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

The Council met at 9:40 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 Orlikow.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, over to you for your morning announcements.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And good morning to my colleagues, those that are joining in-person in the gallery as delegates as well as those that are viewing our proceedings today at home online. I just want to remind everybody, we're still in our battle against COVID-19. We're carefully monitoring the regular updates that we're getting from provincial health officials. I just want to remind all members of Council, the Public Service and, of course, the citizens that we serve that we need to remain vigilant, especially during the holiday season. And I want to, as always, just thank all those in the healthcare sector, our healthcare heroes for all the work that they're doing, including those doctors and nurses in the ICU wards. Madam Speaker, it has been…it's been a busy month. I'll start with some really good news yesterday, as members of Council will hopefully be aware, we were joined yesterday at city hall by the new premier of Manitoba for a historic announcement that the Provincial Government would forward our two outstanding ICIP requests to Ottawa as submitted by Council. The first relates to the beginning of the implementation of the Transit Master Plan. And the second related to phase 2 of the North End Sewage Treatment Plant upgrades. When all levels of government are invested in those two projects, that will be just over $1 billion that we'll be investing collectively as governments, working together to build Winnipeg for the future. And so, it was a really good announcement yesterday. Closer to home, we had our Christmas tree…our annual Christmas tree lighting. I want to thank members of Council who came out as well as members of the public that came out. Now is the time in the year for a little light and little joy and I want to wish all of those that celebrate Christmas a very Merry Christmas and, of course, all the very best of the holiday season. Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to attend the speech from the throne earlier this week, attend events related to the National Indigenous Veterans Day as well as Remembrance Day, including laying a wreath at the (inaudible) with the Premier. Had the opportunity with the…with the…our Acting Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Police Board to attend the graduation ceremony for the Police Recruit Class 165. And I want to, once again, offer each of the new members of the Winnipeg Police Service congratulations. I had the opportunity to attend an event at the MMF for recognizing the anniversary of the death of Louis Riel. And also attended a very small, sacred fire in our courtyard to attend…or to honour, I should say, Helen Betty Osborne who was murdered 50 years ago. And of course, her murder should be a reminder of the importance of the work that we need to continue to do to protect women and girls in our community. Had the opportunity to tour along with Councillor Mayes and Councillor Schreyer, the Cigi cereals tour. It was really good to see the work that they're doing here. Walked recently with the Downtown Community Safety Partnership Patrol. And I have continued to do departmental tours with our CAO to thank members of our Public Service for all of the work that they're doing during the global pandemic and then just to get out in our departments with our CAO to learn a little bit more about the important work that members of the Public Service are doing. And I want to just conclude by asking Winnipeggers, for those that have the means, to please make sure that you are looking to charities in terms of giving this holiday season. We know the need is there, especially in year two of the global pandemic. And I'll just conclude, on a final note, I want to wish the Bombers all the best in their game. They're going to be hosting the western final on December 5th. I would encourage members of Council and all citizens to wear blue, support the team between now and December 5th, and hopefully we'll be able to secure attendance in the Grey Cup game in Hamilton later this next month. So, all the very best to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Thanks, merci, megwich.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We now have several other opening announcements. One minute each, please. Councillor Allard, followed by Councillor Klein.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, before today's Council meeting, I'd like to make a few remarks about ongoing flooding in BC today in the context of our struggle against climate change. From CBC news, "In a matter of days, extreme rains swamped rivers and farmland across southern BC and triggered mudslides that blocked every major highway connecting the lower mainland to the rest of the country. Nearly 20,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes and thousands of animals have died. It has been one of the most severe natural disasters to strike British Columbia in a generation even after a year that has brought crisis after crisis. This year's scope of the damage has been difficult to comprehend. This follows a series of devastating mudslides across our country, the lives of citizens and are severing the rest of Canada from our west coast for days, crippling trade and the movement of goods. Amit the COVID-19 pandemic, the phrase 'the new normal' has entered our lexicon. As the climate warms and changes, we can expect more of these extreme weather events and will be living a new normal." From Reuters, "For many Canadians, 2021 is the year the climate crisis hit home. A heat dome scorched British Columbia in June, smashing national temperature records contributing to more than 500 deaths and heralding the start of the province's third worst wildfire season. Across the prairies, a drought shrivelled crops while spring sea ice in northern Labrador hit its lowest level in 50 years." Canada is and remains one of the world's largest per capita greenhouse gas emitter. This year has demonstrated to us that we cannot be complacent in the face of this threat. That its consequences are not so abstract, not far off. The climate crisis is no longer something we are seeking to avoid, but something that we will be increasingly living within. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in the chamber today to acknowledge a significant milestone for a resident of Charleswood and a resident of Tuxedo. One of the events will happen this coming week, December 1st, and the other was on November 22nd. Gordon Saunders who is a source of knowledge in our community and goodwill and also is a good source for well-lived advice will be celebrating his 100th birthday. Or celebrated, I'm sorry, his 100th birthday on November 22nd. Mr. Len Van Roon Sr. who has served his community, his country as a member of the armed forces in World War II, who everybody knows his house because of the treasures that line his driveway. And when you want to know something about Charleswood, you go to Len Sr. On behalf of the residents that I serve in Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood, it is my distinct honour to thank Mr. Van Roon for his service to our country and community and Mr. Gordon Saunders. And it is a great pleasure that I wish each of them a happy 100th birthday.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Madam Speaker. Good morning, Mayor Bowman, councillor colleagues, our administration and members of the public. Today marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It is also the first day in the annual 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. As Co-Chair of the Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative, it is my honour to rise today to speak to the epidemic of gender-based violence and continues to intensify as COVID-19 pandemic persists. We know of the pre-existing systemic inequities that have increased the rates of gender-based violence since the pandemic. We know that financial security is a key factor for all women, especially those who wish to leave abusive relationships. For those women who work on the front lines of the pandemic, often and precarious low-wage employment, for economic instability increases the challenge of leaving abusive situations. We know that the lockdown mandates have either created or deepened conditions of violence in the home and increased barriers to escaping that violence. We know that women and children who are unhoused face additional pressures to find safe and accessible shelter that protects them from violence as well as COVID-19. We know that women and children who are racialized have experienced an increase in xenophobic hate crimes and racist street…street harassment. We know that just as gender-based violence has increased in intensity, so too has our commitment to reducing and preventing violence against all women. I want to thank Mayor Bowman for his ongoing support for the Winnipeg Safe Cities Initiative and for securing a contract position for our coordinator, Crystal Van Den Bussche, through his office budget. We are developing an inter-departmental sub-committee for internal stakeholders to examine and strengthen City of Winnipeg policies to make our public spaces more inclusive, equitable and safe to have a safe city by design. Lastly, for those who wish to take part in the 16 days of activism, please follow us on Twitter @winnipegsafecities for daily updates on actions we can all take to make our city…City of Winnipeg safer for all. Thank you and megwich.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Final speaker, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. It is fitting that I follow Councillor Gilroy on, really, the same item. I want to acknowledge that the Bear Clan is marching today to the Oodena Circle for a candle light vigil as it is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women as well as the beginning of 16 days of activism against gender violence. Today at Council, we have the opportunity to pass what all councillors have been involved in, in particular, the women of Council, a safer city by design, which recognizes the collective impact of community-based organizations like the Bear Clan and in our City policies, programs, services that support safety. So, I want to stand and recognize today,

Madam Speaker, the efforts of all people in the city to make our city safer and hope that we can eliminate gender-based violence in the City of Winnipeg by our action, deeds and, certainly, words.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins.

MINUTES

Councillor Mayes moves that the Minutes of the meetings held on October 28th, 2021 and November 3rd, 2021, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That is carried.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We'll now move into delegations. We have with us in person Mr. Colin Fast, if I could call you down, please. He is the Director of Policy with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. He is in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated November 17th, 2021. It's regarding the COVID-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan Framework. We'll have 10 minutes on the clock. Welcome.

Colin Fast: Good morning councillors. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you folks this morning, especially in person. That's kind of nice. So, I'm actually going to have mostly positive things to say this morning and then I'll let Lorne come back next month and argue you with you all about the budget. Here to talk about the COVID Economic Response Plan. On behalf of the Chamber and our 2,000 members, I just want to start off by saying that, you know, we really appreciate that the City undertook this initiative. We know that the City does have its own financial challenges to deal with due to the pandemic and in some ways, it would be understandable if you just chose to focus on those at this time. But we feel that taking a broader approach and trying to stimulate recovery, not just within the business community but within the community as a whole, is a much better longer-term solution. You know, if there's one, I guess, good thing to come out of the last 20 months or 20 years or however long it's…we have been doing this now, it is that the pandemic has kind of forced governments at all levels to adapt, to look at new ways of doing things, new ways of delivering services and I think that is certainly reflected in the document that's before you today. I'm not going to go through things line by line, but I did want to highlight a few things that were items that, you know, we've certainly heard from our members and things that have come up in conversation that we've had with councillors or members of the administration. Things that we think are positive. You know, taking a look at the business tax and continuing to increase that small business tax threshold, I think we all know that, you know, the pandemic has had probably a bit of a disproportionate impact on some of the smaller businesses in our community. So, we think that targeting that segment of the business community at this point is a really smart move. Continuing the temporary patio permit program and the 15-minute loading zones outside of businesses, again, I mean, it's in some ways maybe looked upon as a small move, but you know, it's a practical thing that, you know, we're hearing positive things from our members about. And you know, when I talk about adapting, this is one of these examples. And I've said this to other people that, you know, that temporary patio permit program, I think, is maybe the quickest I have ever seen the City move from concept to execution in the, you know, two decades or so that I have been paying attention to what's been going on here. So, that there seems to be some commitment to, you know, trying to take that example and build on it, you know, for other services, I think is really positive. Waiving permit fees for street closures for festivals. I know a few of our members, you know, and I'm thinking of the, you know, Pride Winnipeg and some of the work that they do in their parade, for example, I know that there's significant financial expense for them to look at street closures. So, to the extent that we can support that and, you know, get more people out enjoying the downtown and different parts of our community, I think, is definitely a positive. Continuing to improve the permits and inspections process; and here, as well, I actually have to take this opportunity to really, you know, commend the department. Over the last couple of years, there's been some great work done in the Permits Department. A lot of process mapping exercises and, you know, significant improvements to the way that they do things. I sit on the Industry Advisory Group, you know, for that department and yeah, the change that we have seen in the last couple of years is remarkable. You know, being industry and especially, I think, if you hear from the developers, no, it's never going to be fast enough, but you know, there definitely has been some improvements in that area. The focus on downtown and supporting the Downtown Recovery Strategy is obviously critical. I'm sure a lot of you, you know, spend time down here and spend time, you know, downtown and, you know, all you have to do is walk down the sidewalk and realize that, you know, there are definitely challenges out there. There are, you know, significant number people are you still, you know, working from home and those businesses, in particular, you know, restaurants, hospitality, you know, service-related businesses that really need people down here are

still continuing to struggle. So, to the extent that we can support, you know, the Downtown BIZ and CentreVenture in their efforts to support downtown businesses is definitely key. Accelerating the servicing of the airport area west to accommodate more employment lands is an issue that the Chamber has talked about for several years now. And you know, just adding more employment lands in general, you know, we think is a positive approach. And then taking a look, again, going back to the service delivery adaptations and, you know, a commitment to focusing on a digital first approach, you know, we have seen that, you know, the City has done that to some extent. We've seen it at the Federal Government level, you know, programs like CERB that were, you know, conceived as digital first rather than trying to take a manual process and tack on, you know, a digital aspect to it. We really do think that that is the best approach going forward. And again, you know, I'll mention the work done by the permits branch. I know that, you know, now you can do…instead of taking all of your papers and going, sit…standing in a line on Fort Street, you can do most of that work, you know, online and it's really streamlined that process. And then finally, I don't think I would be a legitimate Chamber delegation if I didn't mention, you know, a continued focus on red tape reduction which is mentioned in this report. So, yeah, we definitely think that is a positive. I know that at some point, I think it was back in the spring, when there was the last red tape update, it was mentioned of forming, you know, an advisory committee task force of some sort, which would include, you know, the Chamber and various other, you know, business organizations and we really look forward to that work getting underway. And, so yeah. I mean, in conclusion, you know, from our organization's perspective, we think that the Economic Response Plan is something that's really needed in our community and we appreciate the work that has gone into it. I know that, you know, everyone around this room had an opportunity to contribute to it, you know, through the community committee level. And yeah, we sincerely appreciate it. So, that's basically all I have to say.

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

Colin Fast: I thought I was going to get away easy.

Councillor Lukes: Oh, no, you made the trip down. We'll make it worth your while. So, in this…in this recovery plan, you speak of looking at new ways of doing things and that the…I want to share with you…I wanted to know if you knew that this report is a new way of doing things at city hall. In April of this year, an amending motion came forward. I don't know if you knew that. That asked that every single councillor, that it go back to the community committees and that every single councillor have input. Did you know that?

Colin Fast: Yes, I did know the…yeah, that that change was made.

Councillor Lukes: Yeah, and that that is something we rarely do at city hall. I think Councillor Rollins may have brought forward an initiative that went back to every single councillor. Another question; do you think that the value of having the representation of every part of the city in this economic recovery plan is important, Mr. Fast?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: You worked at city hall. (inaudible) question. Do you think it's important that…I'll repeat it, that every single councillor representing 40 to 50,000 people have the opportunity for input into the economic recovery plan? Do you think it's important?

Colin Fast: You know, I think in this particular case…

Madam Speaker: Have a seat, Councillor Lukes.

Colin Fast: That it probably was a valuable exercise. Obviously, you know, this is an issue that impacts the entire community and you know, I do see in the final recommendations, I think there actually were some tweaks that were made as a result of some of the recommendations made at the community committee level. So, you know, to that extent then, yeah, I think this probably was a positive experience. As to, you know, how that applies going forward, I leave that to, you know, all of you to make those decisions.

Councillor Lukes: And I guess my last question is; do you think going forward, to have the representation of every councillor who represents 50,000 plus people is important in the development of a budget or the development of other policies and plans?

Colin Fast: Certainly, you know, I think that, yeah, having contributions and not just from councillors but from, you know, from the community as a whole. And I know the City has invested significantly in the public engagement process over the last several years. And you know, I've had the opportunity to take advantage of...to take part in several of those sessions. So, you know, yeah, to the extent that we can have more voices around the table, that's great and then obviously, you

know, at the Council level, you know, sitting in these meetings today, you all have that opportunity as well to voice your opinion on things.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next question, Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Out of the frying pan into the fryer.

Colin Fast: I think my parking is almost up.

Councillor Chambers: Economic recovery is what we're focusing on as we move towards an endemic state of this pandemic, as a chamber, what messaging are you providing to businesses, especially in the downtown context, with respect to back to work and getting that mass amount of people back into the downtown area that will have an impact on our economic recovery?

Colin Fast: Yeah, I mean, that is something that we have been talking about. You know, our office, we certainly have been back on a full-time basis since…since the beginning of September, I guess. But even then, we do have some flexibility built in. I think there's some recognition that there are going to be changes going forward and that many work places are going to be adapting a bit more of a flexible model. But again, you know, I talked about, you know, what is going on downtown right now and clearly having more people, you know, back in the office is going to make a significant difference. So, you know, we are encouraging our members that...you know, to the extent that they can do that safely, that that is something that we think is important for our community is to have more people working downtown. You know, we clearly can't dictate to our members how they should manage their…manage their businesses, but I think we...like I said, we all know for the success of this city…for the city to be successful, we need to have a thriving downtown and, you know, having more people down here is key to that.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, Colin Fast, thank you for your presentation.

Colin Fast: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, I'll call forward Mark Cohoe of Bike Winnipeg. He is in support of Item 2 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. It's the report dated November 5th, 2021 and it's regarding Updates on the Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies Document – Northwest Hydro Corridor Phase 1. We'll have 10 minutes on the clock.

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker, point of order.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Nason: We're having electronic difficulties with our Outlook, yet again. It has been ongoing for the last couple of months. And I did note that I saw something that indicated there was some correspondence with regards to this delegation. Unable to access it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for that. My Outlook is working. I don't know what is happening. It was down, I believe, a few days ago as well. If you have your iPhone, Councillor Nason, that should work in the short term. But our Clerk is aware and maybe if you could print out…I don't think it's a long piece. Let's just look. Did…was something circulated, Mr. Clerk? An e-mail? If that could be printed out and give it to Councillor Nason first, please. And if anyone else requires a printed copy, please alert our City Clerk. Mr. Cohoe, 10 minutes on the clock. You're in support of this item.

