because to me, rapid would be getting the tents today, setting up on that empty parking lot of the old Public Safety Building, and providing temporary reprieve, temporary housing. It's not something that we've done as part of a rapid housing response to a crisis in our city. We haven't asked the Federal Government to send in the military and set up tents there, but \$12.8 million over some period of time will provide supports. But we need supports today, so I'm hoping that those that are the decision makers within EPC and the special committees look at ways that we can immediately effect the crisis that's at our doorstep and at the doorsteps of not only downtown, but it's in the Burrows as well, the crisis of addictions and extreme poverty because the affordability of our city, you know, listening again to the most recent Downtown BIZ report is the vacancies downtown are going to get more costly for everyone. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm certainly going to be in favour of the Federal Government offering money for affordable housing. And the reason is, we've always done this. The problem is, Madam Speaker, if you want to know whether this is rapid or whether it's going to go a long way, well, relative to what? I can't say it's rapid unless I know what I'm comparing it to. And so, I've got to say something that's really important. I'm in support of this, essentially because

we're not talking about, well, why wouldn't anybody? It's not even a lot of houses. It's not even a lot of housing, Madam Speaker. And I've got to say this again because this is for everyone's benefit; if you want to know what kind of era we're living in in terms of including our ability to do something about affordable housing or our will to do affordable...to do something for affordable housing, just listen to this for a second. Back in the '70s, the Provincial Government created, in eight years, 14,000 affordable housing units. Is this in the same realm? It's not even in the same universe, and I mean that the universe in terms of statistics or whatever. It's not in the same universe of economic contemplation or economic budgeting. They're not really compared. You can't compare...so why would we call this an era of progress because we're celebrating, you know, geez, a few million dollars to create, you know, what is it, 50 affordable housing units? 30 to 50 affordable housing units? So, you tell me. I'm not making this up. There was a time when we did prioritize and we had the feasibility to do in eight years 14,000 affordable housing units. Now, that's for the Province, and that does include nursing homes. So, this we're talking about, hmm, if you want to talk about just in terms of affordable housing units in the city, we're talking about 5,000, okay? So how does this compare? Now, another concern, why we've got a problem, because we're not dealing with our economic challenges. This is the money we got. And it's not going to be rapid because we're...what do you call rapid? You're going to build a few houses really quickly, and you want to call that rapid? Well, we're not dealing with the challenge rapidly. We're obviously dealing with the challenge of affordable housing slowly. This is your proof. All the statistics we mentioned today is your proof, but I guess we have to celebrate because given the economic circumstances in which we don't really want to talk about, this is all we've got given the economic impediments on the taxpayer, as their taxes go up, their services go down, and their children are going into debt just from being alive. So, I...bear in mind, another aspect of this: what is each affordable housing unit costing? We had a woman here earlier in the year that made the point that the affordable housing units close by here, each affordable housing unit that we are already touting just a few months ago were going to cost \$260,000 each. Well, I bought my house for less than that. And what am I supposed to say, I live in an affordable housing unit? I don't live in an affordable housing unit. I live in a nice place. It's a nice place, and I'm not the only one. So, what am I supposed to say to the taxpayer? What are we supposed to say to ourselves? These affordable housing units are going to cost about \$260,000 something like that. And the longer we wait over the time in which we build them, the cost of each affordable housing unit's going to go up. Now, maybe the statistic's wrong because these affordable housing units are going to be different from the ones we were talking about earlier this year, just earlier this spring when we talked about it. \$260,000 to the extent that I think the City was going to subsidize them by \$10,000 or \$20,000 because they are so expensive to build. So, that's where we're at, my fellow citizens, in terms of who we are, what we are, what we are doing as a society for affordable housing in terms of addressing the ramifications of all these things we're talking about today. And truly, the challenges are great. And I'm not denying that. But if an affordable housing unit's costing \$260,000, which is more than I bought my house for, well, you're getting a sense of why we're only building a few dozen. So, of course I'm going to vote for this. It's the least we can do. But if I don't tell you this, what kind of perspective are we going to maintain? Like, we're doing a great job. And I dare say this because it really needs to be said; you know what, I've seen governments do a lot more than this. Ten times more, 20 times more in the same timeframe. In fact, in the same timeframe, we're, you know, maybe they did, you know, 30 times more. 30 times more. Not 30 more, 30 times more and sometimes, you know, we can get out, we can lose a perspective in terms of comparing different areas, different industries, different eras, different times, but let's not pretend this is a progressive era. We spend more time and money in terms of putting out press releases and more time discussing how this in proportion of what we're doing, I dare say, than anything I've seen in my life, okay. So, you know, I'm putting that challenge out. If you don't think what I'm saying is true, well, let me know. But I can't imagine that the Provincial Government back in the '70s had the time to put this much time and talk and effort and press release resources into so little because they were doing too much, they were getting too much done. I don't even think they celebrated 100. I don't think they celebrated...maybe they celebrated their first 1,000 or something like this, but bear in mind, they were doing over 1,000 a year, eh? So just bear that in mind when we talk about what we're doing here. It's not going a long way. Why do I say it's not going a long way? Because it's \$260,000 per affordable housing unit. What's wrong with that picture? The taxpayer's paying for it. We need affordable housing, but we're not talking about the problem why we're spending more and more and getting less and less. Oh, I know there's inflation and all this. The economy's growing. But come on, the cost of these affordable housing units are going up faster than our economic growth. And I understand during COVID compared to, you know, this two-year period, but I'm saying, in general, over the last decade, over the last generation, the cost of these things are going faster than the rate of growth of our economy, the rate of growth of our tax base and why, in general, we're going into debt just trying...not even doing...coming close to what we used to be able to do. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, this round of funding, 12.8 roughly, is for women. It's for more people, but I think it's important to note, there's an expression...particular focus of this funding for women. And I think it's important to focus on that because, Madam Speaker, I twice along with Councillor Santos, Councillor Gilroy worked with colleagues, many...the majority of whom are women in the downtown, including MLAs Bernadette Smith, Uzoma Asagwara, Malaya Marcelino, Lisa Naylor along with Councillor Santos, Leah Gazan to really point out the crisis, in particular, for women. We, as a Council, Madam Speaker, as you know, worked on 24 safe space that really sees grants from the City of Winnipeg go to 24/7 safe space for women that are fleeing domestic violent. And Madam Speaker, I'll say

that those grants are not sufficient. In my ward, women have slept outside the space that we created. Why? Because it's neither 24 nor 7 days a week. So, I want to mention that. I want to mention the leadership of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I watched as the Prime Minister announced the only Federation of Canadian Municipalities that I got to go to because we are in a pandemic and I watched as the Prime Minister said he would direct money to cities directly. Not enough money flowed that way in light of the next election that he gave, but in this case, the promise was kept. Was it enough for Winnipeg? No, Madam Speaker, it was not. And in light of the parliamentary budget office or report that came out in February, resulting in another letter from the activists downtown, the inner-city communities that we represent, we called for immediate investments in social (inaudible), frontline community-based organizations and low-barrier spaces because we're just under-resourced and we know that that is continuing with this 12.8, with this unit. Even if we can leverage it to over 100, we're still going to need more. I want to acknowledge the work and the legislature. They are not coming to the table with more money, but there has been good work done there too. Work...working collaboratively with community partners. And I want to acknowledge the Public Service and...that is coming together to make sure that this money goes out in a timely way so that we can draw all the money down to Winnipeg. It is no secret, Madam Speaker, that I do believe housing is a civic responsibility, as do many mayors like Don Iveson who has really led the charge, who when he received the money from Minister Hussen said it wasn't enough for Edmonton. Edmonton does not have our housing need in Winnipeg. So, with Councillor Gilroy, Madam Speaker, and others, I hope that we have a definable housing unit by the end of this term. We do have housing options. We do have grants like this city stream. We do have construction grants and like I said, we have support for homelessness encampments, 24/7 safe space. What we don't have though is what many cities have, which is support for tenants and supportive housing, but with this \$12.8 million, I think we'll be creating a little bit more. So, we have more work to do, but I want to acknowledge the really good moment this is and pass this motion quick so we can draw it down on all we can.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Mr. Mayor, back to you for the close.

Mayor Bowman: Call the question, please.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now move on to the notice...yeah, we...thank you. We've noted Councillor Klein was absent. And we saw him running, thank you. Next item is the notice of motion from the June 24th, 2021 Council meeting. It was moved by Councillor Mayes and seconded by Councillor Rollins. There is an amending motion to go with this. So, Councillor Mayes, we'll have you introduce the item and we'll go to you, Councillor Rollins to introduce the amending Motion 5 to go with this item. Councillor Mayes.

**EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTION**

Item 1 - Bill 64 - Education Modernization Act

**Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,**

WHEREAS School Boards are an important part of Manitoba's public education system that has helped to foster a universally accessible education system that is amongst the best in the world;

AND WHEREAS School Boards offer communities the opportunity to engage directly with local representatives and to participate in setting educational priorities;

AND WHEREAS through democratic process, citizens hold School Boards to account for student achievement;

AND WHEREAS the OurWinnipeg Plan, as approved by Council on July 20, 2011, states:

"Consult with the Public Schools Finance Board and affected school divisions during the preparation of neighbourhood secondary plans.";

"Foster closer relationships with local school divisions, universities, colleges and the not-for-profit sector to support the needs of the local business community."

AND WHEREAS the Mayor has appointed a Council Liaison for School Boards and Youth Opportunities to engage in collaborative dialogue to ensure cooperation between local School Boards and the City, recognizing the importance that an educated public has to our society;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba's proposed Bill 64, the Education Modernization Act, seeks to eliminate School Boards and the critical role that School Boards play in the public education system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council formally oppose Bill 64, the Education Modernization Act, which seeks to abolish school boards within the public education system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request that the Province of Manitoba amend Bill 64 to maintain the current role of School Boards within the public education system so that continued collaborative dialogue can be facilitated between School Boards and the City of Winnipeg, as outlined in the OurWinnipeg Plan.

Councillor Mayes: I'll be in favour...I'll be in favour of the amendment. In fact, I'm seconding the amendment. The amendment just speaks to a request that was made this morning by some of the speakers to say that the legislation should be withdrawn rather than simply amended. I don't think anything particularly rides on that. We are not able to bind the Province's hands here. So, I'm fine with that amendment. The larger point here, though, should not be lost. Though, I think it's an important statement we can make about the importance of an entire elected level of government, locally elected level and that's school trustees. I want to thank the other four members of Council who have served as school trustees. We put out a press release as soon as this legislation was announced sometime earlier this year. So, Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Rollins, Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Eadie; five of us served as trustees across three different school divisions and I think we all valued that experience and wanted to say something, to try to do something to indicate our concern with this legislation. Since we did that, a number of rural municipalities, up to and including Deloraine where my father was born, in southwest Manitoba, have all expressed concern and wording pretty similar to what you see in front of you about Bill 64. I want to thank the Clerks for working with Councillor Rollins and me on this motion to try and make sure it did reflect some of the concerns of the City of Winnipeg. It wasn't simply an ideological statement about something another level of government was doing, but was saying, look, we value our relationship with school boards here. And the proof of that is this mayor created the position of School Board Liaison. It didn't exist prior to 2015 and I was pleased to be the first one and then Councillor Santos took over and then I was re-appointed to that. I think it's a sign that we respect the school divisions and of the relationship we've had with the trustees over the last number of years. I think we've made a great deal of progress. When I...when I raised something in 2014, Nick Martin who was then a columnist on education said, well, Mayes hasn't been around...hasn't been around long enough to know about the animosity City Council feels towards school divisions. And my line was, maybe not, but I've been around long enough now to do something about that. So, I think we did do something about that by creating the School Board Liaison position. And I hope we are going to be part of getting this legislation revised or amended or withdrawn so as to...we keep seeing an elected level of school trustees. It's been...it's a level that has some expertise. A number of former principals and teachers that get elected. Not always. Councillor Rollins wasn't a teacher. I wasn't a teacher. Obviously, Councillor Orlikow. But it's...I mean, certainly, I've learned from people I served with. I remember voting against some...when I was in Brandon, some smart classroom funding and then we went to this international conference and the person at the front commends the Brandon School Division for having had the courage and foresight and innovative sense. All of you stand up from the Brandon School Division, big round of applause. And I'm thinking, I voted against this thing. But hey, what...you know, I'll stand up. So, the other trustees were right. I was wrong on that one. I should have voted for it. So, but that's democracy. Sometimes you get it right, sometimes you get it wrong. There are differences between school divisions. When I was in Brandon, we tried to copy what St. James did, which was every student needed to do 10 hours of volunteer work a year, so 40 hours over the four years. You could do it all at once. You could do it all at the tail end in order to get a diploma from that division. It was meant to encourage volunteerism in the community. I remember raising this in Brandon and somebody stopping me on the street saying, you know, that is great. Good for you. You should copy what St. James is doing. Not every division did that, though. So, there's a local democracy. Local priorities are reflected. I had the privilege to serve with Ramona Coey who was a trustee with me. Different political party. We would have heckled each other in the legislature. Great alliance on a number of issues at the Brandon School Division. She had run on some stuff. I had run on some stuff. We both really wanted to get our things in front of the board and move forward. She talked about all-day kindergarten. It was like a mystery to me at the time, but I voted for it. It went forward. I know Chris Sigurdson who's a trustee with LRSD has done some great work trying to promote the enhancements at Dakota Collegiate, trying to make sure a school was built in Sage Creek. And Councillor Rollins, when she was a trustee, I was the liaison and I remember saying...the Mayor said to me, do something about citizenship. And Councillor Rollins said, I don't really...you've got about three or four things you could do, just do something. So, we did. We created this Mark Dickof Award with the Manitoba School Boards Association; Josh Watts and the mental health folks. And we recognized high school students who were doing something about mental health. It wouldn't have worked with a big centralized provincial bureaucracy, I don't think. It worked because we were able to deal with local trustees. When the Canterbury issue came up here as subdivision, I said, oh, I know about this Canterbury because Rollins, when she was a trustee, was saying, like, this is the one that they built where it's not big enough to turn around school buses so we're not doing that again. We're going to catch that in phase two. So, there is a value to having locally elected, democratically elected officials out there who work with us. So, I would hope we could come together on this. We don't talk about every aspect of the legislation here, certainly, but I couldn't be silent having been a trustee, having taken pride in that, having friends, having colleagues who are trustees now. I wanted to do what I