Mark Cohoe: Yes, thank you. I'm here today in support of the motion directing the Winnipeg Public Service to communicate with Manitoba Hydro in order to facilitate the construction of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway Phase 1 from Leila Avenue to Church Street North. As you may know, development of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway has been a priority of both the City and of Bike Winnipeg since approval of the City's Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies in 2015, and in fact, Bike Winnipeg has been championing this route since 2011. Over $1 million has been allocated to design for the construction of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway to date. And projected City budgets in 2024 and 2025 allocate an additional $1.7 million to this project. Construction work on the greenway should have begun in 2016. That was the date that the first allocation of funding through the Pedestrian and Cycling Action Plan was allocated by City budgets. But unfortunately, the City and Hydro have been unable to negotiate on easements and access through the

hydro corridor for the pathway construction and that construction has not begun. Another summer's construction season has been missed and construction inflation continues to eat away at the project's budget, as well, grants that the City has an opportunity to apply for to both provincial and federal have timelines that we need to be thinking of with respect to these goals. So, it's our understanding, really, that some fairly onerous demands from Hydro are the key stalling point in the negotiations. As you may know, certainly, we all recognize the urgency of actions required to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to avoid warming and (inaudible) climate. Councillor Allard shared with you some really shocking news that's really showing us the impacts that climate change is having already on our country and on our communities. It's certainly...you know, transportation causes over half of Winnipeg's greenhouse gas emissions and Winnipeg Climate Action Plan, which was unanimously adopted in 2018, calls for us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and in particular, to reduce our transportation related greenhouse gas emissions by shifting our travel from private vehicles to walking, cycling and transit. Completion of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway is a significant step in our city's effort to make that change but we need to have an agreement from Manitoba Hydro to get this project moving forward. Your support in this letter to Hydro and provincial minister overseeing its operations is needed to help the project moving, as is your continuing support to fund and complete the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway and the rest of Winnipeg's walking and cycling networks. So, that's really the urgency here. And really, the higher we can go on the…from the City, if we can get the Mayor's signature, the CAO on this and Council 's support, I think it will make a difference for Hydro and to get this really important project moving. The Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway, for those who don't know, will be constructed as a separated bicycle/pedestrian pathway along our hydro right of way that runs parallel to McPhillips Street from McPhillips Street Casino to Seven Oaks Hospital and beyond. The Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway will eventually extend the future Chief Peguis Trail in Precinct B if that ever gets built, could ultimately reach north across the perimeter highway. South of McPhillips Street Station, there's considerable potential to connect the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway, across the CPR main line pathways and low-stress bike routes reaching to Red River Poly-Tech, St. James Industrial, Polo Park, downtown, The Forks, St. James, River Heights and, ultimately, the U of W and the U of M. So, it's an incredibly important connection and you can imagine that until this connection is really in place, the northwest of the city really has no access to the rest of the city other than sort of heading east without…without this kind of...at least from a biking point of view. Thinking about some of the highlights. You know, it's really creating connections to an underserved community in terms of cycling routes and I have attached a table that sort of goes through the different bike routes. It is based on data from the City of Winnipeg's open data site. And you will see that, actually, only five kilometers out of 365 kilometers of total pathways and bike facilities are included in the Old Kildonan Ward and that actually includes, I'm not sure why, but it includes this Northwest Hydro Corridor even though it hasn't been built as well as probably some other areas that are planned but not necessarily built within that region. So, it's very underserved, but it has huge potential. You know, it connects to the Chief Peguis Trail's pathways, Kingsbury Avenue, Jefferson, Church, McCrae Avenue, Pritchard, Alexander, Pacific, Elgin, the Health Sciences Centre complex. If we continue it south; both Red River College campuses. Potential connections; Empress Street pathway, the Winnipeg Beach greenway if we ever get that done. And some very high value destinations: Seven Oaks Hospital, eventually Health Sciences complex is something to connect through here. Garden City Shopping Centre, Superstore, Canada Centre, Northgate Mall. In terms of education, there are many schools along this route including Andrew Mynarski, Robertson, Elwick Community School, Sisler High School, Lord Selkirk School, Maples Collegiate, Seven Oaks. Employment; it's really a connection into Inkster Industrial Park, Pacific Industrial Park, McPhillips Street Casino and the St. James Industrial Park and the Polo Park area. So, again, huge potential to connect to those areas. Parks and recreation as well; Simkin Park, Dobrinsky Park, Fort Whyte Park and Recreation Centre, McPhillips athletic grounds, the old Exhibition grounds, community gardens along Fife, the Elwick Recreation Centre, the Maples Multiplex. In terms of culture; again, there's the Caribbean Cultural Centre, the Cinema City Northgate, Canad Inns Garden City. So, it's a very important connection. And like I said, it has been on the books since 2016 that the City has been trying to move this forward. Obviously, you know, we're stalled through Hydro. And I think it really needs to be pushed to the higher level than has been pushed to date. It needs to be coming from the highest levels, really. From Council, certainly, you know, we have sent a letter to the minister of account services back in December, 2020 and I'm resending letters again today to emphasize the importance of this network to make sure that Hydro gets the message that this is a critical component of our plan, that this is critical for both the City and the Province to match our greenhouse gas emissions and that this is a top priority of the City of Winnipeg. So, I really do urge you to move this motion forward and thank you for hopefully doing so and to move forward with our pedestrian cycling strategies. You know, they're an important part to our climate mitigation and our reaction to climate and our efforts to reduce our emissions. So, I'm happy to take any questions or do I wait for a second?

Madam Speaker: We'll take questions momentarily, if you could just stay on the bench. Thank you, Mark Cohoe. Next, I'd like to call forward Peter Obendoerfer. He is in support of the same item. We'll have five minutes on the clock.

Peter Obendoerfer: Good morning. I'm Peter Obendoerfer, I'm the Seven Oaks School Division Bicycle Education Coordinator and former administrator at one of the schools close by to the proposed northwest hydro corridor. Beginning in 2016, Seven Oaks has been teaching students in the division safe cycling skills. We have been promoting the use of active transportation like cycling to keep students physically active and healthy and to benefit our environment by reducing our reliance on cars. Unfortunately, although we are teaching our students how to safely navigate their bikes on city

streets, it's been well documented that protected cycling infrastructures is the game changer for people of all ages and abilities using bikes to get around the city. To date, far too little of the cycling network and in particular, protected infrastructure such as what is being proposed in the northwest hydro corridor, has been developed in the northwest quadrant of the city. The Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway will make a dramatic difference in how our students and all Winnipeggers can access the area. Living in the south end of the city myself, I can take advantage of the paths along the new transitway, the seasonal closures on Wellington Crescent and Wolseley and the new separated path along Empress. But when I ride towards the Seven Oaks schools where I'm teaching and forced on to either Keewatin or McPhillips, and I was struck by this inconsistency in the north part of the city. This really does need to change. Beginning from my years as principal of Elwick School, which is only a couple hundred metres away from the corridor, I have worked with the Wrench community bike shop to acquire bikes for students and their parents. For many new Winnipeggers or new Canadians in the area, bikes can provide a lifeline to employment opportunities and a means to get to training or mentorship placements. The northwest corridor would open such opportunities. Internationally, it has been clearly demonstrated that a combination of education and infrastructure are key to increasing active, sustainable transportation for a city. Places like Vancouver and Montreal have seen huge successes with their efforts. Seven Oaks has taken on the challenge of providing cycling education to all our students and it's now up to the City to provide equitable infrastructure throughout the city. Approval of the Northwest Hydro Corridor Greenway needs to move forward. We are very much in favour of the request to reach out to Manitoba Hydro imploring their speedy approval of the needed rights of way and construction permissions. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentations. Any questions? Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: It is fitting, I think, Madam Speaker, that there is an educator here for Seven Oaks and Bike Winnipeg. As everyone in the city knows thanks to my colleague, Councillor Gilroy, I'm a novice bike rider. I learned last year for my...what I guess was before my 45th birthday and I'm terrible at it, but I learned because of Principal Vinh Huynh at Gordon Bell. I learned because for years he would invite me, Madam Speaker, to learn with his students. And I finally, before my 45th birthday, got up the courage to learn and it is thanks to educators like Vinh Huynh that made me brave enough to do so. Now, I say this story because I'm obviously supportive of productive bike infrastructure because my skills are so horrid that without it, I can't at all cycle. But it isn't about me or us or anyone in this chamber, but it's about the citizens that we take an oath to, in many important ways, to protect. Manitoba Hydro has a story to tell here and could have a really great story to tell. And unfortunately, my experience as the councillor for Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry, I don't have easy stories to tell with respect to Hydro, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins, question?

Councillor Rollins: I'm hoping this is an easy story to tell. And so, for our speakers, could you reflect on the Hydro-owned land and how important this is going to be for Hydro to partner with the City and for us to get this done?

Peter Obendoerfer: Well, I believe that for Hydro, this is a way for them to maybe make some improvements on the city rather than, as you eluded to, things that have happened in the past. But I think it's going to be a really strong connection for...when I think about my own experiences as the principal of Elwick School, we had people coming into the community as refugees, as people coming from first nations to starting out their lives in the city and being able to have them cycle more safely, unless you say, like, you're a new cyclist. For a new cyclist or ages…all ages and abilities, we're talking about protected bike lanes that will make it safer and more comfortable for people who ride. Rather than…right now, we do have a diamond lane on McPhillips but I know a couple of times even this fall when I have been commuting, I have been, you know, cut off on there because we don't have an actual barrier between that diamond lane and the rest of the traffic. So, I think it could make a huge difference to people in that community and Winnipeg in general. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I'll ask you a question and then I'll ask Mr. Cohoe a question. My question is to you, do you take your students out on any infrastructure in the area or where do they practice?

Peter Obendoerfer: Yes, we do. Our goal, really, is to have the kids being more active in how they get to school. Through the Green Action Centre, we survey the students annually and we're up to about 30% for active transportation getting to school, either they say bike, walk or roll. And so, we…this fall for example, I have been riding pretty well daily with my students on the new, I think it's a temporary neighbourhood greenway which goes between on Powers and McCrae. So, we've…which is…it is modelled very similar to where my son lives in Vancouver on Adanac Street. And it's…there you see thousands of bikes on any given day. And it has made it easier for us to teach the rules of the road on a street where there's lower traffic, and it has been wonderful. In the Maples, we…there's less of that, right. So, we do take the kids on Church, there's a bike lane there as well. But we do seek them out in the different neighbourhoods in Seven Oaks.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Lukes: And how many schools are participating in this training in the Seven Oaks division?

Peter Obendoerfer: At this point, in our division we're teaching every single middle year student in the division. And so, we have 12,000 students at any given time in our division, we are working in 10 schools at a time teaching all of the students from grades 6 to 8. And we've, actually, recently expanded to two other divisions, which would be St. James and Louis Riel. And we're starting to build and hoping to move into all the city divisions within the next decade.

Councillor Lukes: Okay. I have another question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Mr. Cohoe, on your work regarding the Northwest Hydro Corridor Pathway. I, as you know, worked with you many years on identifying that and it being the most under-served area in the City of Winnipeg. And it is just shocking that it's five kilometres or less in that quadrant of the city. I have two questions, can I ask both of them, Madam Speaker? I forget. Can I ask my two questions or one? Okay. And…all right. Now I forgot my two questions. All right, I want to know if a bike to…bike to…I'm going to say bike to the future because I'm back in 2011. Oh my god. If you have done any work on reaching out to the MLAs in the area and stressing to them the importance and helping them advocate also. And I want to know if you think that by seeing how under-served the northwest quadrant of the city is, five kilometres to the hundreds throughout the city, do you think that there's any possibility that this could be because the two councillors in the…representing the northwest quadrant of the city have not ever had the opportunity to sit on the Executive Policy Committee where inner-city decisions or where city decisions are made for over 10 years? For over 10 years, those two councillors in that area have never been represented on the inner-city, inner circle, decision making, and I think this is a reflection of the nominal numbers of active transportation routes. So, those are two questions.

Mark Cohoe: Yeah, so certainly, we do need to reach out to our MLAs. I think that's an action we'll be moving on. We have, as I mentioned, we've been bringing this issue up through provincial channels, whether it's the provincial Active Transportation Advisory Group, which unfortunately, no longer exists. And that was back in 2016, again, to match when the City was coming through. We have sent letters to the provincial Crown's Minister. You know, we're hopeful to see progress. But yes, we do need to go through and move that. In terms of…there's multiple reasons why we see less infrastructure in certain wards. It depends on when a ward is built. Certainly, you're from Waverley West so pathways have been really built into the precinct planning in that plan. And within Old Kildonan, we see Amber Trails as the area that probably has some of the most trails within that region. So, we're doing a better job as we build our precincts out including active transportation. We're not doing a good job of connecting those and we haven't done a good job of making sure that we're providing the speed with which to develop our network. Do I think…I do think that, you know, it is important to have all councillors involved in the creation of the transit…well, all of your infrastructure within the cycling community. It really needs that champion such as Councillor Sharma who has been championing the Northwest Hydro Corridor here to move forward. But it needs the budget, and ultimately, the budget is somewhat determined within executive council and the Budget Working Group. So, that's all I'll say on that one to be a little bit safe (inaudible).

Councillor Lukes: I can answer that question. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Yes, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Hadn't planned to ask, but in the wake of that conspiracy theory question on EPC, are you aware…I'm the longest serving member of EPC, are you aware that the Pedestrian Cycle Master Plan which came out in 2015 in the wake of some radio ads being paid for by Councillor Wyatt who was not on EPC, Councillor Browaty was not on EPC and some other councillors, that plan, 5-year plan envisaged zero dollars for St. Vital Ward even though I was on EPC. And in fact, the main projects that were included in that were Transcona Trail and, ultimately, $8 million federal contribution went into Councillor Browaty's ward for bridgework there. So, I appreciate Councillor Lukes' belief that the rain…the rain falls on…the sun only shines in wards represented by EPC, but are you aware that the 5-year plan that came out, which I voted for, and which others voted against, that actually had zero dollars for St. Vital Ward?

Mark Cohoe: You know, I would say that it wasn't specifically putting dollars in the wards. I think it put dollars into…and it prioritized, but I probably agree that St. Vital didn't have a prioritized…high prioritized routes, which we're the only ones that would have been probably…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins moves one-minute extension. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Thank you. Anything further, Councillor Mayes? Any further questions? Seeing none, thank you both for your presentations to Council today. Okay, next, we have Romeo Ignacio Jr., he is the President, Business Agent ATU Local 1505. He is joining us

virtually. He is in support of the report of the Executive Policy Committee date November 17th, 2021. It's regarding the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy 2021-2031. Welcome.

Romeo Ignacio: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning. Good morning Mayor Bowman. Good morning Councillors, delegates. Thank you for having me. I'm here in support...to speak in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. I think it is a very well-thought out strategy. And it's not only because it includes transportation or public transit, but I think it brings attention to all aspects of poverty because I believe poverty affects every one of us. I was actually hoping that I would be able to present my presentation, my PowerPoint presentation...

Madam Speaker: Mr. Ignacio, just one moment, please. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker, I again raise on a point of order that the presentation was shared with Council from this delegation. Again, e-mail is not operational in the council chamber.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. I will note that my computer is no longer working. It was shortly after you pointed it out the first time. I do have a question for the Clerk. Mr. Clerk, is it possible that we could take a short recess, and would it help to reset the system? What is happening here? Are you aware?

City Clerk: We have reached out to our friends in Corporate IT. I believe they're working on it, but I don't have any timeline back for resolution at this point.

Councillor Allard: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I am receiving e-mail. I don't know what…

Madam Speaker: On your computer?

Councillor Allard: Yes.

Madam Speaker: So, I think it's affecting…

Councillor Allard: I'm using web mail. That might help some…some.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. The iPhones are certainly working. Maybe Mr. Deputy City Clerk, if you could go around and ensure that we know how to log on to web mail. My computer is now frozen. There's many issues happening and it is a problem. Okay, because it…we cannot do our work as efficiently as is needed. I've certainly brought extra hard copies today, I'm glad I did that. Moving on, back to the presentation. Mr. Ignacio.

Romeo Ignacio: Thank you. I hope I still have enough time. But I was hoping that I would be able to present the PowerPoint because I think a picture…a picture is worth 1,000 words and I just sent you 21,000 words in that presentation. And but, you know, for those who are not able to access that, I did e-mail it separately. But anyway, I will go through it. I would like to point out that our bus shelters are being used as home for those who are unsheltered. Even before COVID hit, they have been home to some people, but with the COVID pandemic, more and more people...unsheltered people have used the bus shelters as their home. You will see in the pictures that most of them are, actually, elderly adult individuals who may be out of luck, down on their luck and there's one picture there that shows even somebody who has a walker living somewhere down Portage in one of the bus shelters. In one picture you can see people sleeping day or night. And there's one picture there, I don't know if it's very clear, that street lights are on and there's people getting ready to sleep. There's also a picture of what they do to make sure that they are able to survive in the cold. They put up cardboard to seal the bus shelters and even use it as a temporary door because for some reason, the door is not there. You can see lots of garbage in the bus shelter that after, you know, after they stayed in the bus shelter, that's being cleaned by…off by workers…by Transit workers to maintain the bus shelters. It is a health concern not only for our workers, our bus operators and also the public who use them. There's a picture there of what it would look…what it looked like after a fire ruined or basically gutted the bus shelter down on Osborne and Broadway. There's also a picture of electrical tampering. People are able to utilize the electrical…the free electricity to run another heater or in some cases, a microwave. I don't have a picture of that, but we have seen that. There's a picture there of an exposed heating element which is, obviously, a danger to the public if you're not aware of it. There's pictures of adult diapers. I'm sorry. And there's also pictures of used needles. And lastly, there's a picture of our inspectors, our bus shelter maintenance workers, a loader, a front-end loader and several trucks used by maintenance to clean a bus shelter that has been used for, you know, temporary shelter by the unsheltered. What I wanted to say in this presentation is that it costs a lot of money for the City. It's the hidden cost of not dealing with poverty. And I'm glad that there is now a strategy and I hope that at tomorrow's EPC meeting, when you table the budget for 2022, that you will take that into account. Take these pictures into account and address the issue of not only the poverty, the access to transit, affordable transit, access to safe injection sites and a means to actually get people around. I think we have to realize that by ignoring poverty, we're not only ignoring the people that we should be caring

about, but we're also ignoring the cost of providing the health and safety for people that are marginalized and the general riding public. It says in the report that Transit is the fourth low-hanging fruit. Low-hanging means we can do it. It doesn't take much to do it. I know some of you may think that, well, where's the money, where's the money? Well, if we have the money to take care of them after they go to the hospital because they are suffering from cold exposure or you know, malnutrition or anything, then we should find the money to actually prevent that because I think prevention would actually save us money in the long run. Also, there's a…in Appendix B, there is a comment by one of the participants, I believe, that the City shouldn't always focus on infrastructure but focus on the service. So, again, if you think about the capital investments on new buses, on transitway, which are good investments, but we have to also…and we also have to take a look at improving the service. We cannot…we cannot improve the service by giving...by providing the lanes for our buses but there's no buses that will take them or use them or there's very limited number of buses. You cannot expect people to use transit when there's no transit service. Like, in the development past…around Jefferson and Templeton. Or Sage Creek when there's very limited service. Or the new developments in the East Kildonan area or the Waverley West. There's a lot of areas that need service and that can be a barrier for people that are needing to go to the hospital, to school or needing to go to their work. If you don't have access to your own vehicle, how do you go to your work? It's also important for…that to realize that this is a multi facetted approach. It deals with climate change and I believe that is included in the strategy. And I'm glad that it's included in there. I'm glad that Councillor Allard started with the…focused on the…what's happening in BC. We probably don't have a lot of mountains here, but…

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Romeo. Thank you for the presentation. We'll now take questions. That's okay? Thank you. Councillor Nason, followed by Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Nason: I was actually raise my hand most recently to grant an extension, but we've moved onto questions. So, that's okay. I want to start by thanking members of the ATU for coming here today and what they face on a daily basis on the streets of Winnipeg. I also want to say thank you to the first responders that are out there that also address this and those that support...the supporting agencies like St. Boniface Street Links and Main Street Project on these matters. My first question is, from an ATU perspective, when…like, this has been going on for not just COVID, but how far back were the transit issues that you've presented, when did they first start appearing?

Romeo Ignacio: I started as an operator back in 2005. And I believe I've seen some of them but not to this magnitude. I have seen...actually, I work late nights and you probably don't see them right now, but for the most part, when I'm going by city hall after 10:00 at night, both the one right outside your door and the one across the Concert Hall, they're both occupied by people that need...that are unsheltered. So, even dating back in 2005, there's people that are using our bus shelters, but I've never seen it to this extent. I've never seen it where they are actually putting cardboard boxes over the door or do, you know, do anything like this to access the power supply or the electrical supply so they could bring heat because the heater is not working. So, to us, we brought this in, I believe, last year or early this year, it has been, you know...it's gotten this bad probably because of COVID but it is getting worse.

Councillor Nason: For my second question, if I may, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you. For my second question, do you think this is having a negative impact on people getting back on transit?

Romeo Ignacio: I believe so. I know that we have dealt with...we have had reports of the general public getting assaulted at our bus stops. And I'm not saying that the people that are using the bus shelters as their home are doing this, but it gives them...whenever they go in a near bus shelter with people occupying that, it gives that perception. It's not always true. And I don't want people to think that it is unsafe. It is just that there is that perception, people are using our bus shelters and they are congregating there when it should be a space for people to actually stay warm while waiting for their buses. It is also a place for our bus operators to wait for their buses when they're taking over from on the streets. So, you know, there should be a place for the unsheltered and I hope the Poverty Reduction Strategy will address that so we can provide that space for the people that need it, to our…for the riding public, for our workers and also to be proactive in preventing people from getting more sick or, you know, not having access to a safe space. And it's important to realize that there are costs involved. When you don't...when you ignore this problem, there's going to be costs involved in, you know, later down the road and I think it's more cost effective to address the issue before it gets worse.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further question? Councillor Nason, final question.

Councillor Nason: Yeah, last question. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Listening to you talk about the shelters not being used for their expressed purpose, do you think removing the shelters as a whole, including the ones in front of city hall

and the Concert Hall, that are being used for other items rather than transit use, do you think that that would force people to actually seek the supports that they desperately need?

Romeo Ignacio: That is a tough question, Councillor Nason. I don't…and I would point out that that would be reactionary. I actually would rather have the bus shelters, especially during this cold time, for people to stay warm while they're waiting for their buses. I mean, the bus shelters are meant because…meant for people to, you know, to be safe from the weather elements, from the elements because our buses don't always come on time. Our buses are sometimes 30 minutes apart at night, especially. So, there is value to having those bus shelters. But I understand that, you know, having let this problem go…get this big that we're choosing between getting rid of the bus shelters so we can push the unsheltered to use...to go somewhere else. We're actually not really solving the problem. We're just pushing that problem further. You know, I have seen...these pictures are actually mostly somewhere down Osborne, downtown area, Portage, you know, west of Portage, Sherbrook area. But these are also happening in…down Pembina. There's an encampment near the university of…University of Manitoba. There's also encampments down Notre Dame. We can't just keep ignoring the issue because it's getting...you know, you can't push it because it's not going to go away. It's just that…

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Romeo. Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, your question.

Councillor Schreyer: Yeah, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to see Mr. Ignacio here to speak on aspects of the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy which we'll be dealing with today. And part of that also includes, we're talking about how we have a low-income bus pass as part of the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy. Now, happens to be that in the last 50 years, in my lifetime, the regular bus fare has gone up 20 times. The cost of bus fare in Winnipeg in the last 50 years has gone up 50 times. That's just a fact. And yeah, I'll tell you why; in 1969, it was $0.15. okay. So, essentially 15 times. If you want to say 48 times or 49 times, that's okay with me. But so we know because it was $0.15 when I was…when I was young. So, it's gone up 20 times because now it's $3.05, right? So, I know there's some doubt about that. So, let's say it again, it's gone up 20 times in 50 years. I want to ask a question of Mr. Ignacio, have the bus drivers wages or the mechanics or any Transit workers, have their wages and salaries gone up 20 times in the last 50 years?

Romeo Ignacio: That's a good question. I have only been a bus operator...and thank you for your question, Councillor Schreyer. I have only been an operator since 2005 and I believe the top rate…top rate was just over $20. As you know, it is now 29, so that probably is closer to 30%. And so, the 20% increase in bus fare…actually, I think since...but then in 2005, the bus fare was $1.35. That I could remember because I was in training back then and you have to cut the transfers to make sure that, you know, we keep on updating the fare. We were actually counting the fare then. So, anyway, compared to that. It's actually gone up 50%.

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

Romeo Ignacio: Thank you. So you know, between my…between the time I started and now, it's actually gone up over 50%. So, that is separate issue, however. I mean, the wages, I think it is more dependant on the cost of living. And it's obviously a bargaining issue, too. However, that's a fact that people could see that information. So, I'm not going to hide it. However, I would point out that it's…we can't continue on having revenue depend on transit system because as you know, right now, we're dealing with less revenue because people are working from home. I know we can't be judging what is happening right now because of COVID-19, but…and I hope EPC…members of EPC will consider that in the…in the budget. But one of the issues is the fare is actually a very big issue, if not the most important issue about access to transit because if people can't afford to use transit then you're putting a barrier and, you know, what do you expect when people can't move around?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Romeo. We have more questions. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, it occurs to me in trying to solve these financial problems of the City, bus drivers, Transit workers, City workers are stigmatized because people actually believe…they actually believe that they're the primary burden as to why we're going into debt. Why our taxes are going up, why our services are going down. Why we're increases…increasing all fees, levies, fines. Madam Speaker, has the City provided the members of the active transit…of ATU, Amalgamated Transit Union or to the bus riders of Winnipeg or the taxpayers of Winnipeg…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, our time is up for question period. Don't see any extensions.

Councillor Schreyer: Has the City bothered to tell us why this is happening? Because people think it's the City workers. They think it's the Transit workers. Have they told us why the bus…the bus charges are going up? The bus fares are going up. Because it's not the City workers.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason wants an extension for one minute. All in favour? All in favour? Contrary? Okay. We're moving on to the next delegation. Romeo Ignacio, thank you for your time today.

Romeo Ignacio: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next delegation via Zoom is Molly McCracken. She is the Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba Office. She is appearing in support of Item 14 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated November 17th, 2021. It's regarding Market Sounding and Analysis for Private-Public Partnership (P3) for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades. Welcome. We have 10 minutes on the clock for you.

Molly McCracken: Good morning and greetings to everyone. Can you hear me okay?

Madam Speaker: Yes, we can.

Molly McCracken: Thank you. Honourable Mayor and city councillors, congratulations on the news late yesterday that the City and Province have reached an agreement to apply to the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. This is good news. I'm presenting evidence here today to use a traditional public design, build, finance, operate and maintain model with the North End Sewage Treatment Plant. In reference to the market standing report, the report to Executive Policy Committee from November 17th states, "As a result of this exercise, the market has indicated that a P3 design, build, finance or some variation thereof procurement model for the biosolids project may be preferred over the traditional design, bid, build model." I urge you to question this recommendation. This market standing report was done by Deloitte in sole-source contract as you know. It must be taken with a grain of salt. They have an interest in and bias toward the P3 model. For example, Deloitte sponsored the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships Conference held in Winnipeg in May, 2017. The market sounding report asked 12 bidders if they would like to bid on the North End Treatment Plant upgrade, biosolid. With all due respect, this is like asking a child if they would like some candy. Of course, private companies want to bid on maxing public infrastructure projects in order to turn a profit for their shareholder. I'm sorry, I have some little visitors. Just a moment.

Madam Speaker: Looking for candy?

Molly McCracken: My apologies. We're all home with a cold, thankfully not COVID. But my two kids just made an appearance there. I'll resume; the market sounding report was done by Deloitte in a sole-source contract, as you know, and must be taken with a grain of salt. And I already read that part. Notably, there has not been a value for money analysis of the P3 model compared to the traditional model for this project. The motion last May by Council to do the sole-source market found that for the design, build, finance was a compromise in response to the Provincial Government urging to use a P3 for this project or also operate and maintain. The Province has led the City down the P3 path. And while it is promising, the Province has now removed the requirement for the P3. We urge you to look critically at various levels and types of involvement and control over this project. We recommend the City use the traditional build model and abandon the P3 model. The Lake Winnipeg Foundation advised the requirement of the Province to use a P3 model as, and I quote, "A costly roadblock that's prolonging construction timelines and significantly increasing costs with the new biosolids treatment facilities." So, I'll now list five reasons why P3 should not be used by the City, and particularly with this project. First, using even a modified P3 approach will take more time. The market sounding itself says 6 to 9 months. You have seen the economic impacts of the delays with the project. The City must move forward in the most expedient way. Setting up these contracts takes time and there's higher transaction costs. The BC Auditor General found P3 costs more to develop and monitor than conventional infrastructure. Number two, there's mountains of evidence that P3s are more expensive. Other cities and towns are moving away from P3s for waste water treatment. For example, recently Mapleton, Ontario pulled out of a plant for design, build, finance waste water as it was less costly for the township to borrow the money themselves rather than receive private financing. As you well know, the City of Winnipeg moved away from the P3 model with both the south district police station in 2013 and construction of four new fire stations, which has saved Winnipeggers $9.7 million. Number three, there's a lack of transparency with P3 contracts including with Veolia and the City today. The November 17th EPC report describes the City's current contract with the private firm Veolia. It must be recognized that this contract with Veolia was scaled down after significant pushback against a P3 model for Winnipeg's waste water treatment in 2008/2010. This came from community groups, labour and concerned Winnipeggers, including our office at the time. Notably, your former colleague, Councillor Jenny Gerbasi was a lead in the fight against P3s for water and waste at the time. The current arrangement the City has with Veolia is a compromise and Winnipeggers are still in the dark on the specifics of this arrangement. The report to EPC states Veolia is compensated for capital and operating cost savings that are realized as a result of their advice and summarized on the City of Winnipeg's website. However, if you go to the website, you cannot find the amounts that they are compensated. It is not public. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act requests on the business plan and detailed that they award the contracts to Veolia have been refused, due to the claim that disclosure is harmful to a third party's business interest. This is a standard problem in P3 arrangements. Even the market standing report finds that Veolia's contract's information and clarity is important for bidders. P3 bidders

want to know and so do Winnipeggers. We want to know this information as well. The fourth reason to not do a P3 with this project is when the private sector is involved, private interests in water and waste can override the public interests. One of the most tragic of these is what took place in Flint, Michigan, where Veolia was contracted to advise on Flint's water quality. The Guardian and Michigan Live, a local news outlet, obtained e-mails that showed Veolia was aware of lead compromising Flint's water supplies, but Veolia did not make that information public. At the time, Veolia was bidding on other contracts with Flint, Michigan. And the fifth reason to not use a P3 is that large infrastructure projects must create as many local jobs, particularly now in the recovery from COVID. With the City developing a social procurement policy and protocol with stakeholders, it's important to consider which models align with this strategy. A P3 model is not preferred choice. With a P3, the parameters for local hiring are sent out at the beginning, but the City does not control as tightly the deliverables and local hiring outcomes. With the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy, it is imperative that in every decision we make, economic opportunities and local jobs are created for local people. I urge you to move forward with the traditional standard model of design, build, finance, operate and maintain of public assets with this and all City projects. It is in the best interests of Winnipeggers that you serve. Thank you so much for your time, patience and attention.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Are there any questions? Or actually, we're going to go to the next delegation on the same topic. Molly, if you could just stay with us. Next is Gord Delbridge, President of CUPE Local 600. He is in support of the same item and he's appearing via Zoom. And then we'll go on with questions. Welcome, Gord Delbridge.

Gord Delbridge: Hello, and I just want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to speak here today. Of course, I'm here to speak on the water treatment plant upgrades, but I did just want to take just a quick moment just to acknowledge my colleague, Romeo at ATU, the President for his presentation on a serious issue that's happening in Winnipeg. He did a very good job presenting and I hope all of Council was listening, you know, very closely to what he had to say. But of course, I'm here to speak on the water…

Councillor Mayes: We've had the previous speaker accurately identify, this is a wastewater matter. So, if the speaker's referring to water treatment plant upgrades, I'm a bit confused. It's wastewater. I think that's the subject.

Gord Delbridge: That's correct.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Delbridge, you're speaking to the item we just previously heard, correct?