could to say I don't think this level should be abolished. So, I'll have some more comments to make when I close, but I hope we can support this. You know, there are people who say, well, why are you interfering with provincial jurisdiction? It's because it's...there's a lot at stake here. There's an entire elected level of government, the school trustees, I think we owe it to them, I think we owe it to our citizens to stand up and say, no, that's a locally elected group of people. They have expertise. They're out in the community. It's part-time. You have to respond to your community. People get voted out on occasion. Best campaign I ever worked on was 2010 with Chris Sigurdson getting him elected over one of the incumbents. Still one of the most rewarding things I've ever done politically. It mattered. So, I think...I do think we should be endorsing this. We will see where it goes with the Province, but other communities have done similar motions. And I'll come back and make some comments in conclusion. But I want to thank Councillor Rollins for seconding this. And hopefully we can go forward and have some influence on the provincial thinking. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Councillor Nason. Oh, pardon me. Councillor Rollins to open at this time on your amending motion.

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Notice of Motion regarding Bill 64 - Education Modernization Act be amended by deleting the second resolve and replacing it with the following:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request the Province of Manitoba to withdraw and not proceed with Bill 64 in order to maintain the current role of School Boards within the public education system so that continued collaborative dialogue can be facilitated between School Boards and the City of Winnipeg, as outlined in the OurWinnipeg Plan."

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, Madam Speaker, I have a complete bias. Why is it important that we oppose Bill 64 in the strongest possible terms today as city councillors? Because locally elected school boards are the first line of municipal government and should be maintained and supported, and I believe much is at stake. I worked the job, Madam Speaker. As the former Chair of the Winnipeg School Division, I worked two jobs with my three children. I made an additional \$20,000 for a part-time job while I worked as a policy analyst full-time for Government Manitoba or for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. And I absolutely know the job of a trustee. I see it as an important political pipeline. I'm not alone in this, so does many political scientists. Hello, Christopher Adams. And many politicians like Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Mayes, Anita Neville, former MP, Joyce Bateman, former MP, Lisa Naylor, MLA, and Premier Selinger. Trusteeship is a job that oftentimes saw me complete 40 hours before Wednesday. That's something we do as councillors, I'll admit. It's a political job, though, Premier Selinger called, the hardest job in politics. That was when he was premier, he said that to me. It's important to note that he was premier at that time. It's also true about the nature of the job, that it was understood, in particular in the Winnipeg School Division, we were understood as activists. I think that was pejorative, frankly, some of the time it was said to me. One long time journalist covering the education beat rightly described, he is retired now, rightly described the Winnipeg School Division as, and I quote, "A board guilty for many years of acting like a municipal council, acting like individuals who stood for elections to represent their communities." Now, I believe that's a deep take. A little sarcastic. Doesn't translate. A little inside the ballpark. But I can see Councillor Mayes, Madam Speaker, smiling so I know it's resonating with him. School boards should act like individuals who represent their communities. And there is much at stake. Snapshot of last term: as a locally elected official, my first motion was co-written by Murray Sinclair and Chief David Crate, Ryan Morin helped too, to create an Indigenous Advisory Board. Elder Painter, Elder Myra Laramée were appointed as divisional elders. Land acknowledgments were worked on really authentically at the board and posted in every school. Cree and Ojibwa bilingual programs were established at Isaac Brock School on Barratt Avenue. Spanish language at Earl Grey School on Cockburn. And more French bilingual at Luxton School on Polson to go with language programs that are there in bilingually. Ukrainian, Hebrew developed by other boards, other trustees at a different time. I expanded all-day kindergarten to be responsive to young families. I ran on it. I did it. It cost money and I stood by it. I stand by it now. We increased autism supports, Madam Speaker. In a province that can't get off their proverbial seats to fund or work on mental health, we increased mental health supports, anxiety supports specifically. We funded universally accessible playgrounds in terms of a grant program. We created numerous Indigenous grad coaches. We enhanced Indigenous teacher pathway programs with post secondary education institutions in this province. We addressed overcrowding at schools in Tyndall Park. We oversaw school expansion projects in councillors' wards. We even talked about them at Council and at the school board and at the legislature, namely Kelvin High School gym project. Councillor Orlikow will remember that because he called me at the time. As did Jim Carr's office. As did trustees all across the city to support because we overturned that decision of the legislature to not fund that project at that time. And I'd like to thank Minister Ian Wishart at that time from Portage La Prairie for taking those calls, for listening and overturning a very bad decision. And ultimately, a gym now stands proud cradled between Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry and River Heights-Fort Garry. Lisa Naylor created landmark transgender policy for

the Winnipeg School Division during the last term in office to ensure students and staff in the division could be addressed by the pronouns they choose. Something the legislature just finished this session. Arguably, that is policy entrepreneurship that is influential across the whole province. We're not alone in having racist and inequitable education past, present and future. This Bill is I think a racist future. We don't fund education in Manitoba properly. We fund it inequitably and there is major historic roots in this. This is also a fact in the United States of America, Madam Speaker, where along with their divisive history, school boards are still playing out reconciliation and divisive history with inner-city schools. And even reconciling the history of President Jimmy Carter. President Jimmy Carter, you guessed it, long before he was president, was a member of Sumpter County School Board where American civil liberties has argued has a historical pattern of racial discrimination. This is what's at stake. Understanding the roots, the history, long history of school boards municipal government. This is what's at stake. And it's germane to this place here. I will argue later in my close that people trust schools. School boards more than they do the legislature, school trustees are an accessible part of the community, they are seen and not heard, perhaps that is true, and we should be there for them, those of us that understand that. It deserves our attention as to why they are not heard, perhaps, too. If I consider local school board efforts in this city back in 1988; community work, deep community work, of Thunder Eagle Society, Urban Aboriginal Educational Advisory Committee and parent groups that were around at that time in Winnipeg's North End, and Councillor Eadie can probably fill me in, but I will attempt to cover this history and properly vote with deep and abiding respect for the Indigenous community. Children of the Earth was born from that political activism at the municipal level. Niji Mahkwa was born. And Elder Mary Courchene became the first 1988 principal of Children of the Earth. The difficulties of these early years in the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg School Division and other school divisions can't be overstated. The successes they saw to, successes they still have in terms of graduates, unprecedented number of graduates in Winnipeg School Division as a result of efforts can't be overstated. This is also what's at stake. So, I will open that way, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. July, 2015; here's a quote I'm going to read, "Parents want the Winnipeg School Division to work in the best interests of their children and we believe this report provides the division with the tools it needs to strengthen accountability and transparency. We expect the Winnipeg School Division to work diligently to act on the recommendations of the review." It was a review that was ordered by Dr. John Wiens of the University of Manitoba. And you know, I did a little googling and found some commentary in the media and it says, "Wiens said in his review of the Winnipeg School Division governance released Tuesday that Education Minister James Allum should fire the entire board on New Years Eve if the trustees have not cleared up their act." which he described as shameful and reckless disfunction, a board that is out of control. I believe there might be some members that are familiar with the goings on, intimately. I am not one of them. But I'm also not an educator and I'm not a former trustee as some of Council are. But I am a parent with kids in the education system, one that's entering the public school stream, the other stream that my child...one child was in was the...funded independent. Still public school, but is funded independently. And my one daughter remains in funded independent. I want to do what's best for our students, our future leaders, but I'm unclear why if our previous mandate was to work closer with local school divisions, you know, we could do that with a move to regions. I think we could do that. A big part of successful education is ensuring students and teachers have the resources they need to succeed and flourish. A restructuring of the system might be a way to streamline processes and re-invest money where it is desperately, desperately needed. Since this is a political debate, I do find it interesting that the challenges that I am speaking to, you know, they were a problem when, as I said, some of my now council colleagues were actually the ones in charge and under an NDP government. But regardless of your political strife, Manitoba has for far too long been at the bottom in terms of rankings on national and international assessments. Even with significant changes to the education system, it's going to take years if not a decade or more to change this tide. The 2020 Conference Board of Canada reported on the state of education in Canada and again, it was not favourable for Manitoba. A look at our own provincial assessment data for our kids in grades 3, 4, 7 and 8 demonstrates very little improvement in the percentage of students meeting expectations in reading and numeracy. The success or failure of an education system isn't solely measured by the performance on one or two assessments. We need to look more closely at the outstanding work that is happening everyday in our classrooms. We have much to celebrate in Manitoba. This cannot be lost, but there's always room for improvement. Even top performing provinces and countries on this national...on these national and international assessments will tell you that. You know, we've got provinces like Alberta, the City of Calgary has two school boards. Their population is likely on par to Winnipeg as far as student populations. They can manage it, why can't we? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Gillingham, followed by Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I have the honour of speaking and casting votes in this chamber because I was elected by the people of St. James to represent them. It's the highest honour my neighbours can bestow. And I hope they will indulge me and I hope you, Madam Speaker, will indulge me if I speak on issue...the issue of Bill 64 in a more personal and partisan context. I'm a city councillor in the most urban place you will find in 500 kilometres in any direction, but I grew up in rural Manitoba. I work at city hall as a non-partisan councillor and I've tried to approach everyone here in a non-partisan way. One of the greatest aspects of municipal government is the need to

collaborate and to form coalitions with those who do not always do things through the same political lens in order to advance the greater good for our residents. But I'm also a long-time member of the Manitoba Progressive Conservative Party and I want to speak to...about Bill 64 in that context because Bill 64 does not make sense to me as a conservative. When our kids show up for public school on any given day in this province, they're there to be educated and prepared for life in the 21st century beyond graduation, to be prepared for post-secondary education, prepared for jobs, prepared for independence. But there are children who come to school from some important Manitoba traditions. Many are children born into the time honoured tradition that wants to see basic lessons and basic values passed on to the next generation. Many are children born into a leading edged tradition that wants to embrace diversity, technology and modernity. And many are children born into Indigenous traditions struggling to revive languages and cultures that some of our ancestors sought to destroy. Each of those traditions and more that Manitoba children come to school from are founded on deeply held and important values. Those values are understood by local school trustees, elected to represent and to give voice to their community. The most inefficient, disrespectful response to those traditions, expectations and values is to try to micromanage them all from a single desk on Broadway. But Bill 64 will do that because Bill 64 eliminates the opportunity for local residents to elect local school trustees that reflect their own local values, traditions and expectations. Replacing them instead with appointments made out of a corner office on the second floor of the Legislative Building in downtown Winnipeg. I've gone through the K to 12 education review and Bill 64. The K to 12 review talks about reducing the number of school boards through consolidation while retaining many of the elected trustees. But Bill 64 wipes them out entirely in less than a year, replacing more local Manitoba with more Broadway instead. It's a centralization of power and control. And the centralization into the premier's office of power and control is the recurring theme seen in Bill 64, Bill 37 and the Police Service Act review. Each of those takes authority and decision making responsibility away from locally elected mayors and reeves and councillors and school trustees and puts it into the office of the premier to be handed over to unelected, unaccountable board appointees. The centralization of government power is counter to the conservative values I grew up on and still hold today. Bill 64 is the twin brother of Bill 37 that we have dealt with as a Council in this chamber. Bill 37 is built upon the premise that municipalities have too much red tape and too many delays in development approvals.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham, speak to the motion in front of us, please.

Councillor Gillingham: I just did. I said Bill 64 is the twin of Bill 37.

Madam Speaker: Okay.