Gord Delbridge: That's correct. Thanks for bringing that to my attention, Councillor Mayes. Okay. So, as you know, Winnipeg families, CUPE members and City administration have been keeping our rivers and lakes clean, keeping Lake Winnipeg clean is a top priority. And we know this means taking action now to ensure that Winnipeg waste doesn't destroy Lake Winnipeg and devastate the beaches, fishers and towns that rely on a clean lake. The wastewater treatment upgrade is needed. It's actually needed to start yesterday. Winnipeg is at significant risk of outgrowing our wastewater capacity and every day this project is delayed, is another day that Winnipeg is at risk of having to freeze residential and industrial development in our city. So, like all of you, we are very excited when we heard that after years of delay, the Provincial Government has finally agreed to forward the ICIP application to the Federal Government. This is a very exciting moment for Winnipeg, and we would like to thank all of you on Council who helped the firm to force the Province to finally make this a reality. However, at yesterday's press conference, with Premier Stefanson and (inaudible) the Province, would be forwarding the ICIP application, both Mayor Bowman and Premier Stefanson refused to roll out privatization of wastewater treatment. It will come as no surprise to this council that CUPE is opposed to privatization of the City services including the North End wastewater treatment plant. First, we believe, and your own reports argue that it would be virtually impossible to operate this one project with private operations, maintenance while maintaining water and wastewater system. Families don't want private companies driven by profit in control of our water and wastewater system. Families don't want to put our beaches, rivers, lakes at risks with short bets and half measures. Winnipeg's economy is in a precarious state, and the City should ensure that Winnipeg fully benefits from this spending, and that is done by hiring local construction companies who employ local workers and good unionized jobs. By going down the P2 road, projects become more complicated, and local companies often end up on the outside as projects are awarded out of province and even to non-Canadian companies. We know that time is of the absolute essence on this project, and every day we wait is another day that the City may be forced to freeze residential or industrial development; a real threat in the near future. We also know that P3s have a long leak and they're more complicated to negotiate, more complicated to get started, and the nature of them requires significantly greater due diligence. We would also add that inflation with the...currently, with the inflation soaring and supply chain issues continuing to impact every aspect of life, the price of this project grows significantly by the day. Also, our borrowing rates remain historically low, but how long will that continue? Whatever savings you might think you might get out of a P3 could be outpaced by further delay on the project. To date, we have…to date, we have provided nothing which indicates that a P3 would actually save money or provide any benefits to the city. The only thing we know is that a whole bunch of companies said they would want the work done as a design, build, plan as P3, but I'd be willing to bet if you would have told them…they would have told you the same thing if they were…if they were interested in...or expressed interest in doing a traditional build. So, before you go down and signing a 30-year deal,

one that will likely go beyond any of our careers at the City, Council would have to be…do even more due diligence, and this will take time, which Winnipeg doesn't have. This project should not be delayed anymore. Even if…even if the operate, maintenance portion was completely taken off the table, there are still good reasons to reject the design, build, finance project. We know that municipalities can borrow money at rates on a far better terms than the private sector. In 2014, the Auditor General of BC examined 16 different P3 projects...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension for one minute. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Gord Delbridge: Thank you. Yeah, in 2014, the Auditor General of BC examined 16 different P3 projects and discovered the cost of private plan on some of these projects was nearly double that of the government's borrowing rates. You know, additionally the transaction costs of P3s are much higher than traditional procurement. On average, almost 12 times as high as traditional procurement, adding nearly 2% to the cost of capital projects and additionally, the City will be expected to pay out of expensive honorariums to the unsuccessful bidders. And just finally, I'd like to add that for the last eight months, City of Winnipeg employees in the Water and Waste Department have been going to work every day during the global pandemic with the sword of privatization and job loss hanging over their heads. They deserve to have assurances from the City that their skills, hard work are expected and valued and that their jobs are safe at the end of the day. The sooner this council can put privatization (inaudible) behind them the better. Thank you very much for your time today. And I look forward to discussions on this very important discussion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We'll take questions. Councillor Mayes, followed by Councillor Nason.

Councillor Mayes: Yeah, my questions are miss…for Ms. McCracken. Thank you for appearing today. Firstly, we've certainly had a number of delegations in regard to the P3 model, both a few months ago and today. Your organization has been consistent, unlike some of my critics who worked for the Selinger government who voted for…consistently backed P3s and who are now calling for my feet. Your organization has been consistent in calling…in faulting P3s. Before I turn, though, to one specific question I had in your presentation, the CCPA has also consistently called for bringing some or all of Transit Plus back in-house. No one appeared at the last meeting other than ATU, to their credit, when this very important item appeared on our agenda. I'm wondering if you have some perspective on that aspect. There was much talk about whether we should bring some of that back in-house. Just as there's been discussion about privatization here, I feel I should give you the opportunity. I know you've had…you've been off on a leave, you're back now. If not for my sake, for Councillor Nason's, perhaps, to his credit, seconded that motion about bringing some of Transit Plus back in-house. Zach Fleischer who I have known a bit, did a study for CCPA back in April, 2019, calling for some of Transit Plus to be brought back in-house. I think we took some action. I wonder if you can just speak to that.

Molly McCracken: Thank you, Councillor Mayes, and thanks for the opportunity by raising that. Yes, certainly, we're very pleased to see the Transit Plus, a portion of which being brought back in-house. That's a wonderful and important step forward. We know that there are service quality issues, and we hope that that will also be resolved, along with, you know, better jobs for those workers by being brought back in-house. And that is certainly a recommendation that was in our state of the inner-city report on transportation equity we did with community-based groups and labour several years ago, and then subsequently, there was more work done on that particular aspect because of the many concerns with Transit Plus and the promise of bringing it back in-house would bring. So, yeah, I…kudos to you for that. That's fantastic. And any time when we can have publicly managed public assets that serve in our best interests, it's very important. I would be remiss to not note the late great economist John Locksley noted, you know, P3s are huge public expenditures. These infrastructure projects are massive, and we need also large-scale projects not to be privatized as well as, you know, services and other items such as Transit Plus. So, both on the Transit Plus scale and on wastewater treatment, we urge you to keep it public. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. And you had accurately pointed out, this is only…you had accurately differentiated between water and wastewater in your remarks, which I appreciate. Still not sure why the ads denouncing me had a picture of 3-year-old child drinking water when this was a wastewater debate all along, but that's not your affair. You didn't run the ads. My question is on a specific aspect of your presentation. Just informationally, you talked about a south district police...the P3 model which was used for east district police station for good or ill, you had said that was abandoned for a south district. I don't think there is a south district. Are you…can you just clarify that particular...you're right, there was a police station done from P3 but south district puzzled me there.

Molly McCracken: Well, my information I have was that there was consideration for a P3 model with a south district police station. I need to…I will double check that. That was abandoned in favour of a public model.

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

Councillor Mayes: Some of the people who have called for my defeat have also…were part of a government that passed P3 legislation and the Selinger government. That legislation called for more scrutiny of P3s, but it did certainly not indicate that they were not to be pursued at any cost at any time in any circumstances. I could read out some lengthy comments, but I won't, from the Finance Minister of the day. Your thoughts, then, on…is the…was the P3 screen legislation that the NDP brought in in 2012, was that a useful device as it called for some more public scrutiny on P3s? None of this indicates that's the route we'll be taking. I don't want to take that route on the North End plant, but it certainly has been coming up in discussion about…about what steps the former government took on P3s.

Molly McCracken: Well, thank you. That is good to hear your position that you do not support a P3 for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant. That's what we're looking for, so that's good to hear. Certainly, yes, there was provincial legislation that was a checklist of what governments can ask. Also, development by John Locksley, when pursuing infrastructure projects to consider whether doing a P3 or not. And part of this is the value for money exercise that I referenced. And when we look at the value for money research when it has been done, it has favoured the public model. So yes, the legislation that has since come off by the current Provincial Government, they've removed that legislation so there is no more oversight of that type, would have done a much more thorough review, for example, than what was tabled to you by the Province to look at the P3 model for this project.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That was three questions, Councillor Mayes. I can come back to you. I believe that was three. Councillor Nason and then on to Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to focus on a comment that was made by Ms. McCracken. Taken with a grain of salt; that was her comment with regards to Deloitte. That's an international company that's used for consulting along with PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, Ernst Young, Accenture, IBM. These are all companies that the City of Winnipeg tends to also employ. So, if those reports that are being referenced to be taken as a grain of salt, does she apply that same equation to those that she may be in favour of that the City uses?

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason.

Molly McCracken: Well, this was a sole source contract by Deloitte. I also noted that Deloitte sponsored a P3 conference that took place in Winnipeg in 2017. So, that points to their favour for this type of model. And so, in their approach, they did not look critically at any other options. That was not their task. And so, by tailoring this report and there not being any other report, any other value for money report before you, that was the context of my comment of take this with a grain of salt because you do not have any other value for money information before you. This report recommends design, build, finance of the P3 by a company that works very closely and is, I would say, a part of the P3 industry.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason, second question.

Councillor Nason: So, Madam Speaker, in response, again, I know that the City of Winnipeg many times has done a sole-source consulting contract for companies like Deloitte, PWC, et cetera. Will the CCPA, from this point forward, put that stance forward to take those as well with a grain of salt?

Molly McCracken: Well, I'm here speaking to you today about the North End Sewage Treatment Plant. And it is in this context that I'm making that. I understand it was under some challenge that the Province requested that contract, sole-source by Deloitte. It was very much guided by the Province's request to look at a P3 and the marketing sounding report. And so, that was...you were being led down that path is what my presentation said. And so, I think it's important to look critically at that recommendation.

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

Councillor Nason: So, last question. Kind of building off of Councillor Mayes' approach, with regards to P3s and this could be either…either delegation to respond, but there were two others that I believe both were undertaken during the previous NDP/Selinger government, that being the Chief Peguis Trail along with the Disraeli Bridge project. Both of those were P3. Would they also be considered abject failures in the P3 model?

Molly McCracken: Well, one of the challenges with the P3 model is because of proprietary information that the business interests claim, we do not know the full costs of those projects. What we do know is…

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

Molly McCracken: What we do know, for example, the Province was exploring a P3 model for schools, and it ended up abandoning the P3 model for schools, and ended up being able to afford instead of three schools, four schools with a

publicly financed model. So, that is the challenge with this model. We don't always have all the information, it's held in proprietary information by the business' interests and so, that's why we're critical of it. When we do have the information, we know it's less expensive, less costly and there's more control by government if they use the traditional model.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm so glad that Molly McCracken and Gord Delbridge are here today to add some salt on the path as we get led down the path of public-private partnerships. I have questions for both, but I don't know if I'll get through them. But in the last 30 years, I've made the assertion, no one's disputed it, in the last 30 years, the cost of construction has gone up by 15 to 20 times in the last 30 years. But the wages of construction workers haven't even gone up by two times. And I ask the question of Gord Delbridge, in his knowledge and experience, is he aware of any labour costs, labour costs that have gone up anywhere near…I mean, anywhere near 15 to 20 times in the last 30 years?

Gord Delbridge: Yeah, thank you for the question. And no, most certainly not. You know, now, we've fallen behind on, you know, with the rate of inflation, we know that there was an admin report that came out sometime back where, you know, they were saying that there needed to be an increase to the minimum wage that the City of Winnipeg wasn't…was paying. And there was some discussion around that, speaking of introducing a living wage. And Councillor Mayes did introduce a $15 an hour minimum…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer moves extension for two minutes.

Gord Delbridge: You know, which is still far behind…

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

Gord Delbridge: Yeah, which is still far behind, you know, what a living wage is. And you know, with this current rate of inflation, it's most certainly having an impact and we're seeing that the retention issues with, you know, within the City of Winnipeg, and you know, it raises real concerns. At one time, the City of Winnipeg used to be an employer of choice. That's no longer the case, but we've been seeing, you know, inflation and, you know, construction within the private sector significantly outgrowing, you know, what we're seeing as far as wage increases for City employees. So, thank you for the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, the rate of increase of construction costs have gone up 10 times higher than the increase in the costs of construction workers and labour costs is what I've been asserting. No one's disputing it. In the last 30 years, 10 times faster rate of increase. I have a question for Molly McCracken. We've heard in this chamber someone say, I believe erroneously, that labour is half the cost of construction, but at what point, because it keeps changing? Because it's…construction costs are going at such a high, faster rate than labour costs. Is Molly McCracken aware that the City of Winnipeg was offered her organization or the taxpayers of Winnipeg and explanation as to why the costs of construction are going up at a 10 times higher rate than the costs of labour? Is there any explanation she's been given by the City of Winnipeg?

Madam Speaker: The question has been posed.

Molly McCracken: Oh, thank you for the question. I'm not aware of an answer to your question. I think that it's a good question, and it's something that should be considered. Obviously, we need the best value for money out of our public dollars and also fair wages for workers so that they can live a decent life here in Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Okay. That ends the question period for this section. Thank you both for your presentations today. Okay. Next delegation, Mr. David Grant. Is he with us, Mr. Clerk? Yes, Mr. Grant is speaking in opposition to Item 14 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated November 17th, 2021. It's regarding Market Sounding and Analysis for a Private-Public Partnership (P3) for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades. And Item 1, also, of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. It's the report dated November 5th, 2021 regarding Winnipeg Parking Strategy the Interim Update. David, welcome.

David Grant: Hello. Thank you, Speaker Sharma, and thank you, Your Worship for allowing us this time. On IRPW No. 1, I am opposed to this plan. Basically, no one likes to see prices rise suddenly and that's what this plan does. I have no vested interest in this because like so many others in Manitoba, I never drive toward downtown during what they call high demand hours. When this plan is in place, even more drivers will join me in avoiding shopping and other activities

downtown. This plan is obviously part of a move to maximize revenue. This plan ignores the fact that streets and street parking are a service to residents and to our visitors. When greed sets policies, some folks say that things are headed in the wrong direction. By giving control to for-profit companies again, the City moves away from its original purpose. The purpose of city government is to serve residents and visitors. Carried to extreme, would parking for a few hours downtown cost more than the event which drew the customer downtown in the first place? Some of us do not pay for their purchases with the wave of a cell phone. This plan gives those folks another reason to stay away. Don't expect to, quote, "save your downtown folks" by bringing in crowds, as we hear in the PR blurbs, if you chase away customers in this way. On EPC No. 14, we are in the midst of many years of talking about sewage. Why? One reason is that what has been planned is so outrageously costly that we can barely afford the plan. Another is that the plan has grown far beyond what is needed. I have spoken here before, from my experience as an engineer in sewage treatment and my position that the City should not waste our money. In response to Councillor Schreyer, I'm glad to see costs raised here in this chamber as an issue. I would be much happier if more people brought that forward. Just as an aside, Jason refers to 50 years ago when a bus ticket cost 1/20 of what it is now. Fifty years ago, I was a night manager at a Shell station, and it turns out I was making 1/20 of what a bus driver makes now. So, costs have gone up. Moving on, I'm in favour of good sewage treatment, but this project is not the right one. That's why I'm registered against. Folks complain about toxic blue green algae in our lake. Removing phosphorus and not nitrogen from our wastewater encourages this non…the nontoxic varieties. That's exactly the best choice offered many years ago. A treatment plant which can also remove nitrogen will cost much more, and that's what you are about to buy, and will encourage the worst algae. That's what you're buying, something to make the algae that's in the lake and that we can't stop the worst ones. I don't like word vernaculars, but spending more money to cause more problems. The most vexing reason that we're still talking about and not treating is that the City has rejected solid advice which could have been cleaning up sewage for years now and for less than is being spent just doing the talking and planning. Who decided that the sewage go untreated for so many years and that flocculation not be used even while the megabuck plant was being designed. As you may recall, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation folks, their PhD lady, scientists, I explained how to do this right, but who decided to do nothing instead, question. I recall explaining that the west Windsor wastewater treatment plant, like so many others, used the flocculation technology. I explained to you that early in my celebrated career as a chemical process engineer, I worked at that plant, and that they had been using this flocculation technology since the early '70s to keep their river and lake area clean. I have two new questions for you; you spend a lot of time listening to delegations. Why? When important information is presented, how can that information get to City staff and contractors? Neither of us wants to admit that these hours of listening are just wasted time. If the contractors want to make the project more expensive, who can act on behalf of the taxpayer and choose the better cheaper option? If it's presented at Council, I would sort of expect that someone would take that information and ask the contractors in this case, the City staff, to answer why, not take the advice of the learned people like the PhD scientists for the foundation or me. Why are those thoughts not considered in planning for the City's doing? On a similar direction, who has the power to say no to gold plated projects? Council? The CAO? In effect, when the contractor who makes a percentage of this spending as profit, when the contractor decides, well, this half a billion isn't enough, let's spend a billion. And Council says, oh, look, it looks nice, it looks even better, but then keep in mind, the person…the entity that is suggesting the more expensive option is also taking home a lot more if you would choose that option. So, still just a disappointment that you're not going with flocculation because that could have been cleaning up the water right now and what you're planning now is not going to clean it up for years more. And if you could have saved money, I'm disappointed that you…that the City did not choose that route. So, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We'll now take questions. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Amidst the storm of rhetoric that we are ignoring, good advice, only want gold plated projects, and quote, "are doing nothing" despite the $400 million phase one at North End which has started under this mayor. Despite yesterday's announcement that we are well under way, you say we're doing nothing, you say we ignore the input of people. You are aware that the provincial legislation requires us to pursue both biological and nutrient removal? You are aware, I take it, that if we simply followed the advice of you, we would be ignoring provincial legislation, long-standing legislation which has, in fact, been challenged and been upheld by the Clean Environment Commission?

David Grant: I am not suggesting that we not remove nutrients. I'm suggesting that the focus should have been flocculation in removing the phosphorus and that that should have been…should have begun years ago, the actual treatment. And it could have been done a long time ago because it's a very quick process to introduce, and it's effective, and it's done everywhere, but we rejected that. And maybe I shouldn't use rhetoric like gold plated, but when something costs 50% more because of a feature that really doesn't help the lake, then that is a problem. And I would remind...I have great respect for you, Brian, but I'm…through the Speaker, but that we could have pushed for the phosphorus removal a long time ago. I spoke to the Clean Environment Commission when we talked about pig farms, when there was provincial regulations of those. So, phosphorus removal has been something that has been very high on my list of wishes, and I've spoken in favour of its removal for a very long time. I think that clean environment thing on the pig barns was probably 20 years ago. So, I'm not in favour of not treating, I just wish we had begun the treating much earlier with flocculation. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: You are aware largely or at least partly due to the efforts of some of my colleagues, Councillor Nason, I think, in particular, pushed for an interim action for an interim solution, interim treatment at the North End plant. That has been approved. There is budget for that. So, I appreciate the do nothing comments, but you are ignoring that or you were not aware of that.

David Grant: I do not suggest that you're doing nothing now, I am suggesting that the actions could have been taken a long time ago were not. So, no criticism of you, Councillor Mayes on…or suggesting that you are…the City is doing nothing, just that it's unfortunate that they…actions taken years ago did not come to fruition much earlier.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Pleased to see David Grant here. He asked…was wondering why we weren't dealing with phosphorus issues with pollutes issues in the river earlier. Now, given the fact that the cost of these things, which is essentially construction inflation, in the last 30 years has gone up 20 times, and remember, it's not the labour costs. They haven't gone up by two times in the last 30 years. So, the cost of construction has gone up 20 times, has it occurred to David Grant that sometimes politicians, instead of dealing with the problem, finding out why the costs are going up, they'd just rather ignore it, hopefully the issue…you don't have to deal with it during their time elected?

David Grant: Not sure how I should answer that, but if you know you're only going to be the boss for four years, and actions will look good but put off the decision until you're out of the building, there may be a temptation to do that. I don't…I wouldn't suggest that for anybody in the room now. I think you're all really good people and that you really want the best for the city. It's just unfortunate the way things have worked. So, I wouldn't suggest anybody in the room now is trying to kick the can down the road, but it's certainly sad that it's worked out this way.

Madam Speaker: Next question.

Councillor Schreyer: The big problem is, construction costs have gone up by 20 times in the last 30 years. Again, not the labour costs, they haven't even doubled. But has it occurred to David Grant…has David Grant found out while during this council, in the last four years or the last eight years, does…has he found out or does he think that the taxpayers of Winnipeg have found out why these costs have become so prohibitive? That what we've done 100 years ago, very well, without going into debt, we can't do today in an economic manner. Does he believe he's been given those answers?

David Grant: I would suggest not. On the other hand, it's one thing to say that the prices for a given piece of work are going up. One other measure is, I think I read once that our BRT construction per mile, which is basically just a road, are much higher than the costs of LRT per mile in some other places. So, if you wanted to look at the cost of a given over…replacing an overpass or paving a four-lane divided road in the city, you can compare those with other jurisdictions. You know, does Regina do it cheaper? And…or in Utah, is it much more expensive? So, those are things that would be a worthy avenue, and I would expect somebody diligent like a couple of my friends on Council, who would probably undertake that or have your staff check into that, but I don't think that's…that's out of the question. Another one on inflation, you know that inflation has been raised at the House of Commons. And we can expect, in spite of assurances from the CBC and some of the federal apointees, that inflation is going to get much worse. That inflation is largely driven by too many dollars floating around. And even though they aren't in our pockets, they are floating around. So, the money supply has been expanding widely, so if we were expecting 2 or 3% a year inflation in the construction of this thing, and history is any guide, it's going to be way worse in the next 10 to 20 years when we're paying for this plant. So, expect much higher levels of inflation in construction.

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

Councillor Schreyer: I appreciate those answers. Has David Grant heard anything from any level of government in terms of what proportion of every level of government's debt? Every level: federal, provincial, city debt. To what proportion is it…has been caused by construction costs, infrastructure development in the last…in the last generation alone? Because that's the only time we really have it.

David Grant: I'm afraid I can't really provide that answer for Councillor Schreyer. I'm a former engineer, and my thoughts are more in the direction of what can be done and how things can be improved. The paying for it is something that I'm painfully aware when I pay taxes, but I have not been a finance guru. So, I can't really answer that for you, sir.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And that concludes our question period. Thank you, David Grant for your presentation.

David Grant: Thank you, Councillor Sharma.

Madam Speaker: We'll now move on to reports. And I have been advised by the Director of IT, through our Clerks, that the issue with Outlook has been resolved. If that's not the case, please send a note to…to our City Clerk and then we can see if it's just your computer station. On to reports of Executive Policy Committee. Mr. Mayor, the report dated November 17th, noting there's an amending motion with Item 7.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move…sorry, I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 14.

Madam Speaker: Okay, we'll pull 7, there is an amending motion. Councillor Schreyer. Four - Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy. Five? Five.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, 13 and 14.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Thirteen and fourteen. Councillor Lukes? Three. Just put your hand up, please. Three and twelve, and I'll recognize you. Three and twelve. Councillor Gillingham? Any others? That's enough? We'll call the question on Item 1 and 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10. All in favour? One, okay. Yes. Call…one is pulled. We'll call the question, once again, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and that's it. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – COVID-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan Framework

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Given our Deputy Mayor's leadership on this particular matter, I'd like to provide my opening statement time to Councillor Orlikow.

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

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think you've all heard my speech. I've been at every community committee so far talking about it. And I just wanted to really stand up today. Have had many, many pleasant and some awkward conversations with individual councillors about it, but it is…as Councillor Lukes will probably talk about in a bit, it has been a different format than what we've used in the past. And I first of all want to really appreciate my council colleagues to accept that when you do stuff a little bit differently, sometimes it doesn't go the way that you hoped for. It was a little bit of windy road, as we say, as we went through the committee stages and stuff like that, but again, everybody went with the grace to go with the intent, which really is…the intent is to find ways that we can deal with the COVID now. The economic and the social impact of COVID specifically. There are some ideas that I believe are a little more economic, maybe COVID related or not, but again, that won't be up for me to decide, that will be up to Council to decide what does go to what slot and how much and what projects. But again, that will be another inner-process that we'll have after probably January/February once we have time to go through some of the amazing ideas, amazing ideas that councillors have brought forward. Some of them are separate, and I won't say it on the public record, but…and there have been some that are just outside the scope of either the funding model that we have, which is called Canada Community Building Fund. There are parameters in there that say you can't...you can only spend money for that fund on this certain projects, so we're going to go through that, vet that through. They are going to vet it through some of the plans, looking at some of the areas that will lineup really easily. And then it will come back, again, community committees and Councillor Gilroy and the downtown committee part will have a specific focus on the downtown part. So, we're not going to be able to do everything on the list. It was quite…I was going through it yesterday, the list was incredibly impressive and long from every community committee, the wish list, but we'll only trying to focus on, you know, vulnerable peoples, economic recovery, jobs, you know, we need jobs, and looking at some of the ideas in there that have popped out a bit where we saw some areas around some of our parks. I saw one…one is, can we not...can we do not regional parks, can we also look at community parks. Valid, because some areas just don't have any regional parks. And some other ideas about area…area plans, secondary plans. So, and again, I have also talked to most of the participants that are being involved outside of city hall, and they're not done germinating ideas as well. There'll probably be a few more that will come through in the near future. But at this time, we have a very exhaustive list of ideas that will really, if you look at each one of them, there's not one idea in there where I say this is going to be bad for Winnipeg. They're all really great ideas. And they're all with the best intent

and the warmest of heart, which is what we need right now. We need to be showing the public that we are there for them, we care for them, and we're going to be moving forward with some of these wonderful ideas that really come from a very great place that I think Winnipeggers want to see right now. They want to see the light at the end of the tunnel, which will probably be the new…the new…the new, you know, pivoting kind of words going forward, but it is true. We know we're entering the fourth wave. Hopefully, it'll be a minor blip. But again, and we're not sure if fifth wave comes or not, but we need to start moving the mind away from responding to COVID to more recovering from COVID. So, again, I just…it's…I thank the Mayor for allowing me this opportunity with this special project to go meet with you all and bring this forward on behalf of Council. This is not me at all. This is really, to me, I'll be screaming from the hilltops that this represents Council as a whole, and that we do care and we are with you to try to find our ways to recover from winner…from the COVID not only as we were before, but even better. So, thank you very much. And thank you, Mr. Bowman, Mayor Bowman for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. First speaker, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I will be rising. I'm rising to speak in support of the Economic Response and Recovery Framework…Recovery Plan Framework. That's a mouthful. I've heard directly from the Downtown BIZ and we heard from the Winnipeg Chamber today, both their support for the recovery plan. And I'm very pleased to have their support on moving forward. I even heard Councillor Rollins, I think, in one committee comment that this is even a better plan than originally brought forward or working on to bring forward. I want to thank Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason for bringing forward the amendment back in April to enable each community committee and each councillor to have input into the development of the plan. It was through a motion that they brought forward, much discussion with councillors, Councillor Sharma, you and myself and others, to have the report come back seeking additional input in comments. So, we had the initial input, then we had the report come back. This, as I mentioned earlier to one of the delegations, it's a similar approach Councillor Rollins, I think, brought forward with the fire hall report if I recall correctly. This process or as Mr. Fast indicated, and as Councillor Orlikow has noted, is a new way of doing things at city hall, and has resulted in what I believe is a very strong Economic Response and Recovery Plan. And because of this process, enabling each councillor to be involved, this is what I would truly call collaboration, a collaborative process. And I fully expect everyone will vote for this because they've had more opportunities than ever before to have input and to see the input included and not changed, especially, Councillor Nason, Councillor Klein, myself and other councillors who are not included in many of the discussion processes. Again, I truly believe every single councillor brings value, they bring the insight of their ward, of their constituents to the development of plans, policies and the decision making process. And a true, strong leader recognizes that every councillor brings value and works to harness that energy. And it results, truly, in a much better process and result for our city. This is one of the most collaborative approaches I've seen in a long time and I will be pleased to supporting the plan. Only time will tell how effective it is, but I enter into this with much optimism and the realization and I think all of Council has the realization that, again, we may have to pivot and change and modify as time delivers unseen events in the future. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Very briefly. This…I just want to say a few words on the record so that…I'm concerned there might be some misunderstanding over time in terms of what people's expectations are, what Council's expectations are. I don't want to have misunderstanding, including…including…including citizens of Winnipeg. We didn't have much time to deal with this, but I've noticed that there's a difference in format by the different community committees. Some specifically allocated dollar amounts, some didn't. We weren't in a position, at least I felt I wasn't in a position, to put down specific dollar amounts when Councillor Browaty brought this forward to Councillor Nason and myself in terms of our region of the city. In our case, we didn't put down the numbers we…you know, we mulled around some estimates and we went with that. I did notice that we have another community committee, Riel Community Committee that was more specific in terms of dollar amounts. And so, I feel a little inadequate because I didn't do that. I put down a number of projects which I was advised to do because they're just tentative. Not that I expect them all to be done, but because we didn't do dollar amounts yet, I didn't get to that point yet with working with the administration. And so, hopefully this can over time be worked out properly. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise this morning in support of this item that's before us. I want to thank our Deputy Mayor, John Orlikow for his leadership in working with all members of Council. I remember sitting at lunch with Councillor Orlikow and talking about this Economic Recovery Plan and how our city's going to emerge out of this COVID state that we are in as we move further towards an endemic state. One of the things that we do have to recognize is that it's not only COVID that we have to plan for. As mentioned this morning by the Chair of IRPW, with respect to the issues in western Canada, BC, as a result of the atmospheric rainfalls that they've had and the mudslides and the disruption to infrastructure will have an impact on supply chain, which is driving up the cost of items here

in…throughout Canada. We also have to recognize that on the east coast, they are experiencing similar issues with regards to climate change and the impacts of the rains that they're having there, as well, which, again, does impact on supply chain and goods and services here to…in and through our city. So again, COVID is not the only thing that we have to recognize and acknowledge that has an impact on our economy. Over the last 20 months or so, we've seen the reduction of individuals coming to our city as newcomers, as our immigration borders have been shutdown. As they reopen, again, this plan does have a way to address newcomers that are coming to our city, looking at, you know, the issue of equity, diversity and inclusion, the points that are needed to make people feel welcome in our community as they're contributing to our economic growth and our economic recovery. I'm glad to see that, out of all of this, there is that focus on those that are less...or that are more vulnerable in our city, having a plan in place as we're dealing with cold and frigid temperatures, to address the issues of homelessness, to address the issues of poverty in…here in our city. The response up until now has traditionally been a 911 call for service, which, you know, has a dispatch of our police officers that are attending a lot of these calls, to our bus shelters, to our bridges, to our parks, to deal with this issue of homelessness. Poverty is not a crime, and so we need to look at other mechanisms and other tools to address the root cause why people are on the streets, sleeping, living and trying to get by on their daily…daily needs. So, we recognize that the last 20 months has been extremely difficult, has further marginalized individuals that were already marginalized. And I'm glad that the City of Winnipeg and, to tell the truth, Madam Speaker, when I was elected to office back in 2018, I didn't think this was what a civic department did. We…I knew that we talk about transit, about our streets and infrastructure, maintenance and renewal, that we talked about police and fire, paramedics, and all of those other things, sewer and water, that a civic government does, but getting into the humanity side of it, dealing with those that are less fortunate in our community, I thought that was other levels of government that we would partnership. But I'm glad we as a civic government are taking the leadership on some of these issues and working towards making sure that Winnipeggers have a safe place to live, have a warm bed, and have a meal in their belly. So, thank you again to Councillor Orlikow for taking the leadership on this, for collaborating with all city councillors on this Economic Recovery Plan, putting our foot forward to address the issues that have risen in the last 18 to 20 months, but also recognizing that there were other things on the other side of this pandemic that we also need to be mindful of that will have an impact as we grow as a city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Seeing the hour, does Council wish to recess and reconvene at 1:00 p.m.? Okay. Take a recess now and reconvene at 1:00 p.m., thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
November 25, 2021, at 1:06 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of November 25th, 2021. We are on the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated November 17th, 2021. Item 1 is the COVID-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan Framework. We have a number of speakers. Councillor Gillingham, you're the next speaker.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate that. Yes, I'll certainly be supporting this report. I want to thank our staff for the hard work that they have done, to all councillors for the contributions that everybody's made. It's been a good discussion. I want to thank also, Councillor Orlikow who has a done a really excellent job in kind of leading this process and has put a lot of time and effort into it. I remember back when just after we got elected in 2018, my re-election, I remember having a conversation with the Mayor. The Mayor, I think, had spoke to all of us and just talked about what this next term could be and I remember he and I raised this very topic about the fact that in my first term of Council, which was between 2014 and 2018, I do not think that we had, as a Council, had our eyes on economic development as much as we should have. And so, part of the discussion was about how we could…how we could pay more attention to the fact that the decisions that we make as councillors have a significant and direct impact on the city's economy. I was really glad to see that under Councillor Browaty's leadership as Chair of the Innovation and Economic Development Committee, that we added that lens. I know there's good discussion, you know, at that committee with my colleagues, not only Councillor Browaty, but Councillor Eadie and Councillor Lukes as well about the economy of Winnipeg, how the economy's going, how decisions at Winnipeg City Hall make a difference in either creating an environment that will allow the economy to thrive or conversely, making decisions that can stifle the economy. And so, this is…this is really important. Certainly, with COVID-19, it's pressed upon us as a city the need to really be thinking about the fact that we're going to come out of the pandemic and we need to find a way; strategically, intentionally, to assist the City of Winnipeg to recover as quickly as possible from the financial and economic impacts of the pandemic. And so, really glad to see this report here. Also, very pleased to see that this report in its development, not only was, you know, was Council surveyed and the matters discussed at Council, but also, really critical community stakeholders have been involved as well including, not the least of which, the Downtown BIZ. I'm pleased to see that this Economic Recovery Plan is being crafted in such a way that it intends to support the Economic BIZ Downtown Recovery Plan as well. Kind of similar to that, maybe Councillor Browaty and Councillor Orlikow and I had the opportunity, the privilege of sitting down with Minister Jon Reyes, Minister