Councillor Gillingham: Yeah. Bill 37 is built upon the premise that municipalities have too much red tape and too many delays in development approvals and there's truth to that, which is why we have...we're actively working at reducing red tape, reducing development approval timelines and improving processes. And we must continue to do so. Broadway's solution to municipal problems is Bill 37 that actually adds a bigger layer of provincial appointees, provincial delays and provincial red tape. Bill 64 strikes as a similar chord as the proposed changes to the Police Services Act. Those changes would force municipal councils like...in cities like Winnipeg, Brandon, Altona, Winkler, Morden and Thompson to hand over control of police collective bargaining and the setting of police budgets to more provincial appointees taking it out of the hands of mayors and councillors, elected by and accountable to the taxpayers, even though municipal taxpayers will still be the ones paying hundreds of millions of dollars to finance both services. Bill 64 follows a pattern and I'm opposed to this pattern of arbitrary, centralized authority because as a city councillor, it's bad for St. James, it's bad for Winnipeg, it's bad for Manitoba. But I'm also opposed because it's in conflict with the values that I grew up with and still hold today. I believe Manitoba's education system needs to be improved and that change is required to achieve better student outcomes. The K to 12 review that was to be the basis for this Education Modernization Act proposes 10 imperatives that are worth pursuing, but there's a disconnect. A disconnect between the review and Bill 64, most notably, in the elimination of all elected school boards. Over the past week I have spoken to urban and rural school trustees, past and present, principals and parents, all share the same concerns. From St. James to Steinbach, from Tuxedo to Thompson, from the Kildonans to Killarney, from Waverley West to Waywayseecappo, Manitobans of every political stripe are opposed to Bill 64 and so am I. So what should be done? Bill 64 should be put on pause to give the legislation a sober second look. The pause will give the government time to listen to the feedback they are hearing from Manitobans across this great province and the pause will provide the time necessary to ensure that any education reform legislation is built on the solid foundation of respecting the diverse traditions and values, living and learning together in this province. Bill 64 is not built on that foundation, but there is still time to change course.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Bill 64 really impacts me quite personally. My story of the school system has not been an easy one. I knew at a very young age that I was different from many other...many kids within the system. The teachers, they took me out of school for quite a bit so I could be tested and re-tested and re-tested. I was taken out when I should have been at recess, when I should have been doing gym and when I should have been doing some of the fun things that you get to do in school. I was told by schools after schools after schools that I was not welcomed in their

schools because they did not have the supports that was needed to take care of me. So, I had to leave a lot of my friends that I grew attached to and moved from school to school to school. And as we all know, that that isn't a proper education for anybody. And one school in particular, I was warned from a teacher that I didn't belong there, but my...the principal told me that I had to...that they...that I couldn't go to my neighbouring school and they had to move me far away. And the kids all had major issues than what I had, which was a learning...learning disabilities. So, at that time, I really struggled because it wasn't an appropriate fitting place for me to be in. And my parents took me out and they had to put me into private school for a few years. And then, in my private school, I was told that they were a university entrance school and that after making all the friends, that I couldn't attend that school anymore. And I had to move schools again. This is why it's important that we have elected representatives that are citizen body. We need to make sure that we are not impacting families within our school system and it's just as important here at the school board level as it is on the Council level. And I really wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for me being elected onto Council. And the only reason I was elected onto Council, that I had the courage to run is because I had two daughters that I was really terrified that they were going to have the same experience in schools that I did. Now, I'm somebody who's white and privileged and my parents were able to afford to put me into a private school for a few years while they figured out what to try to do with me and I struggled. My self-confidence to this day is not like other peoples. I don't get up and sometimes fight the fights because I'm worried about my spelling or I'm worried about my grammar or I'm worried about my speaking and I'm getting better and I, you know, I'm confident now, of course. But I would not be here if it wasn't for the first step of being on...being a school trustee. And I believe that that's one of the most important jobs. Our kids are our future and how we educate them determines the outcome we have here. We can blame school trustees, but there's a lot of things within our system that fail, like standardized testing, that don't allow somebody like me to grow. Some of the courses that we offer are about reading, writing and arithmetic and we're not looking at the kids as individuals and not looking at their strengths and their talents instead of what they can read and write. There are other abilities of students and it must be the school system's job to find those talents, natural talents, and help bring them out in the students and sometimes we fail to do that. But when we're at the school board level, we are able to help make the decisions that make sure that we have the programs and supports that are needed to help all children succeed and not those that are just gifted in reading and writing and arithmetic. So, I really...I just really feel that we need to support this. This is just as much about our jobs as it is about school trustees. They play a very, very important role in our school system and our children need us to stand up and say, we need to be heard and we need to have a citizen body that oversees this and this isn't something that is just happening at the provincial level and that we have somebody from my own community that recognizes my needs and my wants and that are listening to them. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Chair. I stand this afternoon in support of the motion that is coming forward with respect to Bill 64. It is a bill that has been very polarizing in the community. Over 20,000 Manitobans provided feedback at the committee on this bill, you know, requesting that the government go back and look at further revisions to this bill. This is a bill that would effectively eliminate locally democratically elected level of government and reduce the voice of those families who have entrusted the trustees with their voice to advocate for their children. There are many concerns that have been raised with respect to Bill 64 and the changes that would be made, including replacing a local democracy through publicly appointed structure that can be subject to political partisanship and influence and loyalty without even, you know, discussing it with our diverse community. And that's a point that I do want to make and belabour as I go through my discussions...or debate on this. It centralizes procurement services and that could hurt local businesses and entities in our city and throughout the province. There's a potential loss of existing programming because this will be left up to a centrally appointed board through the province to judge and value the need of special programming. The loss of existing and important partnerships and opting to dismantle relationships and trust that have taken years and years and decades to build. As I mentioned earlier this morning, based on the discussions that took place with potential harmonization of collective bargaining agreements that could increase costs overall as opposed to reducing costs and saving costs and feeding that back into the education system. The loss of approach for parents currently legislated in the Public Schools Act, Bill 64 would not include an avenue for parents to elevate concerns. Since being elected, as I have mentioned, Madam Speaker, the board's tables that I have been able to sit at for the Louis Riel School Division, the Seine River School Division, the Pembina Trails School Division and even DSFM with the schools that I have in my ward, Léo-Remillard and Christine-Lespérance even though they're not part of this Bill 64 modernization, the board tables that I've sat at, there was not a lot of people that looked like me, Madam Speaker, or like yourself. Fairly homogenized board that when I look at the classrooms, certainly, there was diversity. If there is an opportunity through modernization to provide much more representation at the board level, I think that's something that should be considered. How we do that, how that's accomplished, through encouraging more and more people to run at the locally elected level, I think is a great opportunity to increase that representation, but it is something that is necessary and something that, through modernization, we have to address. We also have to look at the complex teaching environments where we look at children with special needs that are in the classrooms and ensuring that their needs are met while the needs of the other students are met as well. I also want to applaud the nimbleness of the elected school boards and their adaptability in terms of their budgets in the context of this last year and how they've been able to manage with remote learning and the extra PPE expenses and all of those

things that have been compounded as a result of COVID-19. And having that locally elected government to discuss, debate and react to what we've encountered over this last year, I think is critically important to maintain that level of government, to be nimble to be able to provide direction and guidance going forward. So, with that, Madam Speaker, I am in support of the motion that was drafted by Councillor Mayes and Councillor Rollins and want to thank them for their hard work on it. I have struggled with a decision on this in the sense that we're elected as city councillors and education is not within our purview, but I also want to be the voice of the school teachers that helped bring me to city hall and also the colleagues that I have worked with in terms of the elected school trustees and the great work that they do. It's important for them to have their voice here at city hall and if that can carry any weight at the provincial legislature, I'm for that. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, I'm not a former trustee and I'll speak from my perspective. Firstly, the City of Winnipeg councillors have the lowest office resources in all of Canada. I want that on the record. When you've had the lowest office resources, you have to be very selective on what you focus your time and your staff on. You have to focus on issues that are relevant to your ward and to the City of Winnipeg. I also want on the record that over the past four years, the City of Winnipeg has seen an increase in population of 40,000 people. And of those 40,000 new residents, 27% have moved into the Waverley West Ward. And in the ward, over the past four years, approximately 2,700 apartment units have been processed through my office for development. So, how does all of this relate to Bill 64? My point is, receiving over 11,000 residents and approving hundreds of millions of dollars of development takes focus and time. Development brings hundreds of millions into the city. It brings jobs. It enables Winnipeggers to improve quality of life and this is where my focus has been. I'm elected to oversee my ward, to focus on city business, to focus on how in this municipal role I can improve the quality of life for Winnipeggers. And this city building work, with limited resources, quite frankly has not provided me with the time to even read the 337-page Education Modernization Act. What I have heard today, and just through the presentations, is that Bill 64 is a deeply complex structure that's being proposed. And what else I've heard today is the consultation process and finalization of the Education Modernization Act is not complete and work is still being done. I have three boys who just graduated from the public school system. Do I think there should be a change to a system that's decades old? Absolutely. Do I think it's a wise use of taxpayer dollars to have superintendents that draw a salary more than the mayor of the City of Winnipeg? Absolutely not. Do I believe there should be some elected representation related to schools? Absolutely, and I want to repeat that for the record. I do believe there should be some elected representation. I've spent a great amount of my time at city hall trying to change decades old systems for the betterment of Winnipeggers and I absolutely think the decades old education system, processes, et cetera should be modernized. But to be frank, I've not done any homework on Bill 64. I know there's a lot of media on this, some objective and many perspective overviews. There's dozens of reports on today's agenda which I've been focusing on and Bill 64 is not one of them. I don't believe there's value in me weighing in on this provincial process, let alone a provincial process that is not complete. Today's motion wants us to formally oppose Bill 64; why would I oppose a proposal that's not yet complete? We heard today, it's not yet complete. Therefore, I'm not going to oppose something that's still being worked on. Thank you.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you, I just want to share my admiration towards Councillor Gilroy for her talk earlier and how she described schooling for her. It was very courageous and admirable and I thank her for that. I'm going to take a different approach with this because I for the longest time always viewed municipal politics as being a place where it was truly non-partisan. It was meant to be non-partisan. And during the time that I've been here, two and a half years going on three soon, it's been anything but non-partisan. We were all duly elected to solve the issues of the City of Winnipeg and to focus on our jurisdictional duties. MPs or MLAs in this case, sorry, were also duly elected to work on the issues of the province and to work on the items that fall under their jurisdiction. And each and every one of them will be accountable for the votes that they make. I, much like Councillor Lukes, and as not...which, some of my other colleagues have said, am not fully versed on this particular bill that's before the legislation, but what I do know, is that many people had called for change. Councillor Gillingham, Madam Chair had mentioned the Police Board review. Well, people called for change. They wanted a review done. So, we didn't like the results, now it's...we're being opposed to it. We've heard other comments about what a certain level of government does or does not do in this chamber all the time. That's not bi-partisan. I did not run for Council to be the official opposition of the governing party of the province. This is an issue that needs to be dealt with accordingly by the elected officials. They need to listen to their residents. They need to communicate with residents. And if they're not, that will be decided upon at the ballot box in a short time for them. It is not for us to start dictating what the Province should or should not do, just as I would stand here and push back if the Province was dictating what we should do if it's a vote that just impacts our jurisdiction. Police does not. Property and development does not. They can take that into municipal process. Do I agree with it? Doesn't matter. I'll make my opinion known when I vote. We have other things to focus on; 87 murders in 24 months. You know, just this year, I think we had eight murders in four weeks. Violent crime, we have paramedic ambulance moral issues. We have ambulance wait times

that are over an hour now. We have a police moral issue. We have lots of things that we have to deal with and we've spent over an hour talking about something that is outside of our jurisdiction. I applaud those who spoke today. I especially want to acknowledge the young gentleman, I believe his name was Riley who got involved. And I would urge them to get on the phone and get on their social media and talk to their MLAs, make their feelings known, make them aware of how they feel and do this through the channels that are available to them while we work on the items of the city. I've heard many times from people in this chamber that the Province shouldn't be involved in this, this is a City thing. I've heard that from a lot of people, yet here we are. We're not following our own words of advice. The municipal government is not party system. They've tried it in a couple of jurisdictions in Canada and they've reversed it in a couple of jurisdictions in Canada. It needs to be bi-partisan. We are seeing a political, I think, what you would call leaning when it comes to certain items. I don't want to be a part of that. I want to work for the residents of Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood on fixing the issues that the City is responsible for where I think I can make a difference and where I can make an impact. Not sending a letter to somebody and saying, that's bad. I would do that as a resident, but I'm not going to do that as a city councillor because that is not in our job description. Thank you, Madam Chair...Speaker.

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

Mayor Bowman: I'll be brief. I want to thank all members of Council for their comments. Councillor Gilroy's comments are very difficult to follow. And you know, if she's describing how she has, at times, felt that she didn't belong and I'm sure other members of Council...

Councillor Orlikow: Sorry, Mr. Mayor. If I just may, to the Chair...is this...to you, Madam Chair.

Madam Speaker: No.

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker. Is this closing or did I miss my turn?

Madam Speaker: No, it's not closing. You're next, Councillor Orlikow. Thanks for the question.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: We'll have the movers of the motion close.

Councillor Orlikow: Appreciate that. Thank you.

Mayor Bowman: I was going to compliment Councillor Orlikow next, but now I won't. I want to just commend Councillor Gilroy for her honesty today. You know, the work of school trustees is something that I've come to appreciate to a much greater extent thanks to the dialogue that I've had with the movers of this motion, the amendment; Councillor Mayes, Councillor Rollins and even Councillor Orlikow who I will compliment him now and just say, I did not serve as a school trustee. And so, for me, it's been instructive and helpful to talk with my council colleagues about the role that they play. To Councillor Gillingham's point, Madam Speaker, this bill is an attack on local democracy. And it should be opposed as such. It's not the only move. But I think given that we have the motion in front of us, we're being asked to cast a vote, it is in order for us to consider at this time, I'm going to be supporting it for the reasons that have been set out by my council colleagues and I've touched on here today and at other times since it was initially introduced at the legislature. But I also want to communicate, and I hope our Council can communicate today to all of those residents who have lawn signs in every corner of our city right now and who are voicing their concerns about this that we hear them. If they don't feel their voice is being heard right now at the legislature, it is being heard here and we're lending our voice to that effort so that the voice of this council can be considered. I think now is the appropriate time to provide that input. You know, if you want to talk about effectiveness, Madam Speaker, now is the time for people to be adding their voice to the legislative debates on these issues, not after its...it is...it is proclaimed and it's a law. And so, now is exactly the time that we have this question before us that we can lend our voice to all those province-wide, not just in Winnipeg, but elsewhere that are voicing concerns. So, I'll certainly be supporting the amendment as well as the main motion today, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I think it's quite interesting today that we're talking about this is not our core responsibility. We should just focus on our core responsibility. But these same people have been voting for health care things and good on them. And other areas that are kind of our core responsibility in the quote, "legislative framework". This is our core responsibility. Our core responsibility is to ensure, as a city, that our communities can grow safely with...and part of that whole process, the number one thing people bought to get into when they buy into a neighbourhood and want to live in Winnipeg, is the quality of their schools. That's just fundamental. It's very, very important and every community is different. Local school boards represent that. So, you can move into a neighbourhood that aligns

to your kind of values and have a local school board that will reflect that within the curriculum and how they deliver education programming through your local school board. So, again, to me, it is core. This is very core to how we are going to develop our neighbourhoods. We cannot abdicate and dismiss the fact that local school boards really are the key to developing our school...our local communities that will attract employees and people to Winnipeg that gives us our tax base to grow. They are fundamental. Can we do more with the school boards? Absolutely. I think there's a lot more we can do with school boards. They are a community hub. We need to be working with them more effectively than we've done since this last four years, even a little longer, astronomical amount better than we've done in the past. So, I'm very proud of that and I want to continue that work. That's what we need to be doing. So, to me, talk about this, I need to look at development applications, well, we're not going to have that many development applications if you have crappy schools. And do you really think that the person who...and the group that's best to do it is some government appointed. It doesn't matter what government it is, NDP, you know, Conservative and you know, who knows, maybe Liberal one day. But again, at this point, school boards are the representative of that school system. So, this...to me, it is very core. So, I think a little bit of concern when people say, schools aren't important to the City of Winnipeg, they are. They're very important to the City of Winnipeg. So, I again...I don't...I just want to call that out because I just don't agree. They may believe that. People want to believe that, that's fine. And the other areas that I've seen that are very important is, besides local representation, having parent councils who have children and invested interests within these schools, who are volunteers, who have many other things on their plate, I really enjoyed working with a lot of past parent councils, but the...trying to put all of these concerns about, you know, their daughter in this school that has not been able to get the proper funding for some type of extra supports, I hate that word for education, but some special supports they need, so they can thrive. Again, that's not a parent council's role. And that's an elected persons role because they're going to have to move budgets around. School boards are about 85 plus percent of their budget is employees. That they are very heavily based service business. That's what they are. They have to...and there's a...way back when, I was still upset when I heard it, and when the Province decided to eliminate massive amounts of money in the '80s through school boards, with education, there was a lot of grand ideas on how to do it. My father, at the time, had to say, you know what, there's only one thing we can do because we only have one option and that is to reduce the number of teachers. Again, but they fought it. And they got some back, but again, that's the reality of the school system. So, allocating those minute resources that we have...that they have is very important because that's tailoring that community to what is needed. So, you know, River East is not the same as core Winnipeg. It's not the same as St. James. We don't need a monolithic approach to this. Education...one of the biggest issues I find we have in Winnipeg right now is our poverty. That is the...one of the main issues we have. I know it's not our core, but it is affecting how people are going to be living in Winnipeg. We have to be dealing with that. And as my father said, one of the best tools you can have out there is education. That is your silver bullet to starting to alleviate the inequalities and poverty in society. And to take that power away from local decision makers and place it onto Broadway, again, it is a trend that we've been seeing forward. We don't even know how the Province is going to pay for things going forward as (inaudible). You know, where are they going to get that money from? They haven't told us. Again, they haven't told me. I am concerned about that, you know. Again, that's maybe not today's discussion, but it's part of this discussion. That...there's many, many issues, so why don't we wait until Bill 64 is amended, maybe possibly in the future, while the ball is rolling now? This is our time. This is our need to come forward, represent that we believe in local democracy, we believe that education can solve and will solve many of the inequity problems we have if we do it right. It will not be done right exclusively of the Province. I do appreciate the Province controls the curriculum, that I think is very important. Everybody needs to be learning to the same thing. You can amend it, you can modify it a bit, but at the end of the day, you need to have your math, you need to have some science, you need to have your English. There's certain core subjects that are based upon the curriculum and the Province revised some pretty good supports on that. But it's that local decision making. Antihomophobia education; I remember that battle when I was on the school board. I'm very proud to support that. We got pillared by many, many people, but we knew the majority of people in our neighbourhood believed that equity and human rights are very, very important. That wasn't driven from the Province. Not at all. And I think it was actually an NDP government at the time, doesn't matter. We decided as a school board...that's one of the minor things, which was actually turned out to be quite major later on, that local school boards do. The idea of centralizing things is such a euphemistic saying. We centralized and we amalgamated school boards before. Remember driving by Fort Gibraltar and listening to St. Vital School Division singing their song, the St. Vital whatever song, in memorandum of they're going to be gone tomorrow. You know what happened after we did that? Costs shot up the roof. All the collective agreements didn't go down. They all went up. The superintendents happened. They didn't really change. They had some more (inaudible) because it's a very large system. One of the...I think it's the third largest employer in the province. It's a massive system. So again, that was even a step beyond that I wanted to go with the amalgamations, and it really...actually, I see no positive outcomes except raising costs if you call that positive. So, what I really wanted to see is that local decision making retained by nonbiased people that are elected and responsible to the elected in their neighborhoods that we can work with collaborating together at a local level rather than have to be going through the bureaucracy of the Province. That, to me, is a wrong way...it's a wrong way for education. The world is changing. We need to have multiple ways to address things. I do see there's some improvement that can be had, but this is way too much. So, yes, I do believe this is core to Winnipeg's responsibility as a Council to say, this is not good for Winnipeg and number two, it is the time to tell the Province, turn off the tap, try something different if you want to do some more reform. So, I will be voting for the amendment. Thank you very much.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, Madam Speaker, councillor...I have great respect for Councillor Orlikow and his father who was really about making sure that the kids are educated. And John himself represented himself that way at Winnipeg School Division. Madam Speaker, just reflecting on being a school board trustee in the Seven Oaks School Division, I just wanted to say...and now being a city councillor, I don't know that Selinger was right, that being a school board trustee is the toughest elected position, only in that, Madam Speaker, I found it much easier because really, the service that the education system is providing is actually one service. We want to educate all of our kids. It's all of our kids, whether they're disabled, whether they're Indigenous, it doesn't matter. It's one service, and it gets difficult, Madam Speaker, whereas at City Council, we have several services, several different areas in which our, as my colleagues have said and realize, is that, you know, education system is connected to the City of Winnipeg, not just on the tax bill. Not just on the tax bill. You know, Madam Speaker, the slogan for the Seven Oaks School Division, I can't quite get it right, but basically, it's 'we are community'. In other words, they consider education from the perspective...and the other school divisions look at it the same way, I'm sure...more localized or whatever, but really, they are about community. Because I'll tell you what, Madam Speaker, as you know, at AE Wright, you know, they needed a little more monetary support to have a good body, physical education in terms of cycling. And frankly, what really the problem or the issues are around educating our kids in this city or around the province, it all comes down to money, Madam Speaker. And I've helped schools, you know, provide those outdoor learning spaces. You know, Champlain School was really instrumental in helping us get the Indigenous Healing Forest happening over in St. John's Park. It was actually a University of Winnipeg professor who's in the education business. Education in terms of Indigenous people; we were giving property over to the Manitoba Indigenous Culture and Education Centre to support their educating of the population regarding what's happened to Indigenous people. And not only to educate and talk about the bad things, but the good things, Indigenous people. Because, you know, we lose that focus. And so, I...we heard from some presenters, and they're talking about Indigenous education for students and so on, and many of the communities up north, I don't know if I should go on too long, but really, like, Pine Creek, for example, the northern school division...can't quite remember the name. I think it's just called the Northern School Division, they worked with Pine Creek, who had a large enough population of kids to be able to have a school right there, Pine Creek. So, they worked with that school division and came up with an accountability thing to basically operate their school on behalf of the reserve. That's a good thing. I don't know how flexible this new system that they're talking about's going to be. You know, essentially, what we're talking about here is creating larger bureaucracies unelected. Now, the Province is doing that to the City of Winnipeg, Madam Speaker. It's a common thread. So, let's look at having elected people in position. You may not agree, and maybe that's the problem. You just don't agree with a particular school board or whatever. I know that John Wiens, when examining the school boards, I don't know...I'm not sure if he passed away, but you know, I'd like to hear his evaluation of this Bill 64. I bet you he doesn't support it because, you know, there's a man who understands education. He's known worldwide this guy. And he knows that creating too large of bureaucracies means you can't serve the local needs of the people. Yeah, maybe there are too many school boards, but you know, Councillor Orlikow referred to St. Vital and that, but you know, the whole idea, oh, we're going to save money, the idea we're going to amalgamate Transcona School Division with the River East School Division or whatever it was and then they created the Springfield outside of the city and River East-Transcona School Division. You know, everything was about focus on money, and that is the issue. I, Madam Speaker, you know, I...I'll finish with that, but I worked with...I was appointed by the Association of School Board Trustees, is it called now? Anyway, school...anyway, they put me onto the committee. When we changed the education act to make sure that kids and youth with disabilities were provided the appropriate education they deserved. You know, we did a bunch of amendments and everything's great. I heard somebody saying that Bill 64 somehow is going to be a panacea of a solution for kids with disabilities. No way. Unless they put the money out there because the way it's funded doesn't help our kids get the education they want. You want to talk about kids who struggle and are trying to get through school, Children of the Earth is a great offering. I can't really speak to it. I'm not even sure if Councillor Orlikow was on the Winnipeg School Division when that happened. I did know some other school trustees like Roman Yereniuk and others who are on that division and you know, they tried to make it happen because the Indigenous community said we need this, and they tried to do it. But I used to work at the school now called Niji Makhwa and at R.B. Russell as a custodian. And custodians even are part of the education system and part of...you know, we would deal with kids after school's finished and stuff. And you know, you're working and trying to make sure kids are doing okay. That's the responsibility of everybody in the school division, whether it's a teacher, an education assistant or whatever. It all comes down to funding. And if, you know...like, we were able to do something in Seven Oaks that, you know, others didn't do in collective bargaining, Madam Speaker. Things like we were able to bring the teachers, the CUPE staff, the EA staff, all under a benefits package that benefited all of our employees to ensure that their lives were steady so that they could provide that very important education, Madam Speaker, to the kids of the Seven Oaks School Division because essentially, that is the purpose. But the bigger the bureaucracy, the less it responds. And if I might have an extra five, please.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gillingham moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: Well, let me just finish with this; I'm supporting the amendment. They need to go back to the table. There was...the superintendent's association did come up and said, here's how you can take the property tax bill for education off. If there is a way to do it, but there was a better way to do it, Madam Speaker. And I just want to finish by representation of, say, persons with disability quality seeking groups wanting to be treated in appropriate manner. In the Seven Oaks School Division, Madam Speaker, I recall Rick Dela Cruz, (inaudible) Wan, a large population of Filipinos in...in Seven Oaks School Division. They elected the people on there. My good friend, Dennis Ruggles who is concerned about his grandkids' education, he went out there in the community. So, in order to get elected onto a school board, what you have to remember is, it's hard to overcome incumbents because people actually don't get to know your name, they don't know much about you and so you do have to get out there and you have to present yourself to the people as much as you can so that they know who you are and what you stand for, and then, you get votes. That's how you do it. Mr. Ruggles worked with a whole bunch of different communities to get elected. And then, we have Greg McFarlane who did the same thing. Working out there, doing what you have to do, that's how you get onto the school board. That's how you get representation. If you have a community totally made up...a division totally made up of people who are white, well, you know, you can still win as a person with colour because what you have to do as...for a school board trustee, the least acknowledged, most important...one of the most important elected positions is exactly what are you going to do to make sure that our kids get both an education for their minds and for their bodies? It's a whole education system. So, I'm totally supporting this, and I really thank the...my colleagues who brought this to the table because it is connected. Actually, can I just have two more minutes? I just...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty moves a further two-minute extension. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Eadie: I just wanted to give you my perspective when I went to school in the Winnipeg School Division back when I was 12, 13 because there is a connection between murders and the social ills that are happening in the City of Winnipeg that our Winnipeg Police Service are having to respond to, Madam Speaker. You know, I was out there, and we were having challenges in my ward around a certain organization that's trying to serve people who are homeless, struggling in life for maybe reasons of mental health or whatever, and I went to a special school because I couldn't participate in the system in junior high. Like, I just...I just couldn't be there. I needed a different way to be educated, which is what CEDA and the partnership is going to do over on Selkirk Avenue and Dufferin coming up. It's providing a different way of educating that recognizes there's a lot of kids, they don't want to sit in class, Madam Speaker. But what happens is when you don't have success...and I have many Indigenous friends who had great success in education, and they and their families are doing very well, so we have to remember the good. But there are families and there are kids who struggle with a big bureaucratic system that's not flexible enough to assist. And so, what you have is, you end up with people out there who end up...they may commit murder, they may do this, they may do that. But if you look back for many of these adults today, you will find not a very good success in getting educated, Madam Speaker. And so, it's all connected. Thank you.