of the Economy and Jobs. Just before our plan was released, we did bring up with him the fact that the City Council had called for an Economic Recovery Plan, it was being developed, and we impressed upon Minister Reyes that if and when the Province of Manitoba develops an economic recovery plan for the province, that it really, you know, it would be prudent and, you know, best if it could be maximized by bringing kind of the City's plan and the Province's plan together. At least, you know, having them work in tandem rather than working in silos. And so, I believe, you know, that's an important…an important part of economic recovery because the City really doesn't…doesn't lead…we're not the lead in economic development, we're not the lead in economic recovery, but the work that we do creates the environment for the economy to thrive, for people to be able to have jobs, to…for goods and services to be transported and the economy to flow kind of on the roads and streets that we invest in among so many other things. So, really glad to see this report here. Looking forward to having further discussion on it. And I'm looking forward, certainly, to partnering with some key community stakeholders, not only in the downtown, but across Winnipeg, as well, to see Winnipeg thrive as we come out of the pandemic.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to comment and really thank, Madam Speaker, many of the councillors that came before me. In particular, Councillor Lukes who remembers that it…it needed to be an all of Council economic recovery and I thought those were really good words. It's important to put words, though, that isn't just a Winnipeg economic recovery, but this is, indeed, a downtown economic recovery strategy. And I want to acknowledge the downtown businesses and downtown residents that…that spoke and, hopefully, feel heard in this plan. We have a really great Probe Research poll that told us what Winnipeggers wanted in terms of economic recovery, both to…both in terms of what they viewed as most effective way to fix downtown and what they viewed as the special things that could be done in the downtown that community could participate in. I think this Economic Recovery Strategy speaks to both things. And many speakers, Madam Speaker, have spoken to that. Like the help that we see for vulnerable people to planting more trees, to continuing the one-hour free street parking that Colin Fast talked to us about and the Chambers of Commerce have been really important partners as well. Encouraging more residential development is, of course, what I as city councillor for Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry, Madam Speaker, is all about. And we have some really beautiful residential developments that are happening in the downtown and just outside of the downtown, the two tallest buildings, for instance, the one that is being built on Portage or soon will be built, that was passed. Providing more greenspace is something that people viewed as a way to improve the downtown. And in terms of…in terms of effectiveness in community-led downtown recovery strategies, holding safe events that draw people downtown. Having art to activate storefront windows that might be vacant and more. I hope, Madam Speaker, that when we pass this, we're really cognizant that it is an Economic Recovery Strategy for each and every one of our wards, but also, the Downtown Economic Recovery Strategy. And I trust that it's going to be a unanimous vote today, but I want to thank all the players that came around the City of Winnipeg to get us to this point, including those of my residents in the downtown. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Any further speakers? Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm very much in support of the economic response and recovery plan. I want to thank Councillor Orlikow for all his hard work in getting this to where it is today. I do think it's very, very vital that we do a lot of work within our downtown to make sure that we are recovering. Prior to the pandemic, we know that there was pockets of our downtown that were already struggling and with the pandemic, there is what we call a new normal. And I know Councillor Allard talked about the new normal when in terms of climate change, but there's a new normal in terms of how people work. And a lot of us are very familiar with that because we, too, are working online and working from home a little bit more, but that is a new reality to the downtown where most of our business operations and offices are housed. So, what does that look like in terms of how we move forward in the future, I think those discussions need to take place and I think that we have to look at how we do encourage investment into our downtown and how we get people…people living here, working here and that might be new businesses. That might be a different kind of business that maybe we've seen before. So, we have some challenges ahead of us, but I think that this is…we're off to a great start and I just want to thank all those that were involved in brining this forward, because this is going to be a tremendous help to our downtown. And we all know that healthy downtowns means a healthy city for all. And I think that that's critical at this point. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Bowman: Excuse me. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank my council colleagues for not only their comments today, but also for the involvement in, of course, the collaboration that we've seen in the development of this plan. I know there's more work ahead. I want to thank our Deputy Mayor for his stewardship of this really unprecedented effort that does, as Councillor Rollins has acknowledged, is trying to support the efforts of the Downtown BIZ and the efforts of other levels of government. So, think there's been some great work. I also appreciate the acknowledgment by my council colleague of really unprecedented level of input and collaboration. This is exactly what we've been working

towards for many years. It's in parallel to, really, an incredibly collaborative and open process that has been part of the budget process this year. Councillor Gillingham, I know, has been having similar conversations like Councillor Orlikow has had with all members of Council and I think it bodes well for the discussions that we'll have in the coming weeks seeking and, of course, ultimately resulting in like we're doing right now, all members of Council having that opportunity, in fact, the obligation to vote on matters like the Economic Response and Recovery Plan Framework. So, I'm excited about the opportunities of support that we're able to provide with this plan. Again, very appreciative of the work of all of the third-party stakeholders as well as all members of Council. So, I'm hoping that we'll be able to unanimously support this plan with our vote in a few moments. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk, Item 3.

Item 3 – Subdivision and Rezoning – 939 to 949 Chancellor Drive – DASZ 29/2021

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

Mayor Bowman: I can't recall who pulled this, so I'll wait to hear from council colleagues first.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I pulled it. I'd like to speak to this subdivision and rezoning because it's…it's just another stellar project, but it does highlight the value of Transit. So, the number one catalyst behind this subdivision and rezoning and ultimately a multi-family housing development, is the proximity to the southwest rapid transit corridor. It's located 330 feet east of the corridor, and it's also located about 5-600 feet from Pembina Highway where high frequency transit is located with over 6 different routes. Three very old homes were purchased with the goal now of developing 95 residential units with a mix of studio, one and two-bedroom units. I've lost count, this is the seventh or eighth multi-family development being constructed greatly in part…there's a two-part reason, but one of the reasons is because it's close to, on or near southwest rapid transit corridor and high frequency transit on Pembina. Just north of my ward in Councillor Orlikow's ward, we see much development occurring in a district called the Refinery or the old sugar beet lands. And again, because it's close to the corridor. I want to thank the Province for moving forward with the capital transit funding that was announced with the new premier. And I look forward to the Federal Government supporting it. I supported and sat on phase 1 of rapid transit in an advisory capacity many years ago and then in 2014 campaigned on securing funding support for phase 2 of the rapid transit corridor. I will note, just give me a moment here, I will note, though, that there is interesting scenario with transit investments going on right now that, you know, does cause some people for a bit of push back. Transit ridership has been on a decline for the last 20 years. That's a fact, we've got stats on that, I just had a recent report from Transit. COVID is not allowing the true value of the rapid transit corridor to be realized, but the multi-family development along the corridor and in the area continues to increase dramatically. So, I do believe all the benefits of this transit corridor will be soon realized as do many other investors. And with this report that we're voting on today, ultimately will result in a hundreds of thousands of dollar investment, it represents what many others believe in the benefits of the southwest rapid transit corridor and continuing to invest in our city. So, I have been receiving, to be frank, a bit of heat about the rapid transit corridor and empty buses and all of that. And yes, there is…there is a challenge right now, that is because of COVID. But to see others and to see investors putting big money into development along and near the corridor really is refreshing and I just wanted to bring attention to it because this is an interesting development that exactly is being supported by and supporting transit corridor. Thank you.

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

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Lukes, I wanted Councillor Lukes to be aware that when I use the blue line, the rapid transit, it was packed. So, that's been my anecdotal experience. So, there are, at times, where some buses are empty or there aren't many people riding on the bus, but there also times where the buses are packed. And I think the word packed is a different word now than it was pre-COVID, because pre-COVID we had sardine buses where it was standing room only and everybody was essentially inches away from each other. That's no longer something, I think, that we want to be promoting. And so, I want to put…I want to put it out there that there are a lot of buses that are being very well used, including…including rapid transit. So, wanted to put those comments on the record.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Back to you, Mr. Mayor, for close. I'll call the question then on Item 3. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Item 4.

Item 4 – Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021-2031)

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

Mayor Bowman: I'll be brief. I want to thank all members of Council. Numerous councillors have really fought for this for many years, including Councillor Rollins, Councillor Gilroy among many others. I just want to thank Council for their efforts to date. I want to thank Public Service as well as all the third-party stakeholders that provided meaningful and valuable input to our Public Service in the development of this. This is…this is a first for the City of Winnipeg and I think it finds the right balance of trying to do what we can within the jurisdiction and financial means of a municipal government, but also trying to be more strategic in how we are deploying those dollars and efforts to better align and get better outcomes with other levels of government and third-parties. And so, I'm hopeful that all members of Council will support this strategy. I know it's the first step of, I'm sure, many other steps that will be considered in due course. But very much hoping that we'll be supporting it this afternoon. Thank you.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There have been so many people that have come around to build Winnipeg's first Poverty Reduction Strategy and I won't list them, but I want to acknowledge them. I do want to talk about three people; Desiree and Al Wiebe and Michael Barkman from Make Poverty History who have come met with every single councillor to discuss making poverty history in Manitoba and in our community specifically and want to see this day happen. They were so generous to us. They, despite us not having a poverty strategy, they did recognize the strategy that we have been in working on in policy and this term, there have been successes. We've talked about transit today and reducing bus passes to that reduced fare bus pass and they'd like to see deeper than from moving from 30 to 50%, but they acknowledge the work that we had already done. They want to see property and land donations and more for below-market rate. And of course, my colleague Councillor Gilroy as Chair of Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown, and her committee that includes Councillor Klein and Councillor Lukes and Councillor Santos, have indeed passed real estate policies to do just that, as has all of Council. And they've, you know, mentioned, Madam Speaker, the library fees and fines being eliminated. And so, there's room to grow in terms of deepening our work on poverty, but I really appreciate the folks that have come forward have mentioned the steps that we've taken on affordable housing. And I want to acknowledge what we just passed in terms of economic recovery includes some of the measures that they want to see in terms of the housing pillar that forms an important structure in the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The other important structure; children, youth, Indigenous children, youth and families is…you know, they acknowledge there has been work done. They pointed to the library fees and fines, for instance, and we have a granting mechanism in this city, the Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak program that does amazing work and the staff of Indigenous Relations Division do a lot of really good work putting together those partnerships that allow for Indigenous youth to get on a pathway to employment and more. So, those two pillars; affordable housing, Indigenous youth and families are important structures in this work that the Public Service heard from the community, it's co-created and we know that. And they heard from the community and they embedded it in in deep traditional knowledge that is included in this report and I think that that should be acknowledged. We do territorial acknowledgments at each and every committee, but it is really important to start to see traditional ways of knowing, being and doing embedded in reports of the City of Winnipeg. And I want to acknowledge that the life poles and Amik the beaver are, indeed, embedded in this report and guiding it. The next steps for this is to, of course, pass it. And I hope that this is a unanimous vote again today, just like it was for economic recovery. I hope it is because I want to make sure that we are acknowledging the methodology here of co-creation. The work team that was brought together and the Indigenous rights holders engagement and the indigeneity that's indeed embedded in here. The alignment and collaboration of this report is…going forward, needs to be considered. And I hope through the unanimous vote that we do our next steps in the right way and go back to the community with this report having been passed by Council and then really go deeper with community and celebrate the report and ask them to…ask them what is needed next. What they have told us in subsequent e-mails, and I want to acknowledge everyone that wrote Council to say pass it, is that they want to see it fully funded. And so, while this…it's important to first pass it so that we can then considering…consider the goals and objectives like equity and culture of caring, like affordable housing, like City employment, like well being, like transportation, like the City service and equity, like the food security that Councillor Mayes has done such a good job keeping on as a priority, he never needed a poverty reduction strategy to do that and I want to acknowledge that too and community safety work. There is so much that councillors in this chamber have been working on that should be acknowledged, but the next step needs to be looking to make sure that it is a policy that is supported and to do that, we must fully fund it. We've been asked to…to that end, to look towards the police budget by some folks that have come forward, and we've been asked, and today of all days, it's important to acknowledge that we've been asked by women and women's groups that are exiting out of violence to consider housing in a full way. And so, with that, Madam Speaker, I wanted to make a few comments. I want to acknowledge, too, though, my contiguous partners in both the legislature and members of parliament, Jim Carr and Leah Gazan who have been concerned that we're…we have a strategy to address what, you know, what we need to in the City of Winnipeg. And so, with that in mind, I will be supportive and I hope everyone in the chamber will be too.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The time is now, my councillor colleagues. The time is now. I wish it would have been a few years earlier, but the time is now. The highest poverty rates in Canada are right here where we're sitting. Some of the highest poverty rates. Highest child poverty rates in Canada are right here in this community. And it's vital that we act and it's vital that we start looking at the policies that we're putting into place, the actions that we're taking on Council and the decisions that we're making. We need to implement…we need to implement things that are going to make sure that we're taking away the barriers of some of the people…our most vulnerable population and that is the key. And we have a role and responsibility to do that from this level. We have many things that we are responsible for at the City level and the time is now to make sure that we are acting on what we can do to reduce poverty within the City of Winnipeg. And I want to thank…I want to thank the author of the report and the Community Services people, they did a tremendous job. And what we heard over and over again from the many delegates that came forward, is what an outstanding job they did working with the community on this. And I think that that is something we should learn from and that that is a key. And they had stakeholders that were at the table and they were learning from people that are working with vulnerable people and I think that is also a key. I also want to thank Councillor Rollins for all of her work on this file. She has…you know, from somebody who moved the motion, she let me be part of the process and I really appreciated it that and she has provided so much good insight and has really incorporated so much of different works that we're doing in the city into her role as Chair of Community Services and what is going on with poverty reduction. And I really…I really want to thank her because I don't know if we would have gotten as far as we did without her support. And of course, our mayor because this is something I've been pushing for and I'm so glad that, you know, our mayor's taken this on. Other cities are doing this work already. We have done good work so I don't want people to think that we haven't done anything in terms of poverty reduction. What we have learned through this process is that we have been doing really good, but we just have more work to do. And I think Councillor Rollins really indicated it; this will be the first step. We've got lots more to do. And I think we've got to continue to work with our community stakeholders on that work and I look forward to seeing what more can happen in terms of poverty reduction, but I just urge you all to support this here today. I think it will be the first in the city and the time is now. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: People are getting poorer. The majority of people in our society, in our city are getting poorer. Their costs of living are going up and I'm talking pre-COVID. Pre-commercial cargo chain blocks. It's been going on a few decades. And at a time like this, you'll see more expressions of it. And so, at a time like this, it's really important that we show sort of that we have some sort of universal program or package where we can talk…all the things we do do to reduce the worst elements of it. And this does this. Some of it are things that we do anyway and some of it is…some certain conscious affects to limit and to reduce the greatest affects of poverty. At least those that are most visible. At least those that we're most aware of. We don't always talk about what's causing this, in fact we don't, Madam Speaker. We don't talk about what's causing it. We'll talk lately, in the last couple of…year and a half we talk about COVID but this has been going on for a while. And after a certain amount of time you hit certain thresholds in which you really see the ramifications. However, this is essentially a good thing. I don't believe it is the responsibility of the City to deal with these big, enormous challenges. The City can't do it by themselves. We don't have the budget to do that. It was never really the responsibility. It is essentially the responsibility of the Federal and Provincial Governments and that's the truth. They've…they've…they've got…it is literally within their jurisdiction and responsibility and within their budget ability. Having said that, it's really hard in some respects, it's impossible for the City not to be involved, so here we are talking about our involvement, which is important, it's real, but it's…it's essentially…if you're really going to deal, it's essentially, limited and that's not our fault. But having said that, we do have obligations towards dealing with these challenges and some of which we are doing. The City actively plans for partners in affordable housing. I'm going to mention this more than once because it's mentioned more than once in the…in the Poverty Reduction Strategy. So, that's what's going on. I'll repeat myself. Remember, we can't do what we used to do for affordable housing. I've mentioned this before but so long as these issues come up at City Council and these…we're talking about housing and poverty reduction strategies, I will repeat it as well. We used to be able to do things in terms of affordable housing on such a way that was notable. It's actually reversed the dilemma. I'm not certain at all. I don't believe this is going to be reversed. It will reduce it. It will…it will limit it in terms of the amount of…in terms of doing something for affordable housing. But just bear in mind, I've said before and I'll say it again, so long as we talk about this stuff. I didn't put this on the agenda but it's important stuff. Forty, fifty years ago in Manitoba, we had a provincial government that in eight years brought in 14,000 affordable housing units. That sounds ridiculous by today's standards. We…there would be some cry of lack of balance or something, well yeah, because we can't afford it, but we don't talk about why. So why can't we do this? We talk about $3 million or something coming from the Provincial Government, guess how many affordable housing units that's going to be? I think it's going to be less than 20, maybe closer to a dozen given the fact that we've heard in this chamber that an affordable housing unit these days costs more than I bought for my house just a few years ago, $265,000 for a single affordable housing. Now you know why we're going to have problems dealing with affordable housing. But we don't talk about why we've got that