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

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. With apologies to my colleague from River Heights, I really don't see how this is a City Council issue in the slightest. When talking to the public, I never hear people say, we need more government, we need more politicians. I do think there probably should be some level of elected representation for some form of a school board, but I really don't know what the right balance is, what the right numbers are. When it comes to our education system, I do know we have some of the highest spending per student and some of the poorest results in Canada. I really do think reform is sorely needed here in Manitoba. I'm asked constantly during municipal elections, who are these school trustee candidates? And I've done my best to generally not share my opinions but to direct them to what information is out there and frankly, it's pretty minimal. Winnipeg has five or six school divisions while other major cities have one or two. That means more duplication of program coordinators, school division head office staff, and that takes away from the classroom. It has to. The other big challenge with the status quo is the massive discrepancy in mill rates. The ward I represent has catchment and River East-Transcona School Division and Seven Oaks School Division. Pre the 25% rebate this year, in 2021, just as an example, our house is located in River East-Transcona School Division. In Seven Oaks, our house would be paying over \$600 a year more in education taxes. There's a number of reasons for that. I mean, a lot of it is there's less of a commercial industrial base tax base in Seven Oaks, but their cost per pupil is also way higher than River East. If you want to talk about building roads, maintaining parks, plowing sidewalks, staffing libraries, ensuring quality transit, bike lanes, I should be expected to have a coherent understanding of the issues. This isn't our issue. Bill 64 isn't done, and I wouldn't be surprised to see amendments like we did on recent...as there were for the...the recent changes to municipal legislation, bill...was it 57? 37...57 to 37, there were changes as that went on. The original legislation we saw was not what we saw at the end of the day. I think there's still a chance that the Province is going to have a change of heart, and we'll see, you know, some further amendments to what's coming forward here. So, I don't think this bill today should be killed. We shouldn't ask them to stop it, we should ask them to reform it. But again, no, we shouldn't be asking for anything. This isn't our...this isn't our bailiwick. Let me consistent here. So, anyways, I'm actually going to step away

from the room for this vote. I don't think I've done that in my career on Council. I just don't see this as our issue in the slightest. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, I do respect Councillor Browaty's perspective on this because I am torn sometimes as to when we decide to bring something to this chamber that is not on this level of government. And I can understand why people have these concerns. I'm concerned when we pick and choose. We all have our logic or explanations for that. Nonetheless, this is a big issue, and it's here, and I've got something to say, especially given the amazing speeches that I've heard today. Once again, it's just one of those days where you hear some fascinating speeches. Now, Madam Speaker, bear in mind, we've got some history lessons going on with Councillor Rollins, Councillor Gillingham giving sort of a demographic geographic perspective from coming from outside the city. We've got Councillor Gilroy giving a personal testament to what she believes it was literally the personal care and concern that she feels could only have been achieved by that level of care and concern and decision making that locally elected leadership can offer on that level. And I've got a few things to say about this. I'm going to give a history lesson, too. Something that I was raised on. Now, let's go back to an era when we didn't have school divisions. Let's go back to the late 1800s, when, by virtue of lack of education and representation, the Province actually sort of broke the constitution by not allowing French language schools, okay? We didn't start getting back into that officially until after we actually brought in real school divisions after 1959, into the '60s, and into the '70s, and continued on, into the '80s and into the '90s, just in terms of dealing with the fact that we didn't deal effectively in the late 1800s with French language education. Now, back in the early 1900s, my great grandparents moved to this country. And then within years, people followed them from the same area of what is today Ukraine. And at the beginning of building their school, setting up, you know, sort of their little education system for their farming community, they didn't have local representation. And the stories I heard are...can be both farcical and sad in terms of the results of lack of representation...local representation and leadership when it came to running the school area. And a main reason was the division and the superintendent and the delegate for that was coming in from Winnipeg and literally couldn't speak with the people, the vast majority of which couldn't speak English. Happened to be that my great grandfather could speak essentially all the languages of all the farmers in that area north of Beausejour. He happened to be able to speak Ukrainian, happened to be able to speak Polish, he happened to be able to speak Yiddish, happened to be able to speak German, and he could speak English. Until that time, what kind of representation did these people have? It didn't last for too long. It was just a few years. And then my great grandfather got elected to as the first chair, essentially, to this sort of kind of school board. They didn't have school boards like they did today, but it was local representation to deal with local concerns. And now you might look at that, well, you can take that for granted. Well, all I can say is, imagine you are one of those immigrant parents in that situation. You're not well off, you don't have running...maybe you've built your well. You certainly don't have an inside washroom. That's ridiculous kind of thinking. You're just hoping for the best for your children as you struggle to create that community. And they started. My uncle George, my dad's eldest brother is the longest serving school trustee in the history of Manitoba, longest serving chair of a school board in the history of Manitoba. He's recently passed away, but I recall one issue was when it comes to language preference, there were some parents that wanted Ukrainian language education. It got pretty intimate. Yet...you know, he visited them all. He went to...you know, he knew them all, he visited them all, their...the farms or their houses in the Selkirk and St. Andrews area, and they came to an agreement, you know. Actually, I need your next-door buddy, I need a few more families, and they got together on a very local and intimate level and were able to establish Ukrainian language education in the Selkirk area. But it happened on a very personal, intimate level because they knew each other and they could grab in a few more parents and neighbours to be part of this to make it economically feasible. And which is what my uncle George felt was his responsibility in order to fulfill this need, and they got it done together on a very localized level through a very local, personal leadership on this. Going back now from Selkirk back to Beausejour, north of Beausejour area, and that little forming school division in the 1950s. It wasn't really a school division, but they had local elected leadership to try and get things done. Now what do we have? The first Indigenous people in this farming community. How would we handle that? And it was a big deal to some, and it needed to be handled on a very personal intimate level in order for this to be done. It was...it hadn't been done before. The first Indigenous kid to go to the local school, same one-room school house that my dad went to. And it happened. Not to be taken lightly because what kind of Indigenous child might we be talking about? Cyril Keeper, future city councillor for downtown Winnipeg, for Redboine. Future member of parliament for Winnipeg-St. James. Future member of parliament for Winnipeg-North Central that represented part of Elmwood and East Kildonan. The only member of parliament of Indigenous descent that ever represented...a member of parliament that ever represented my area where I live, of Elmwood-East Kildonan. I just don't see how that could have happened if it wasn't for local leadership elected on a local, personal level for the school. I just...I just don't know how it could have happened. Now, 1957, they bring in the report on bringing school divisions brought in under the liberal premier...liberal progressive premier, Douglas Campbell. Then implemented by Duff Roblin, progressive conservative premier of Manitoba. And talk about progressive conservative premier, that's what I'm talking about. And progress began, continued, and really could get on a roll with local representation. What kind of local representation? Well, people like Lionel Orlikow, oh, my god. Talk about an era of progress. Talk about being on the frontline of progress and

local discussion and conversation addressing these issues. Am I done already? Oh, my goodness, Madam Speaker. I wouldn't mind a couple of minutes.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie moves a two-minute extension. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Schreyer: All right. So, we're looking at what local representation and elected representatives for school divisions can do. Now in the current era, Councillor Rollins is showing how we've got to really progressed in some other very progressive issues. Almost...the way she was able to say it so quickly, it sounds like we're into overdrive mode at this time. But really, we're dealing with local needs, addressing issues that affect people's education, to affect our greater society, our greater education system. Madam Speaker, why is the Provincial Government doing this? I think it's about saving money. Just as last winter, they were looking at changing the legislation so that skilled construction workers could get paid less. Even though we all know that the wages of the skilled construction workers aren't the reason why construction contracts aren't going up. But, Madam Speaker, we're getting desperate. And Madam Speaker, we have to admit that we're dealing at the education level with the school trustees on social issues, personal and immediate at that time, that help our economy later and the greater society later on. But Madam Speaker, these are not just social issues, these are socioeconomic. And Madam Speaker, we will not deal effectively in the future, starting now. It's already started. We cannot deal with human rights if we do not deal with economic justice. And Madam Speaker, we're not dealing with their economic challenges, and what we see today is a function of the fact that we're not dealing with our economic challenges. And thus, we're trying to cut costs everywhere we can, which actually is to the detriment of our social well-being and our economic well-being for the future for people that we don't even know, but maybe the school trustees do. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Rollins, your opportunity to close on the item or on the amending motion.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, if councillors are wondering if this is our lane, I'll point to a routine vote that we do each and every year; we in this chamber help facilitate the 40% that the legislature doesn't spend on education and each and every year we vote on it right here. Each and every year. And Bill 64 has no stopgap economic plan to backfill that 40%. Not to mention, we facilitate the elections...you know, the Clerks do, Madam Speaker. And with...with a debt of thanks from me. I knew some of the Clerks before I got here because they'd been the same clerks that I handed my papers to when I ran for school trustee, and I'll no doubt hand them, you know, again, and others will, too. So, and I want to say, Madam Speaker, raising taxes in school division is a really personal affair and it's really granular. In some cases, it's better attended in the Winnipeg School Division alone better attended than our own municipal budget. And look no further, Madam Speaker, then my brave Council colleague, Councillor Gilroy for illustrating just what's at stake. I met so many (inaudible) that made me swear on my children's' lives, in gas stations, getting into their car while they smoked and gave me hell and made me swear on my children's' lives. That's real. That's real (inaudible) politics, you can't learn that just anywhere. And in terms of learning, Madam Speaker, I have a debt of gratitude for Dr. John Wiens and that report that, through you, Madam Speaker, Councillor Nason's motion had mentioned because, you know, it really...after my oath of office as a school trustee was not yet dry, one month, that report comes out. And Madam Speaker, it calls me names. Well, as a woman politician, Madam Speaker, you will know this to be true. There's nothing better than to ignore the trolls, the name calling and just get work done. That's how you leave folks in the dust. And so, I have another debt of gratitude for Dr. John Wiens because he introduced me to an amazing man, David Yeo. Former superintendent, former Assistant Deputy Minister of Education David Yeo is tasked with coming to the aid of the Winnipeg school divisions to take that whispering, breathless report of Dr. John Wiens that said we should all be fired and distill it into really good governance actions that we then took. It made us better as...it bonded us, it made us better and that is the potential of not only a council like this, governance work like that, and amazing superintendent David Yeo. David Yeo, Dr. John Wiens; what do they have in common? Well, they speak against Bill 64. They, too, would support a motion like this. David Yeo, Strini Reddy, so many amazing former superintendents really distill the essence of what's so faulty here, why it deserves to be tossed, because they say no where in the world have the solutions being advocated here and I quote, "Ended in results being proclaimed." This one size all fits answers, and really troubling juxtapositions, test scores versus poverty. Individual parents versus school boards. Principals versus teachers, and extreme centralization versus local discretion. It's that local discretion, Madam Speaker, why this is really a municipal issue for so many. It's a municipal issue for cities like Winkler, St. Anne, Altona who don't like the bill for the same reasons I don't. Deloraine, Grahamdale, Piney, St. Rose, Stanley, Taché and Victoria Beach where many Winnipeggers are right now, it's disrupting whole procurement efforts, local procurement efforts, relationships with business owners, and that's why we can hold hands as municipal officials with new democrats, non-partisan members, conservatives, and say no to Bill 64 with ease. It's disrupting all of that. It's the behemoth board. It's the fact like MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee has said, it perpetuates colonialism, and has asked for its withdrawal and that's why, Madam Speaker, today I'm going to ask this council to support the motion, support the amendment and ultimately, be a piece in the puzzle that defeats Bill 64 and upholds local municipal government and school trustees.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Councillor Mayes to close on the main item.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Much as I enjoyed being a Brandon school trustee, we did have a rule where everyone could speak three times on the same item. Perhaps not something we want to copy here as we've just had several hours of very good high quality debate on this one item, so we won't all go around a second or third time. But a number of very good comments, different sides of the issue. I just want to say a couple of things in conclusion. Somebody in...somebody who's not in this chamber but who works in a political job here said to me, you know, I could live with amalgamation but not eradication. And I thought that was a pretty good summary that maybe there could be fewer boards, there could be, but to simply wipe out, to eradicate a whole level of elected government is very troubling and something I oppose. Is it City business? Well, here's one of my 2014 leaflets that I ran downstairs and got. What I...in my platform, I said I wanted better coordination of priorities with the Louis Riel School Division to help St. Vital youth and families. And then I said much the same thing in French about the DSFM.

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Mayes: I will engage to better my collaboration with trustees from the Franco-Manitoban School Division.

Councillor Mayes: So, my share of the vote went up in that election. I don't remember a whole lot of people saying, no, you shouldn't be trying to work with the other locally elected officials. That's two totally separate things. We, I think, have done a good job. We, collectively, in the last seven years, have tried to work more closely with the school boards, and I think we should take some pride in that. I would hope, as we go forward, that we will continue to have that opportunity, and that the Provincial Government will listen to what we're saying here and what the public is saying about changing or withdrawing this legislation. But final word then to Councillor Rollins. When we put together the five-person press release from the five councillors who had been school trustees, each of us provided a quote. Hers was so much better than mine that I'm going to end with it because I thought it was terrific. So, last word to Councillor Rollins which was she said, "I was never afraid of amalgamation, I was fearful they would create a tone-deaf monolith. This has always been about local voices and local choices. There is wisdom in prioritizing the kitchen table over the board room table." So, with that, Madam Speaker, I am...will be supporting the amendment. I'll be, of course, be supporting the motion. And thank you, and hope we can support this important step in trying to preserve local democracy. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. With that, I'll call the question on the amending Motion 5. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour of amending Motion 5, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Orlikow, Santos, His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins and Schreyer

Nays

Councillors Klein, Lukes, Nason and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And the main motion, as amended.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 4, with Councillor Browaty absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. So, amending Motion 5 passes. The main motion as amended. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Orlikow and Santos, Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins and Schreyer

Nays

Councillors Klein, Lukes, Nason and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 4, with Councillor Browaty absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. So, the notice of motion as amended passes. Onto by-laws. Mr. Mayor, by-laws under the Executive Policy Committee for second reading.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND READING ONLY

Mayor Bowman: My apologies. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a second time: By-law 119/2020 and By-law 120/2020.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Councillor Nason recorded in opposition.

Clerk: By-law No. 119/2020 and By-law No. 120/2020.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

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 53/2021 and By-law 80/2021.

Madam Speaker: Okay, is that for all three readings? That's the one. Okay. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Clerk: By-laws 53/2021 and 80/2021.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, I'll call the question on that.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Don't need to speak to by-laws. Okay. Thank you, Councillor Nason. We're just going to go to the top to make sure we all have this straight. Okay. Mr. Mayor, if we could just start from the very first one of this section.

Mayor Bowman: Sorry, you want me to go back to the first reading for By-law 53?

Madam Speaker: Let's go back to the very...

Mayor Bowman: Or...119?

Madam Speaker: 119. Well, I just want to make sure we have it right, Marc. Okay, so where are we at?

Mayor Bowman: I think the...

Madam Speaker: Just the last one. Just the last one. Let's go to that.

Mayor Bowman: Yeah, sure. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 53/2021 and By-law 80/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 53/2021 and By-law No. 80/2021.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that By-laws No. 53/2021 and 80/2021...2021, sorry, be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-laws No. 53/2021 and 80/2021.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 53/2021 and 80/2021 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. We'll now have question period for the Mayor. Councillor Nason.

**EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and through you, I ask this question. Many times, the Mayor has pointed towards his website, and his calendar with regards to the activities and goings-ons of his office. That includes any sort of virtual lobbying that may occur. I would like to ask you, through the Mayor, has he had any meetings since November of 2020 because his website is absent of any meetings?

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I'm pleased to hear the Councillor's interest in the greater openness and transparency that I demonstrate in my meeting practice than he does. I would encourage him if he'd like to learn more about how he may be able to follow my lead, in that respect, I'd be happy to work collaboratively with him. The meetings...what I've been doing since the...essentially, since last year when the pandemic hit is in-person meetings have been virtually eliminated, and most of the dialogue I've been having with people has been on-line. So, there've been teams calls. Quite often, I'll post about some of them, and just again, in the greater interest of transparency, the meeting schedule that the Councillor is referring to is typically, and the way it's set out as he...if he's looked at this site is for in-person meetings in my office, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Second question, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Yes, through you, Madam Speaker, is the Mayor aware that according to our own Integrity Commissioner, that virtual meetings are also lobbying meetings?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I am aware, Madam Speaker, and I would also, I'm pleased to hear, if Councillor Nason has visited my site, he'll see that, on my site, I actually have...I have the following language: "Anyone wishing to meet with Mayor Bowman 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." If you go to the Lobbyist Registry, you'll see a number of individuals who have registered on our voluntary Lobbyist Registry for meetings exclusively with me. I don't see any directly with Councillor that's raising the question. Perhaps they are there, and I've just missed them. But I would encourage him to perhaps follow my lead and encourage people that he's meeting with to take it upon themselves to register for a Lobbyist Registry. I think there's something we all can do to encourage compliance with it. Again, it is a voluntary Lobbyist Registry, it's one that I'm very proud to have worked collaboratively with my council colleagues to introduce, along with the Integrity Commissioner's position itself, and of course the appointment of Ms. Sherri Walsh. These are initiatives that I have led on. I'm very proud of them, and I'm appreciative of Members of Council, and I'm pleased to hear if Councillor Nason is viewing my website, and he's looking at the Lobbyist Registry and interested, I'd love to see him follow my lead, and maybe try to show proactive measures to encourage people, that may be lobbying through him to effect changes that they're desiring at City Hall to be as forthcoming or even more forthcoming, and more open and transparent, and lead on that. That would be something that would serve the public interest.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Final question.

Councillor Nason: I do appreciate that response from the Mayor, Madam Speaker, and you know, I did have a matter that was received as information from his committee. You know that, I do want to correct the record, Mr. Russell Wyatt that many of these around the table will know is a Registered Lobbyist, and has ongoing lobbying, does have it indicated...

Mayor Bowman: Is there a question?

Councillor Nason: Directly...

Madam Speaker: The question, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: The question is, you know, major cities have a lot of economic development, a lot of activity. Is there a reason why there doesn't seem to be a lot of that, with regards to the lobbyists? Is there any activity going on lobbying by lobbyists?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'm sorry, if Councillor Nason could just repeat the question. I want to make sure I'm answering the...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason...

Mayor Bowman: ...question as best as I can.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Could you restate the question please?

Councillor Nason: Is there any lobbying going on by persons that would be lobbyists?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I think that's a question for the Integrity Commissioner. There's a Lobbyist Registry that the City of Winnipeg has, and there are individuals who have registered on it. It's something that I have, as I've listed previously, I encourage. Good to hear Former Councillor Russ Wyatt's name in this Chamber. I know a very strong leader in the ward of Transcona. I know he's been very active lately from what I understand, and I'm sure Councillor Nason is working collaboratively with him.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and through you, Madam Speaker, recently the Public Service produced a report identifying City of Winnipeg Councillors receive the lowest office funding support in all major cities in Canada. It was also noted that Councillor's offices have experienced a 50% turnover of staff in this current term. Recently, the Governance Committee set a motion to EPC to review office funding support to Councillors with the goal of reducing the cost of staff turnover, and to provide improved communication, customer service to the citizens we represent. But the Mayor was the only member of EPC who voted against the motion. Madam Speaker, between 2017 and 2020, the Mayor's Director of Communication received a 46.5% increase in salary. My question to the Mayor is, can you share with the public, what the justification is for a 46.5% increase in salary over three years?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Increased responsibilities because of consolidation of responsibilities for the individual involved. Very proud of the work of my staff, and I do understand from the Councillor's question that her position on the funding made available for Councillors. She is often repeating that now on various topics, much like Councillor Schreyer talks about construction inflation, so I guess that's what we can expect going forward. I'm certainly open to considering the requests, and I know her effort and yours, Madam Speaker. What I didn't see in the matter before us was that that those funds would be dedicated for staffing as had been made public as the kind of the rationale behind that, and so, certainly something I think it's open to discussion and consideration going forward though.

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

Councillor Lukes: Second question, but just to comment on the statement was, it was written in the report that it was for staffing. These large increases in staff salaries are a not one-off, Madam Speaker, the Mayor's Manager of Operations received a 43% increase, and four other staff averaged an 18.6% increase between 2017 and 2020. Again, the question is, can you share with taxpayers, for these individuals what the justification is for these significant salary increases?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'm not going to get into discussing individual personnel matters on the floor of Council. But I will say, Madam Speaker, is that our staff and also the executive assistants for members of Council, I think do amazing work. I'm really proud of the work that my office staff conduct. I understand Councillor Lukes is very much interested in the workings of the Office of the Mayor, and that's not a new theme for her. Perhaps, she may do the logical thing, and put her name on the ballot to run for Mayor if she's so interested in the operations of the Mayor. I've had the courage to do it on two occasions now, and have been fortunate to receive the confidence of Winnipeggers. And I'm really proud to serve in the role. I'm really proud of the work that my staff conduct themselves in an ethical and professional way, and they pump out a lot of work on behalf of me and City Council, and of course, the citizens of Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor. Councillor Lukes, third and final question.

Councillor Lukes: According to a recent Manulife study, the cost of employee turnover on average is around 40% of an employee's salary...

Mayor Bowman: ...Is there a question?

Councillor Lukes: The question is, does the Mayor believe a 50% rate of turnover is more cost efficient for taxpayers than paying a fair and equitable wage?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I'd be happy to take a look at the study that she's referencing before answering that question.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions of the Mayor? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. It's always good to have these discussions, questions and answers. I guess, in particular, referencing to the conversation we've had here, through the Speaker of course, through you, Madam Speaker, between Councillor Nason and His Worship regarding lobbying. I guess, my question is...

Madam Speaker: Thanks, Marc.

Councillor Schreyer: What I'd like to know, what the process is, in terms of the Mayor's staff dealing with lobbyists is that included...do those members of the Mayor's staff that do have conversations with lobbyists, that those staff that speak with the Mayor, is that part of the registry as well?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I believe staff are covered, but I would encourage the Councillor to check with the Integrity Commissioner if he's seeking clarity on the proper implementation of the Lobbyist Registry. I know, if you look at the Lobbyist Registry, you'll see certain staff in my office listed, which I'm glad that individuals are providing that. But I think that the person that would be best equipped to provide the guidance to all members of Council on these and related questions would be our Integrity Commissioner, Ms. Sherri Walsh.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Yup, fair enough. And I'm not talking about the integrity of this, I'm just asking the Mayor if he's aware whether the Mayor's staff that speaks with him, when they speak with lobbyists, does that happen, and are these always registered if lobbyists speak with the Mayor's staff.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: The Lobbyist Registry is set out for individuals who should be registering as lobbyists to register. It's not intended for staff of Members of Council to register. And so, again, where someone is in fact lobbying any member of Council or their staff or members of the Public Service, the Lobbyist Registry does set out that registration is encouraged. And again, I would just encourage the Councillor, Madam Speaker, to reach out to our Integrity Commissioner, for those kinds of questions or other members of the Public Service including our Clerks who may be able to provide some insights into that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Okay, seeing none, let's move on. We've had a request to determine when our recess will be for a period of time. Do we wish to do it now until 6:00 o'clock? I think that sounds like a good plan. That's a good plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Mayor Bowman: Why don't we just keep going?

Madam Speaker: People do need a health break. Several members have reached out.

Councillor Eadie: I move that we're going to meet after 6:00 p.m. if we're going to take a break at 5:30. So, therefore...

Madam Speaker: I'm going to ask for a half an hour. That's what's being asked for. Councillor Eadie, you'll move a motion that we...

Councillor Eadie: I move a motion to take a break from 5:30 to 6:00, and to extend the Council meeting past 6:00 p.m.

Madam Speaker: We have folks remote asking as well, so let's be respectful of everyone's needs. Councillor Eadie, you were saying?

Councillor Eadie: I was just saying I would move that we do take a break from 5:30 to 6:00, and that we vote to extend the Council's meeting past 6:00 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Past 6:00 p.m. Okay. All in favour? Contrary? It's carried. Let's go. Bit of a break do you want to take? Well, we have folks asking. Okay, so let's have a recorded vote. All in...okay.

Councillor Santos: What are we voting on?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Orlikow, I got your e-mail as well. Thank you. Councillor Eadie, why don't we continue and you take the Chair. Okay, we're on the committee of Property and Development. Yes, okay, because I'd like a break as well.