problem and therein lies part of the challenge. But we do have, part of our strategy is to do dozens of affordable housing units and that's a good thing. Now, we say we're concentrating on affordable housing that's for women. That's a good thing. Bear in mind, we used to do over…well over 10 times the amount of affordable housing units, well over 10 times the amount, therefore we were doing more for women. Why aren't we now? Don't we want to know? Is there…is there…as a Council, do we know the answer to that? Is there a single member of this council that knows the answer to that, why we can't do that today. Why are we being deprived of that information in order to make the right decisions in order to account for the dilemma to the taxpayer and yea, to those who might need these affordable housing units. Are we explaining to them why we can't do this? Nonetheless, we are doing a few and it's a good thing. Many aspects to this. Many…some of the examples of the policies…policy that aligns with the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy, a living wage for municipal employees. I recall Councillor Eadie, you know, making the argument, well, what's wrong with an affordable…you know, a living wage. I dare say, that back 50 years ago, when we weren't going into debt…when we weren't going into debt, when we had a solid growth of an economy, we had been going a few decades without any recession that the…that we had a greater proportion of the City wages that were livable wages and that it's gone down in recent decades. So, is it unreasonable to talk about living wages? And if we think it's unreasonable, why? Why is it unreasonable? It's just unreasonable. But we used to have more people on living wages working for the City and we weren't going into debt. So, if there's something unreasonable about it, why? What is it? Don't we want to know? Don't we want to solve these problems? Now, here's one, I like this one, healthy food. Good one. And I want to thank His Worship for bringing in the Winnipeg Food Council. It happens to be, that the challenge on healthy food, it's not even part of the Winnipeg Food Council's motto. Having said that, it's not like the Winnipeg Food Council ignores the issue. But just dealing with it point blank, healthy food, it's very important and it's sort of ambiguous, but not that ambiguous, and dealing with healthy food for people is a really big issue, it's really important and I'm glad it's part of this. It's not a big budget issue, but in terms of being creative and properly strategic in terms of being efficient with how we go about making decisions and solving problems, we cannot ignore the issue of healthy food. We can't. Again, 5.2; affordable and supportive housing enables affordable housing continuum as a human right. Well, it's mentioned again so I'll mention again, we used to be able to do this a lot more often. 10 times more often. And we can't today. Why not? Don't we want to know? Affordable housing is mentioned how many times in this report? So, how many times should we be able to account for what is the challenges of today in offering affordable housing? In fact, offering of housing for the majority of working-class people for whom their mortgages and rents and property taxes have gone up a lot higher than the rate of increase…increases for their wages and salaries. Can I have a couple more minutes?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers moves extension. All in favour? Two-minute extension. Carried.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you. We talk in this about a low-income pass. That's a good thing. Because bear in mind, as I said before, are the…the buses, if you pay cash, it's…if you just have cash on you, it's going to cost over $3 to take the bus. Well, I dare say, a lot of people are just in that position, they need to take the bus, they have…they just have some cash on them, that's all they've got. And therefore, they have to pay the maximum amount. I dare see that often the people that can least afford it…or people who just have some cash on them and they have to pay over $3 to get on the bus. Well, just remember, 50 years ago, it was 15 cents, so it did go up 20 times. Have people's wages gone up 20 times in the last 50 years? No, they haven't even tripled. So, that's where we're at. Having said that, we're not finding out why bus fares have gone up 20 times and gone up, you know, 8 to 10 times higher than people…the increase in people's wages in the same amount of time, but at least it's in there. But we need to find out why one day. We talk oppression and stigma, racism, ethnicity; these issues are gigantic. And I don't know where to start and I only have 40 seconds and I don't have enough time. Happens to be in my life, just given the…my working environment across western Canada…well, across the country, primarily in western Canada, the majority of my coworkers, my peer coworkers, which I worked in the same environment between me and, let's say, the Mayor right there. And that same office, in the same working environment, shoulder to shoulder are Indigenous, First Nation. The majority of people I worked with. So, I know there's a stigma about the cost regarding the programs for Indigenous people, but I'll tell you something, the majority of people I've worked with and half of my bosses in my life have been Indigenous and Métis. So, in terms of stigma, we need to deal with this, but we can't deal with this until we realize that it is not any individual race that's getting richer at the expense of any other. Thank you.

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

Councillor Lukes: Sorry. I'd like to read my notes, sorry. Thank you. So, I'm going to speak to Item No. 4. I rise to state that I will be supporting the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy. And I want to thank the staff and especially Councillor Rollins and Gilroy for their work on this report. As I noted before, every single councillor brings value and perspectives to the table and here is some of that value shining bright and strong. And I want to bring forward that this report, according to the multiple stakeholders I spoke to was seen as gain, an extremely collaborative approach. Stakeholders I spoke to said that this was one of the most collaborative approaches they've seen in the last seven plus years. And Councillor Rollins, again, I'm sure you had a strong hand in this approach. And I hope we can all move to this…this…this way of doing business and developing plans and policies. For sure cities, for sure Winnipeg, has the opportunity to act, enable

policies, support a poverty reduction strategy. We have many tools here that will allow that, but I do want to put on the record that I believe the City of Winnipeg's role is to support efforts. To support efforts of other levels of government whose priorities is health, housing, mental health. As Councillor Browaty noted at EPC, and I will add another department, between the Departments of Families and Health Care in the Provincial Government, $8.7 billion is allocated to fund these two departments. Health and Families, $8.7 billion. And that the City of Winnipeg's entire operating and capital budget is slightly over $2 billion. Two billion to run the City of Winnipeg, $8.7 billion for two departments in the Province that focus on these issues. So, I don't think we should lost context of that because there's a bigger role to play here by the Provincial Government that maybe we'll see more of that role being played out, but I think that we need to always be cognizant of this and I think that Winnipeg should and can play a supporting role and it's important that we have these ongoing discussions with other levels of government, but again, I think the City's priorities are...well, the City's priorities are different than the provincial priorities and the Province has the funding to deliver on those priorities more so than the City has. I think this is a really good report. It's good work. It's a good start in the supporting role. And again, Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Rollins and all the stakeholders that contributed I think should be acknowledged and I will be supporting it today as a supporting role.

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

Councillor Allard: I'd like to just say a few words in French to acknowledge my colleagues and say some congratulations. We're good for that, yeah?

Translation of French Spoken:

Councillor Allard: So, I would like to thank my colleagues for their collaboration, for the leadership to have this file here on poverty in Winnipeg. In particular, Councillor Rollins and Councillor Gilroy who were very involved. And others, surely, that I have others that I need to mention, but I don't necessarily have the details with me. I was doing a media interview earlier and we were talking about the security of transit. And so, in my response regarding the security, I made reference to a terrible act of violence that happened on one of our buses where a woman was attacked with a knife in her back numerous times. And the media asked me, what measures would be possible to make sure that events like this don't happen. And my response to the media at this time and again today, was that it's difficult to think…to imagine a (inaudible) a human resource, no matter what to make sure that an event like that doesn't happen. And in my response, and I think we know this answer, it's an answer that takes time, that takes work and that takes strategies like this, the answer to having a healthier society is to attack injustices like housing, like poverty, like drug dependence and it's with these strategies and actions like that that we can have a society where we don't see tragedies like we saw on our Winnipeg Transit. So, I would like to highlight the efforts of my colleagues in the development of this strategy. I would also like to thank the Mayor for having approved the project and to have been involved with this as well. And with that, I will support this report, I hope we all can. I think that it's one of the most important pieces of work we can do for society. Sadly, the effects that we see with a strategy like this take some time and we know that our electoral cycles are very short with only four years between our elections and a lot of the results that we will see from this report will only appear after these four years and potentially in many, many years. So, with that, I will end my remarks. I would like to say thank you to my colleagues and I support this report.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of the Poverty Reduction Strategy that's here before us. I want to thank Councillor Rollins and Councillor Gilroy on their tireless work to have this policy here before us at Council. There are elements of it that I participated in, in terms of the social procurement policy and removing some of the barriers that can help individuals get trained and part of our workforce. These are all important aspects as we address the issues of poverty, of homelessness, of mental health and addictions that not only plague our city, but plague cities throughout North America. And I'm glad that we've taken leadership in now having a policy in place. Part of our Economic Recovery Strategy deals with these elements as well. And you know, the importance that we place on citizens of Winnipeggers…or sorry, Winnipeggers who are less fortunate in terms of their lot in life, but again, removing those barriers that can help make them contributing members of our society. It's important that, you know, as we go forward and as we look at this policy and further develop this policy, that we continue to have dialogues with the stakeholder groups that have contributed towards the development of this policy, that we continue to refocus the lenses necessary. As mentioned earlier in my comments, there are other issues that come up before us that we need to be nimble and ensure that we're visionary in the sense that we're protecting those that are most vulnerable by providing them with opportunities and tools to provide for themselves. I've had, over the last several months now, different stakeholder groups coming to me to talk about the issue of youth that are aging out that are turning 18 and no longer eligible for services under Child and Family Services and are ill prepared to face, you know, what life has to give…to provide for them going forward. Different groups have recognized that there is a gap in terms of the services for those youths as they go forward and a lot of them end up in situations that contribute towards incarceration or encampments. Not all of them, but there are situations where it does

contribute towards those outcomes for those individuals. So, we are mindful now with this policy in place that we do need to go back to the…to the stakeholder groups and continue to work with them to refine the lens, to refine the policy and ensure that we're filling those gaps to make sure those individuals can...you know, can…don't have those barriers towards employment, towards being employed, towards having better outcomes in their life times. It is also critically important, Madam Speaker, that we work with the other levels of government. As Councillor Lukes had mentioned, the Department of Families alone is a $2 billion dollar department that addresses a lot of these issues or should be addressing a lot of these issues. I recognize in the Department of Justice, we're working on, through the Police Services Act as well as the Justice Minister has talked about different initiatives that help towards domestic violence. November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and it's going to take all levels of government to work on this issue to help eliminate…reduce and eliminate the instances of domestic violence in our communities. There are root causes to this that, again, this policy can address removing those stigmas in removing those root causes. Poverty being one of the biggest ones that continue to plague our society with respect to domestic violence and violence against women. So, again, congratulations to the work done by Councillor Rollins and Councillor Gilroy in bringing this forward. And I fully support the direction this city has taken in addressing poverty reduction. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support this report. I'll be voting in favour of it. Like so many others have, I do want to acknowledge the good work of our council colleagues, Councillors Gilroy and Rollins for their efforts and everyone else that's been involved as well. I'll kind of restate some of the comments I made on this report at Executive Policy Committee. Just to kind of reiterate what a couple have said already including Councillor Lukes and Councillor Browaty, at the last…at the EPC Meeting, there are billions of dollars invested in the Province's…the City's social safety net system. When you…when we consider the investments the federal governments and the Provincial Government, City of Winnipeg, when we think about all of these not-for-profits, community organizations, faith-based groups, Indigenous organizations and beyond that are working to address issues of poverty, the complex issues of poverty. And yet, it's quite remarkable that still we have gaps and overlap. And I agree and I appreciate that this report lays out the fact the City of Winnipeg does have a role to play. The primary, I would say, mandate, the primary structure, access to resources, departmental structure to deliver services I really believe lays with the Province of Manitoba. And so, it is critical to do what others have said is that we come as a partner to play our part in addressing issues of poverty because at the end of the day, and we know this, we're really…we can talk about it, you know, conceptually and we can, you know, have the meetings and put diagrams in place and budget lines in place, this is about men and women, boys and girls, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers. And so, we do certainly have a human obligation to be working to address and uplift those who are in need around us. So, I'm glad that our…I'm really glad that our city has put in place Winnipeg's Poverty Reduction Strategy, the first one of its kind. There's a long way to go. I'm also very optimistic especially because of the news of yesterday with the Mayor and the Premier meeting here for a significant announcement. I'm optimistic that, you know, the page has turned in the relationship between the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba and I trust that, you know, that they'll be very receptive to increased coordination and efforts. I do acknowledge too, and I think the news of the announcement regarding, I think is it 190 Disraeli? I think just earlier last week, I believe it was, that's a good step. And that needs, you know, to be, you know, a step of coordination and collaborative effort. At the risk of, you know, failing to mention one of the many great organizations that are doing good work, I do want to acknowledge the work, too, of the Downtown Community Safety Partnership. The City of Winnipeg stands behind and invests of the work of Mr. Greg Burnett and his team. The Province of Manitoba also stands behind and is invested in their work. And I was able to see some of their work first hand, I know the Mayor, as well, just recently was able to see the work first hand. And they're working very hard to build relationships with many of the people who spend most their time residing in the downtown, perhaps unsheltered, perhaps homeless, perhaps struggling with addiction and like Main Street Project and others doing excellent work in treating individuals with human dignity, listening, building relationships and trying to find ways to assist individuals and meet them in their moment of need to get them the resources that they need. And so, looking forward to ongoing efforts, ongoing partnership with all of the City's partners in playing our role in addressing poverty in our city.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wasn't going rise but I am going to. I do support this motion and acknowledge the work of my colleagues. I also want to acknowledge that it is just a first step. I've heard some comments today about poverty and domestic violence. I can tell you that poverty and domestic violence are not the same. I can tell you that it's…that poverty comes in many shapes, forms, colours, as does domestic violence. Looking at poverty as I do and back in my history, I've heard many levels of government talk about how they're going to fix it. Talk about how we're going address the violence that comes with poverty. Talking about the plans that we have in place, how we're going address it. And this is a good start. I hope that this leads to some actions, tangible actions, tangible results so that we can be proud of what we're voting on here today. It's a start. And other levels of government have had similar starts. They've talked about addressing it. Many have failed, if not all. It doesn't matter what party, what level of government. I'm glad and I'm proud of my colleagues for what they're putting forward today, but it needs to have actions, it needs to come with

direction, with goals, with objectives and with milestones to achieve. That's what people are looking for. I will support it and I hope we can make it stronger in the months and years ahead.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further speakers, Mr. Mayor, back to you for close.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This has not been…this has not been an easy file to navigate. And during this process, it became more apparent to me why no previous council has been able to develop a poverty reduction strategy because it's a pretty difficult and weighty topic and there's a lot of reasons not to proceed. We could just simply say, you know, it's not our jurisdiction, it's primarily provincial. Leave it for them. We could also try to amplify the efforts of the municipal government beyond our means. But I want to acknowledge and thank the good work of Council, third parties as well as the Public Service. You know, this is a poverty reduction strategy, the first of its kind, it's building on the work of this and previous Council's leadership efforts to try to help. And I would love to see this level of collaboration in parliament and in the legislature on matters affecting our residents more often than we currently see. You know, this will be a poverty reduction strategy that I hope is unanimously supported by all members of Council. Some of whom I know are card carrying members of the NDP, liberals, conservatives, there may even be PPC, I don't know, but like, there's people across the political spectrum here and if we can support this unanimously I think that bodes well for this council doing what it can to try to support residents within our jurisdiction, within our means. You know, I know there are members of Council who wish that there were much more significant dollars attached to this report and I want to thank them for working collaboratively with council colleagues who may not feel we should be doing anything in this space. So, I think there's appreciation that should go around this chamber. And I know, you know, this report and this strategy alone isn't going to eliminate poverty but it's hopefully going to help lead to some better outcomes for the residents that we serve. And so, very proud that we're voting on this today. Deeply appreciative of the collaborative spirit that's gone into this from members of Council across the political spectrum. And I would ask if we could have a recorded vote, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, I'll call the question on Item 4 and there will be a recorded vote. Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy. Pardon me? Councillor Browaty, did you…no? No, he's good, but thank you, Councillor Lukes. All those in favour of this item, the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

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

Madam Speaker: The item passes unanimously. Mr. Clerk, on to the next item, Item 5.