Councillor Eadie: We don't...okay, all right, but I'm going to call the vote...a recorded vote.

Councillor Nason: I didn't hear a clear resolution to the motion, whether it was accepted or defeated.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Let's...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Deputy Speaker's in the Chair right now. The Speaker has to get away right now. So, she's assuming, then, that the vote was lost, so there's no need to do a recorded vote. So, I'm in the Chair, Councillor Nason, and we will continue.

City Clerk: The next section, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the Standing Policy Committee on Innovation and Economic Development question period for that committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: And there's no report, so we'll have question period for the Chairperson, Councillor Browaty. No questions of...

Councillor Nason: Waiting to be recognized.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason? Okay.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: Thank you. I was waiting for the Clerk's to see if they would help you out there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, again, I look to some of the other centres and I see lobbying from persons on economic development. Can you please advise what sort of economic development consultations you've had over the last few months that you've been Chair?

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker to Councillor Nason. Certainly, conversations with colleagues on Council, with people in the business community. Nothing, you know, not a lot of formal meetings, per se, but certainly keeping up on what's happening in our City.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Do you have a second question, Councillor Nason?

Councillor Nason: I do not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, anybody else, just please speak up. Councillor Chambers has a question. Please, go ahead.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, through you to the Chair of Innovation. Recently, Jon Reyes was appointed as Minister for Economic Development and Jobs. Is there a plan for you to collaborate with him in terms of an economic recovery, and have you reached out to him thus far?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker to Councillor Chambers. Yes, I did send...I did send MLA Jon Reyes, Minister Jon Reyes now, a congratulatory note and suggested that with his new portfolio, and the one I hold here, that we should collaborate sooner than later. We haven't set up a date or time yet, but I have reached out.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Second question, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay, anybody else have a question of the Chairperson? No? Okay. We'll move onto Standing Policy Committee on Property and...hang on, Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated April 19th, 2021. And I believe we have an amending motion to report...Item 15. Chairperson Gilroy.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED APRIL 19, 2021**

**Item 15 - Amendment to Council Decision – Declaration of Surplus Land – City-Owned Property Located at
1121 Wabasha Street**

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting the amending motion in front of us. I know that at the time, EPC wanted to ask further questions, and working with Councillor Nason, I believe those questions can come back to the committee and up through our system. So, it would go onto standing policy committee and then back up to EPC and those questions will be answered. So, I'd be supportive of moving this...of Councillor Nason's amending motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Nason, would you like to introduce your amendment?

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

BE IT RESOLVED that the extension of time for Item 15 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated April 19, 2021, not be concurred in, and the following recommendation be adopted:

1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back within 90 days to the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee with a plan for site optimization and/or repurposing of any additional greenspaces.*
2. *That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Councillor Nason: Yeah, I'll speak briefly to it as well. I want to thank the Chair for taking the opportunity recently to join me on a grand tour of the ward of Transcona. Just...I'm sorry? Oh, sorry. My apologies. Yes, (inaudible) I need to withdraw Motion 3 with the support of the seconder.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Which is Councillor Klein, I believe?

Councillor Klein: Yes, sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Klein, you're in support of that?

Councillor Klein: Yes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Do we need to call a vote, Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk: You do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Introducing now amending Motion No. 4.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the extension of time for Item 15 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated April 19, 2021, not be concurred in, and the following recommendation be adopted:

1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back within 90 days to the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee with a plan for site optimization, an overview of costs associated with the site, and/or repurposing of any additional greenspaces.*
2. *That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Councillor Nason: Okay, thank you for that and sorry for missing that little bit of protocol. Again, I wanted to thank the Chair for taking the opportunity to join me to see the Transcona Ward and see some of the growth and the expanse of that ward. This is an older piece of property that has some established greenspace around it. And the report that came before the committee contained some language in there that was not current. It was based on some previous discussions that were held about some opportunities for the site. So, at community committee, it was referred. We provided some context and direction to restart this, to re-kick it, and through consultation with the Chair, we've got I think some language that will help bring back a stronger report, one that hopefully, again, the Public Service will come and talk to myself as the ward councillor before they table it. So, that's my hope and desire with this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All right. Mr. Clerk, is there anybody else who wants to speak to this?

Clerk: I see no other speakers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Then would you like to say anything in close on the amending motion?

Councillor Nason: I have nothing to close with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. To close, Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: You can call the question. And I just want to thank both Councillor Nason and Councillor Klein...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Sorry, I've got to call...you're right.

Councillor Gilroy: For their amending motions. Yeah, sorry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of amending Motion No. 4? Is anybody opposed? No? Okay, that is carried. Now to close on the amending motion. Councillor Gilroy, I think you're good, should I just call the vote?

Councillor Gilroy: Yes. Yeah, call the question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All those in favour of the motion as amended? Is anybody else opposed? That is carried. Thank you. Now, we'll move onto the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated July 6th, 2021. And to introduce it, Chairperson Gilroy.

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
July 22, 2021

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
DATED JULY 6, 2021**

Councillor Gilroy: Yeah, I'd like to move Items 1 to 11...through 11.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Do I have anybody wanting to stand down any of the reports? Mr. Clerk, no?

Councillor Mayes: I will want to be recorded in opposition to one item, but I don't need to pull.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Say that when we...when we call the vote, okay? And just indicate...indicate that, Councillor Mayes. Okay. So, nobody wants to stand down any? So, all those in favour of the motion, consent to Items 1 through...

Councillor Gilroy: 11.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 11? Is anybody opposed? Councillor Mayes wants to be recorded in opposition to report No. 2. All right, thank you. That passes. Thank you. I'm sorry, now I have to scroll through this, one sec. Please bear with me. Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage...oh, are there any...Mr. Clerk, are there any motions related?

City Clerk: No motions, sir, but there are by-laws.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There are by-laws. Yeah, I'm just going to get to the...oh, do we do the by-laws first, then we...anyway, okay, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. Consideration of by-laws, second and third readings, Madam Chairperson.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READING**

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that By-law No. 83/2020 be read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? That is carried. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: By-law No. 83/2020.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Thank you. And that was second and third reading, right? So that is done, right?

Councillor Gilroy: One...one more.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Oh yeah, for third reading.

Councillor Gilroy: And I'd like to move that By-law No. 83/2020 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? Okay. So, that by-law passes. Mr. Clerk.

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

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 65/2021, By-law No. 66/2021.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? That is carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 65/2021 and 66/2021.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay.

Councillor Gilroy: And I'd like to move that By-law Nos. 65/2021 and 66/2021 be read a second time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. All those in favour? I don't believe anybody IS opposed. Anybody opposed? That is carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 65/2021 and 66/2021.

Councillor Gilroy: And I'd like to move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 65/2021 and 66/2021 be read a third time and that the same be ordered and...passed and ordered and signed and sealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. All those in favour? Is anybody opposed? That is carried. And those by-laws pass. We have...do we have...so we have no motions?

City Clerk: There are no motions, sir, no.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, okay. And we have question period for Chairperson Gilroy.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm back. If I could take the Chair at this point.

Councillor Eadie: Oh, please do.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. We're at question period. Any questions for Councillor Gilroy? No questions, let's move on. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. It's the report dated July 5th, 2021. Councillor Rollins.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED JULY 5, 2021**

Councillor Rollins: Sorry, Madam Speaker, I'd like to move...sorry. Madam Speaker, I'd like to move consent agenda of two Community Incentive Grants. And I'll need a suspension I think of the rules for these.

Madam Speaker: No, you don't.

Councillor Rollins: Oh, I don't? Okay. Well, let's move them. Consent agenda, Madam Speaker, two gooders.

Madam Speaker: Call the question then. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now have question period under this...oh, yes, of course. Motion 1. Motion 1 is moved by myself and seconded by Councillor Browaty. It's regarding an online booking system for our parks, and it'll be an automatic referral to this committee.

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

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Browaty,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has a robust parks and open spaces network throughout and beyond the City;

AND WHEREAS the global COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value that these spaces hold in our communities at a time when recreational activities are limited;

AND WHEREAS the City offers the ability to reserve or rent park amenities and athletic fields for group activities;

AND WHEREAS reimagining the reservation and rental process is required to enhance citizen's experience through this program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service be instructed to report back to Council within 90 days on:

1. *A process to establish an online portal / booking system for the reservation or rental of park amenities and athletic fields.*
2. *Associated costs and resource requirements to implement an online portal / booking system for the 2022 season.*
3. *That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.*

Madam Speaker: Now onto question period for our chair. Any questions for Councillor Rollins? Okay. Seeing none, next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. Councillor Allard.

**REPORT OF THE
 STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
 DATED JULY 7, 2021**

Councillor Allard: I'd like to move consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: That's Items 1 through 6. Six has been pulled. Any others? One. That's it? Okay. We'll call the question on Item 2 through 5. All in favour? Contrary? Okay. Councillor Klein to be recorded in opposition to Item 5. And they carry. Mr. Clerk, Item 1.

Item 1 – Reporting on a Winnipeg Transit Priority Seating Policy

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

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you. I think this is...this item has been well received by the community. Thank you to Councillor Nason for originally raising the question. I believe this is the second report that came out of many discussions with the community. And I'll wait to hear from my colleagues on this...on this report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise this afternoon late in the day. I'm just hoping that my council colleagues will support this unanimously. It is quite a milestone piece of policy for the accessible community. I want to give thanks again to Patrick Stewart and Jess Turner and those who advocated for this. I also want to thank Teresa Platt for her willingness and her efforts in working on this policy, her tireless hours in putting this together. I'm excited to see how this is going to roll out with respect to the education piece for Winnipeggers. It's sad that we have to educate people to be courteous, but if it does come down to the fact that individuals with mobility assisted devices will be accepted on city buses and seats yielded in recognition of the challenges they have on transit buses, I'm hoping that, you know, it does meet its purpose and cause in making Winnipeg Transit more inclusive for all members of our community including those with accessibility issues. So, again, thank you very much to Patrick Stewart, Jess Turner and to Teresa Platt for their tireless efforts. Thank you.

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

Councillor Eadie: Very quickly, Madam Speaker, I will be supporting this report. A lot of people have given input, and actually, this was an issue for many, many years. Having been a person with a disability using the regular transit system before low floor buses and after low floor buses, and even the higher floor, they still had provisions, priority seating, but the problem was people using wheelchairs and certain kinds of walkers were unable to load and get on the bus, Madam Speaker. And I just wanted to talk about part of the education and public awareness is not just one sided. You know, I really think that we as persons with disabilities, I will forgo a seat if somebody using a wheelchair needs to get on. So, you know, just because I was there first, I'm quite capable, I have good legs, I can move down the aisle out of the way so that somebody using a wheelchair can take that space. That's an example. So, we need everybody to be cordial and try to respect everybody's needs to utilize the bus and I think things will get much better. I'm not sure that I read in this policy one of the very difficult struggles for persons with disabilities, including people who are blind is, and I understand that some people who are able bodied and really don't really have a disability, I have an understanding that they like to be up front because they're not quite sure where they're going, they want to see where they're going and stuff, but we need those individuals to be respectful of those who need to get off the bus. And so, hopefully, that kind of education is really

important as well for all users. But anyway, I appreciate this policy. And Madam Speaker, I just want to say, I think I've said this before, but I...you know, in the past, Madam Speaker, there was a need for someone with a disability to really keep pushing and...but today, councillors like Councillor Nason and Councillor Chambers, Councillor Mayes, and everybody, Madam Speaker, I have to say that, you know, I don't...I don't have to push the issue. And it's good to hear that things are moving because, Madam Speaker, you know, from the 1990s till today, Council itself has changed in that councillors understand their responsibility when it comes to accessibility. So, thanks to all of you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, oh, it's been a while since I've got emotional, but I've had a child that passed with a disability, and it's something that's always been important to me. And when I worked at the Province, pardon me...when I worked at the Province as a special assistant, I had the opportunity to get more down on the ground, talking to the people, working, experiencing some of the challenges, and in spite of some of the challenges we have with Transit Plus or accessibility, you know, through the construction periods that we have relative compared to outside this perimeter, we are leaps and bounds above what other centres in our province have. There is a lot of challenges and barriers that are out there, and I think we owe it to our residents to do what we can...do what we can to remove these barriers. Like, why, in 2021, is the only way to deal with Transit Plus by phoning them when able bodied people can do so much more? They can tweet, they can send an e-mail, but if you're accessing Transit Plus, the only way you get service is by a phone number. The Ombudsman report brought out a lot of items and I want to thank Allen Mankewich. You know, it's funny, like, ideologically, him and I are probably lifetimes apart, but on this policy and accessibility means, I enjoy talking with him. Peter Tang is another one I speak to regularly. Kirby Cote, I talk to regularly. So many others. There's a lot of people with a lot of good knowledge. Yvonne Peters. You know, I sat across the table many times over on Broadway across from her listening. We can do a lot more. I think we need to move faster on some of the accessibility items. This is an important step forward. I know there will be probably some conflict with the change, but I hope we as a city can come together. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Allard, back to you.

Councillor Allard: I didn't know, Councillor Nason, about your loss. I'm sorry. With that, I think everything's been said on this item.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. All in favour of Item 1? Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

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

Madam Speaker: Item 1 passes unanimously. Councillor Klein, I got your message. Thank you. He wishes...

Councillor Klein: Thank you. So, with your permission and that of my colleagues, I'd like...I made a grave error in voting against Item 5 which was my colleagues', Councillor Mayes and Councillor Nason. I was looking at a different document. So, my apologies for that. Mistakes happen, and I would like to I guess move...

Madam Speaker: You'd like to rescind...

Councillor Klein: I have to move a suspension of the rules and then move to rescind my opposition to Item 5 and change that to support.

Madam Speaker: So, you're moving to suspend the rules?

Councillor Klein: Yes.

Madam Speaker: I can't hear you, Marc.

City Clerk: That is correct, Madam Speaker. You do require a suspension of the rules as a request to change the vote has to occur before any other matters have been considered. So, at this point, it's suspension of the rules.

Madam Speaker: So, Councillor Klein is moving suspension of the rules. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. And then he's moving that he'd like to rescind his vote in opposition to Item 5 because it was made in error. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker and to my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Moving on, Item 6.

Item 6 – Fare-Free Transit for Immunization Clinic Super-Site Volunteers

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

Councillor Allard: So, this was an idea brought forward by Councillor Chambers to recognize the volunteering of those who are helping with the vaccine supersites. The Public Service is able to it. This language comes from Executive Policy Committee with feedback from the Public Service who suggested we put in wording to say that this free access and when the supersites end, it looks like they are tapering down, so let's hope that they...we don't need...we don't have the need for them soon. But I'll wait to hear from my colleagues in terms of other comments and questions.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you, Councillor Allard. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker, isn't it customary that the person who stood it down speaks first?

Madam Speaker: No, it is not.

Councillor Gillingham: Madam Speaker, perhaps this is where Councillor Nason was going. I'll be supporting this. Councillor Nason asked me a good question just a few moments ago about the potential financial impact if this service was needed. So, I was able to reach out to our CFO and their response is, there would be a...if this service is needed, there would be a maximum of 5,000...pardon me, \$4,000 cost to the City for the month.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. And this was stood down by? Okay, lots of customs have gone out the window, so sorry. Around here.

Councillor Nason: That's okay. That's okay. I'm over here in the back 40. It's interesting that this has received approval because I do recall one moved by my council colleague for Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood that would see on Remembrance Day, I believe it was Remembrance Day, free transit for veterans that was shot down. Pardon the expression there. But this one did not include those numbers that we now know is \$4,000. But it's still not clear; is it for volunteers? Because volunteers, in my mindset, is for people that are unpaid doing the work. My understanding of these supersites is that they're not free individuals, they're paid individuals that are working there. So, I'm hoping that the mover of the motion originally can articulate that. I am curious. It is good work that they're doing, but it's one of those things, that taxpayers and Transit are under pressure as it is, and \$4,000 if that's the actual cost, should be in the motion as the amount and not just assumed. Thank you.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I'll just be very, very brief. I just...I think if we're going to do this for one group of volunteers, it should be done for all groups of volunteers. These have been very difficult times, and certainly we appreciate the work of all volunteers, and I don't want to support a motion that only recognizes a small group of volunteers and not all volunteers. So, if the motion was changed, then obviously I would have been in support of it. But I appreciate the concept coming forward, but I can't support that today in fairness to all volunteers in Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Chambers...or after the Mayor.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just, through...oh, sorry.

Mayor Bowman: Madam Speaker, I'll just be very brief. I want to thank Councillor Chambers. I want to thank all the volunteers. This is a small way to help and I'd be happy to support it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers, you have the floor.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you. Always yield to the Mayor. Yeah, in terms of this...this request to support volunteers as they are working at the vaccine supercenters, again, these...there are different badges that denote them as volunteers

as opposed to the paid staff that are there that transit drivers will be able to identify, minimal training required. But again, this is an effort...they're putting in 12-hour days at times, and this is only fitting to provide them with the City's appreciation for the...their efforts in getting us towards herd immunity.

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

Councillor Allard: Thank you for the questions. As always, if my colleagues have a policy idea, I would welcome an amendment so that we can have a debate and have a vote. I'm not aware of any amendment, and so we can't have a debate or a vote. So, we've had words of opposition, but we haven't seen motions of action. So, I would, perhaps, put that on the record in terms of some of the comments that were made. Thank you to Councillor Chambers for the idea. Thanks to the Public Service for quickly looking into an initiative that I think recognizes very valuable work right now. And thank you to Councillor Gillingham for having looked into that financial impact because I did not have that information at the ready. So, with that, I hope we can all support this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, we'll call the question on Item 6. All in favour? Contrary? And that...it's carried. It was...

Councillor Allard: Volunteers.

Madam Speaker: We were in the middle of the vote. Councillor Allard...everyone, we were in the middle of the vote. We've got Councillor Klein and Nason in opposition and it carries. Okay. We were in the middle of the vote, Councillor Allard. I had already called the vote. I had already called the question.

Councillor Allard: Can I hear from the Clerks, please? I'd like a recorded vote.

Madam Speaker: Maybe we should rewind the tape.

City Clerk: The Procedure By-law, Madam Speaker, specifies that a recorded vote should be called prior to the vote taking place.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We'll now have question period under this committee. Any questions for...thank you. By-laws first. Councillor Allard.

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

Councillor Allard: I move the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 55/2021, By-law No. 79/2021, By-law No. 81/2021.

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

Councillor Allard: I move that By-law Nos. 55/2021, 79/2021 and 81/2021 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Councillor Klein is in opposition. Anyone else? That's carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 55/2021, 79/2021 and 81/2021.

Councillor Allard: And I move that the rules be suspended and By-laws No. 55/2021, 79/2021 and 81/2021 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. We'll now have question period for the Chair.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I'm not sure that the motion that I made to suspend the rules for Council to meet beyond 6:00 p.m., but we're getting very close, Madam Speaker, and we still have a couple of committees.

Madam Speaker: Sure. We'll entertain that motion now. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Question period for this committee. Any questions for Councillor Allard? Any questions for the Chair? Seeing none, let's move forward; Standing Policy Committee on Finance. There's no report, there's no motions, no by-laws. Any questions for our chair, for Councillor

Gillingham? Any questions for Councillor Gillingham? Okay. Let's move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. Councillor Mayes, on the report dated June 20th.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
 WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
 DATED JUNE 29, 2021**

Councillor Mayes: I'll introduce the report dated June 20th and move adoption of consent...consent agenda Item 1.

Madam Speaker: Okay. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We have a motion...two motions. Another one was circulated. Okay. We have Motion 2 moved by Councillor Mayes and seconded...or pardon me, moved by Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Mayes, and it's regarding organic waste collection. This will be an automatic referral to the standing committee. Okay, next, we have Motion 6, moved by Councillor Rollins, seconded by Councillor Gilroy. I haven't had a chance to read this. The topic, Mr. Clerk, is? Air quality. And this will be also an automatic referral to the standing committee.

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

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS landfills are wastelands hazardous to both the environment and human health;

AND WHEREAS operation and continuous expanse of landfills, as well as the post decommission monitoring, costs the residents of Winnipeg tens of millions of dollars each year with net lifetime costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars;

AND WHEREAS city land is limited, and dedication of land to a landfill will cause large swaths of land and the surrounding areas to be useless to the residents of Winnipeg for other purposes and future city revenues;

AND WHEREAS Water and Waste Department data indicates that each year the residents of Winnipeg trash between 170,000 and 210,000 metric tonnes of garbage;

AND WHEREAS Water and Waste Department data shows that organics represent 44% (approximately 90,000 Metric Tonnes) of the weight composition of the residential garbage stream;

AND WHEREAS on-site (home-based) composting is recognized as a simple and effective solution to divert unnecessary organic waste from landfills;

AND WHEREAS a Water and Waste Department survey indicated that 54% of residents currently or previously have used a backyard composter;

AND WHEREAS financial incentives encourage larger uptake of on-site (home-based) composting, and further reduce garbage collection and disposal costs to the city;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment in 120 days on the potential of introducing the following composting initiative:

1. *An annual financial incentive in the amount of \$100 in the form of a Property Tax Rebate, a \$100 City of Winnipeg Gift Card, or an annual \$100 credit on a homes Water and Waste Bill for residents who engage in weekly organic waste collection service and provide proof of purchase of a one-year subscription, or, twelve monthly subscription payments from a service provider.*

Motion No. 6

Moved by Councillor Rollins

Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS for the first time Winnipeg had to respond to climate crises given variable weather and climate conditions that gave rise to forest fires and notable poor air quality in the city of Winnipeg resulting in protective measures to preserve resident's health like the proactive closures of outdoor activities;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg should have simple and accessible protective Air Quality Information as other cities and towns do on Air Quality health messaging so all residents can take precautions, mitigate risks and consider actions to enjoy outdoor activities, or reduce, reschedule activities in line with common risk categories of Air Quality Health index;

AND WHEREAS Air Quality information is important to residents to be ready and prepared in particular those with pre-existing health conditions, respiratory infections such as COVID19, older adults, pregnant women and those most likely to experience health effects from air particulate exposure need reliable, and clear Air Quality Information

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg took appropriate actions in July to protect residents, yet posted little to no information on Air Quality in line with the Air Quality Health index.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be instructed to report back to Council within 90 days on an Air Quality Program & Protective Information for Winnipeggers that:

- 1. The public service reaches out to the Air Quality office of Sustainable Development of the Manitoba Government improve coordination between governments and request specific plain-language changes to the monitoring information provided by the province of Manitoba and consider review of Winnipeg monitoring stations, determining whether more Winnipeg monitoring is needed.*
- 2. Notifies via our website and other communications Air Quality information that educates the public on changing conditions, climate change threats, create awareness and support preventative information on pollution efforts and effects. Including identifiable place where residents have information on AQHI such as is found on the town of Kelowna's website.*
- 3. That the proper officers of the city be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.*

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker, as a virtual person, can I have the motion read out? I haven't seen it yet.

Madam Speaker: Absolutely. Motion 6, Councillor Orlikow, you have not seen?

Councillor Orlikow: No, I have not.

Madam Speaker: Motion 6. And if we could make sure we e-mail it out virtually...out to the virtual participants. Mr. Clerk, in the meantime, let's read out Motion 6.

Clerk: Whereas for the first time...sorry. Moved by Councillor Rollins, seconded by Councillor Gilroy. Whereas for the first time Winnipeg had to respond to climate crises given variable weather and climate conditions that gave rise to forest fires and notable poor air quality in the City of Winnipeg resulting in protective measures to preserve resident's health like the proactive closures of outdoor activities;

And whereas Winnipeg should have simple and accessible protective Air Quality Information as other cities and towns do on Air Quality health messaging so all residents can take precautions, mitigate risks and consider actions to enjoy outdoor activities or reduce, reschedule activities in line with common risk categories of Air Quality Health index;

And whereas Air Quality information is important to residents to be ready and prepared in particular those with pre-existing health conditions, respiratory infections such as COVID19, older adults, pregnant women and those most likely to experience health effects from air particulate exposure need reliable and clear Air Quality Information

And whereas Winnipeg took appropriate actions in July to protect residents, yet posted little to no information on Air Quality in line with the Air Quality Health index.

Therefore be it resolved that the Winnipeg Public Service be instructed to report back to Council within 90 days on an Air Quality Program & Protective Information for Winnipeggers that:

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
July 22, 2021

1. The public service reaches out to the Air Quality office of Sustainable Development of the Manitoba Government improve coordination between governments and request specific plain-language changes to the monitoring information provided by the province of Manitoba and consider review of Winnipeg monitoring stations, determining whether more Winnipeg monitoring is needed.
2. Notifies via our website and other communications Air Quality information that educates the public on changing conditions, climate change threats, create awareness and support preventative information on pollution efforts and effects. Including identifiable place where residents have information on AQHI such as is found on the town of Kelowna's website.
3. That the proper officers of the city be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker, is that a notice of motion then? To be clear.

Madam Speaker: That is a...it's an automatic...it's an automatic referral, yes, to the standing committee.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll now move onto question period under this committee. Any questions for our chair, for Councillor Mayes? Any questions for Councillor Mayes? Okay. Seeing none, last committee, Governance Committee of Council.

**REPORT OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
DATED JUNE 15, 2021**

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I will move consent amendment...consent agenda with report No. 1 on the lobby...the Lobbyist Registry.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you for moving that on my behalf. All in favour? Contrary? Councillor Nason recorded in opposition. And the item carries. Councillor Mayes, will you move adjournment?

Councillor Mayes: For the next few weeks.

Madam Speaker: Yes. Have a restful prorogue period. There's still much work to do. We all know that, over the next several weeks. Councillor Mayes moves adjournment. All in favour? Contrary. That's carried. Roll call, Mr. Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 6:04 p.m.