Item 5 – Public Service Measures to Acknowledge and Support the LiveSAFE Policy Statement

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

Mayor Bowman: I'll be very brief. I hope that members of Council can support this. I want to thank Councillor Rollins for what I think were some very thoughtful amendments at committee and look forward to the work that we still have to do on this particular file. I want to also acknowledge the work of many members of Council in terms of their efforts to build a safer, more inclusive community. Many members of Council have served and are currently serving on Police Board or are serving on our efforts with respect to safe cities and, of course, UN efforts as well as, of course, PCS&P which is led by Councillor Rollins. And so, I just want to thank everybody for their efforts and hopeful that we can support this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this motion is one that I think every single member…is another one where I think every single member of Council should be able to see themselves in because there has been so much work. I have a colleague in this chamber who oftentimes asks me for that e-mail and it's Councillor Lukes, Madam Speaker. And in this motion is a lot of the work that each and every councillor in this chamber has done with respect to creating a safer city. I can't talk about this motion without mentioning, though, my UN Safe City colleague, Cindy Gilroy who, you know, just passed a poverty motion that she'd been working on long before I got here, Madam Speaker. And the collective impact model, the ones where community-based organizations that are in your ward, Madam Speaker, in my ward, in Councillor Gilroy's ward, all across our wards that, to Councillor Gillingham's point, create the safety in the city. To make sure that we have policy that allows them to direct we have to somehow name them and embed that in policy

and safe city by design does that. It says you are important to the design of this city. Councillor Gilroy, Madam Speaker, has really put important pillars down whether it's UN Safe City, the Committee for Safety that Councillor Santos chairs, the poverty strategy motion that we just passed, this is the work that needs to be…needs to continue. I want to acknowledge Mayor Bowman, not only do I get to be Chair of Protection and design what protection means, which all of Council has been very gracious in allowing me as Chair to put a capital "P" on that. But Mayor Bowman really considered the distribution of the community-led activities that strengthen local grassroots safety prevention offer…efforts and that, too, the $300,000, the $300,000 that if you did the analysis and you cut through all of the community safety grants that we've given out, it would literally define better than we had in policy today what community safety means to this city. We saw, for instance, that it meant a lot of harm reduction activities. We saw, for instance, that it meant a lot of lighting activities. And we saw, for instance, that, yes, it meant a lot of making sure women and gender diverse people in this city were safer. And so, it's these types of initiatives that the safe city by design policy will help expand on and help hopefully mobilize and that we have a staff person to do it is really key. It's really key for the deliverables that…Councillor Klein is not here right now, but the deliverables that he wants to see in the implementation plans that are there in the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The key deliverables that we will see, hopefully, vast improvements in safer city by design. You understand these last three motions that we just did as a Council, and I'm just going to assume this, we're going to go three to three on unanimity today because it's almost Hanukah, it's before Christmas, and we're going to do this. But these three can be understood together, but it's this staff person that is going to be charged with making sure that this council sees the action that they have really wanted to see in these unanimous votes. One, poverty reduction, two, the economic recovery and the housing that…the housing formulas that are embedded in it and are we meeting those housing goals and including affordability and deep affordability in housing goals. And then, finally, are we a safer city by design? We've done really important work towards this end. I joke that I carry in my purse a, you know, a little framework on housing, harm reduction, equity and the administrative piece to get it all through. This is that policy. This is a policy that embeds that framework. It's a policy that acknowledges that collective impact approach and brings groups with those common goals together in a structured way to achieve, together, the safer city that we all want and need. A city that we always should be humble and acknowledge that we in…we are just councillors, it's temporal and we don't design this city that others do. And so, it also puts together, you know, the stuff that is our business. We have planners, we have landscape architects and are they advancing and applying the objectives of that UN Safe City that Councillor Gilroy started so long ago on the city streets to influence women and girl's safety and access to public spaces with the goal of creating a safer city by design. Are we doing that with each and every piece of our work? It's important to have the staff people to do it and here the Department of Community Services, the department that ends up being the department in community development that catches the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy, the equity policies of this city that catches and supports their colleagues in Indigenous Relations Division to produce the Indigenous Accord reports that, an important way, makes this city a lot safer. So, this is to rewrite a 2008 policy, it's about time. To rewrite it in the authorship that is found in each one of your wards and the community-based organizations that have influenced the policy to date. Without…without further ado, I hope we get to pass this today unanimously.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Mr. Mayor, back to you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to be very brief. I appreciate the acknowledgment of the community safety crime prevention fund. I think that's one of many ways Councillor Rollins has done an excellent job of listing kind of the depth of efforts that we as a municipality have gone to help better create a safer environment for our residents. So, hopeful that we can all support this report and the motion that's before us.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, Mr. Mayor, the question on Item 5. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk, next item.

Item 7 – City of Winnipeg Bid for the 2031 Pan American Games

Madam Speaker: And this one has an amending motion to go with it, I believe. Motion 1. Mr. Mayor, followed by Councillor Mayes.

Mayor Bowman: Sure. I'll be…I'll be brief. I want to thank Councillor Mayes.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, was that a question? Or in the speaking order? Okay, thank you.

Mayor Bowman: I'd like to thank Councillor Mayes for initiating this effort. He and I have had the opportunity to work on various matters, as he has with other members of Council, to support not only sport in our city but also events that we host. Winnipeg is an outstanding host community because of the strength of our volunteers, most notably, but also governments and private sector alike. We've done a great job hosting the Pan American Games in the past on two occasions. I think the opportunity to consider and study the feasibility of possibly hosting it once again or a version of it. I know Councillor Mayes will speak more eloquently in a moment about the amendment today, but we've done a great job

of hosting events, not just Pan American Games, but also, Junos and Grey Cups and Canada Summer Games, among many others. And we have, of course, the legacy in terms of some of the facilities from not only Pan American Games, but also Canada Games. And I think having some dialogue with third parties, including other levels of government at this time, makes sense and I'm optimistic about what we might be able to do going forward. Obviously, this wouldn't be occurring in the near future, but you know, certainly in our longer-term multi-year recovery there might be some benefit from an economic development perspective. So, very proud to second this motion and look forward to hearing from Councillor Mayes on this in more depth in a few moments. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councillor Mayes, your opportunity to speak to the amending Motion 1 and the main item.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 7 of the Executive Policy Committee report dated November 17, 2021, be amended as follows:

- *In Recommendation 1 add "or a future Junior Pan American Games" after "2031 Pan American Games".*

Councillor Mayes: Thanks. Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And thanks to the Mayor for setting the bar high there by saying it will be more eloquent. Hopefully. It is difficult to follow something as profound as the live safe policy and in particular, the Poverty Reduction Strategy which has taken years of effort from some of the councillors. Hard to follow that with something that's seemingly mundane, perhaps banal, perhaps some might say, but this actually is an important idea, it's worth exploring. And that is what this is meant to do. It's to explore the idea of a bid. It is not voting to proceed with a bid, that is a costly thing. It's a bit of a gamble. You put in millions of dollars for a bid and sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. So, we're not at that stage yet, but if we want to have that debate a few years down the line we have got to get going and take a look. There was a 32-year gap from 1967 to 1999 between the first and second Pan Am Games the city hosted, then there's going to be another 32-year gap to 2031. So, it's timely to get going on this. There was an editorial a few days ago saying, caution is warranted, and that is correct. So, we're not racing off to try and run the Montreal Olympics and lose a billion dollars and take 40 years to pay it, but the '99 games left a good legacy and were financially successful. The Canada Games under this mayor were very successful and left a financial legacy we're still enjoying, so…as well as some amenities that the city got; Bison Butte for mountain biking, the beach volleyball courts which my ward, unfortunately, didn't get, though I was on EPC, and which Councillor Gilroy's ward did get, even though she wasn't on EPC at the time. Just thought I'd throw that in there about some of the amenities we got out of the 2017 Canada Games. These sorts of activities can have enormous financial cost, but they can also have great gains. As I said at EPC, one of my son's said to me a few years ago, why do they call it the Pan Am Pool? And the answer is because Vaughan Baird and some other people pushed to have an enclosed pool in 1967 and it got built and it's still what we use for racing. The Mayor would have trained there, raced there. The Canada Games were held there in 2017. So, the pool is still going strong. It is my hope, if I ever have grandchildren and one of them turns to my sons and says, about 200 metres from here, why is this called the Canada Games Sport for Life Centre? And they can say, because the City had the foresight in 2017 to host the Canada Games. Sitting here, thinking a lot about the past and that I was elected 10 years ago tomorrow, but more on that at the budget discussion tomorrow, but one of the first things we did after I got elected was debate that Canada Games bid, in fact, there's a news story from that March saying, well, shouldn't we cooperate with Brandon? It had come down to us and Brandon. I moved, I'd been a Brandon school trustee. And it was a good debate about whether we should go ahead. Some people thought it was too small to go ahead with the Canada Games, it turned out to be a great success, which also leads to the rationale behind the amendments. Today, really, I'd like to say by design, but more by blind coincidence, today is the opening ceremony of the very first Junior Pan American Games. So, I thought it timely to add an amendment to say, well, we might actually look at doing that. That seems more in line with the Canada Games sort of level of activity. Maybe we aren't in line for another Pan Am Games. Certainly, Hamilton's trying for the 2030 Commonwealth Games. Vancouver is trying for the 2030 Olympics. Maybe the Federal Government will just say, no, this is not being cautious. This is not warranted. But maybe, given all of these facilities we have from previous games, we could put together a bid for the Junior Pan American Games if it goes ahead after today. It's interesting, the site of those games that start today, the first Junior Pan American Games, the site is Cali, Colombia which actually hosted the Pan Am Games in 1971, right after we did in 1967. So, there's certainly some opportunity here perhaps with the Junior Pan Am Games. Councillor Nason had asked me, well, isn't there a lot of risk? It was a fair question. There's some risk here, isn't there? Why are…why isn't there a costing on this? Well, we don't really have a costing for what it would take to do a study, to sit down with Economic Development Winnipeg, Tourism Winnipeg and talk about, hey, how…what could we use, what is too old, what might we need. It's a fair question from Councillor Nason, but we'll never know unless we start exploring. So, this isn't putting in a bid in a bid book for millions of dollars, this is…this is the first step starting an exploration to see what this idea might cost. It is, as the recent editorial said, it is a cautious approach, it needs to be. One opportunity that is there though is, certainly, other games in other cities have been used to dynamite into action rapid transit projects, this

may be an opportunity here. My parents were good enough to take me to the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton as a kid to watch those. The LRT was open because the Commonwealth Games. So, that's…they've had an LRT system for over 40 years now. Somewhat more controversially, Vancouver added a subway line for 2010 Winter Olympics, but there may be opportunity here. Maybe this can be leveraged, if we do get a games to accelerate some of our rapid transit initiatives. That would certainly be my hope. It might also give us an opportunity to accelerate some of our housing initiatives. U of M obviously has a track, it has the stadium now. It may be…maybe that's where an athletes village can go. They have lots of space. Councillor Lukes has put in a lot of time in the Southwood development. Maybe there will be some opportunities there to use this to leverage some housing initiatives. So, it is worth exploring, I think. My thanks to the Mayor for backing this. He was certainly an enthusiastic backer of those 2017 games that I think were definitely a success for the city. And maybe it's the junior games that we can afford or that we could successfully look into, I don't know, but it's worth exploring. So, there are these moments as a city where you can take some initiative. It isn't going to be immediate, the Mayor's right, it isn't going to be immediate recovery from COVID, but it is an opportunity. What we are going to see, and which we, I think, also later on the agenda here, the Police and Fire Games. We have shown the world we can host Pan Am. We've shown the world we can host Canada Games. We'll be showing the world we can host the World Police Fire Games. This may be another opportunity for the City to go forward. So, I encourage all of Council to support this. It isn't a blank check, it isn't going forward with some sort of risky bid not knowing the options. We'll get people together to talk about it. I've already been contacted by a number of people who were active in 1999 and I've had to say, you know, we haven't really approved this yet at Council, so just wait…wait. But certainly, there's an opportunity there. Hopefully, we would have provincial support, we would need that. Hopefully, we would have federal support, we would need that. So, it's a first step perhaps toward another Pan Am Games, perhaps toward a Junior Pan Am Games. That might be the direction we decide to take, but it just seems appropriate on the day these Junior Pan Am Games are starting down in Colombia that we would say, okay, let's…let's, as a city, take a look at this, maybe there's some housing, maybe there's some transit, maybe there's some other amenities that we can build so that 50, 60 years from now, people can say, why is that venue called the 2031 Pan Am? Why is that called the Junior Pan American building? And we can say, well, because Council went forward and decided to proceed. So, I hope we can support this. It may actually end up being after any of us are in office. I would…certainly, it's not an immediate short-term thing as the Mayor said. I think it's worth exploring. I think if people hadn't done that in the '60s and the '90s, we wouldn't have some of the facilities. And to the credit of some of the people around this table, and former Mayor Katz, we went ahead, put in a bid for the Canada Games in 2013, we won that and we can literally see some fruits of our labours with…with the…in Councillor Gilroy's ward, with the Bison Butte, with other facilities. I have to put in that the running track was redone at U of Manitoba, so that, for me, was important as part of the Pan Am Games and the support for the Sport for Life Centre. So, hopefully we can take the first step here today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Any further speakers? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would have wanted to volunteer for the 1967 Pan Am Games, pretty sure, but I was only six days old. I couldn't make it to that one. I do recall 32 years later being highly involved as a volunteer in the 1990…1999.

Madam Speaker: We were together.

Councillor Schreyer: You could recall. Well, there's lots of stories about that, actually, but we don't have time, Madam Speaker, to go down memory lane in terms of our volunteering for the Pan Am Games back in 1999. But one thing I recall…I recall a few things that were really salient, very shiny to me, and one is, bear in mind in 1967, Dave Courchene Jr. who could run with the torch up until he came to the stadium and Dave Courchene Jr. wasn't allowed in the stadium. It would only be four years later these kinds of things slowly get reconciled, but for sure, in many respects and this one, because when I was just a few years old, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 years old, his father, David Courchene Sr. would be a regular visitor in my living room and our kitchen table having regular chats with my dad, whoever was around to discuss what are the issues as Dave Courchene Jr…ah, Sr. was Grand Chief of what they called at the time, the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. Thirty two years later, 1999, we dealt with this, we acknowledged what had happened in 1967 and we dealt with that in which…in a way, I believe, Dave Courchene Jr. felt was fair. At that time, the president of the Pan Am Game's Association became…to see Winnipeg host it for the second time said, and I believed it because I was really impressed with what I saw, that Winnipeg had at that…by that time, the best organized Pan American Games that he had seen in 1999. And hats off to all the Winnipeggers involved. It was fantastic to see how people came out of the woodwork. Oh my goodness. And they made this…they expressed the greatness of the city as an international city. As a Pan American city. We are. We're a smaller city, you know, where we don't have the capacity to hold the Olympics, but we did a fantastic job, apparently two times; '67, 32 years later, 1999 and a year or two after that we're holding the Canadian Indigenous Games. And I was involved in that as well and did a great job. But this is an expression of our ability because, yes, there's a risk involved in terms of the resources, but remember, unlike other things that we spend money on, this was…a lot of it was volunteer based. Just bear that in mind, a lot of volunteers. And it was amazing to see the volunteers come. And they were stalwart. They were motivated. They were consistent and we could defend a mass army of volunteers to host an

international games for the western hemisphere. So, you know, another 32 years later, 2031, it would be fantastic because, bear in mind, yes, there are costs involved, yes. But bear in mind, in terms of the amount of money we put into sports, in terms of being the international focus for a couple weeks, extremely temporary. And also, very much, a lot of volunteers involved to it make it worth the effort. Bear that in mind, because it was Winnipeggers that came out of the woodwork by the thousands to make this work, such as Councillor Devi Sharma, among many others. And I think we should just bear that in mind as we move forward to take our place amongst the smaller…smaller cities in the world, in this continent, that we have the capacity and we have the volunteer…we have the volunteerism. And we've got…we've got the resources. Not every city in the western hemisphere has what we have to pull this off, but we also do so, given the resources, the humanity, the volunteerism and the capacity of what makes the city great. People from, actually, all over the world, including those countries, some of those countries that we'd be hosting. And I think we should bear that in mind. Thank you.

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

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker. Thanks to Councillor Mayes for mentioning that we did exchange…or exchanged some comments on this matter. I do smile fondly when I see some of the brightly coloured outfits that participants wore in '99 that I still see in and about Winnipeg to this day. Not today, because it's really cold. But the challenge that I have is that we have Economic Development Winnipeg, we have Tourism Winnipeg; these are entities that should be out regularly hunting these opportunities. And I appreciate the amendment that was brought forward to also include the Junior Games, but I see an absence. And you know, given what's happened in the last couple of weeks in Winnipeg with our accessibility community, some of the challenges they've faced with being able to move about our city, I see a noticeable and glaring absence of the Parapan Games. So, why aren't we looking to explore those opportunities to show, you know, a more inclusive city? Because compared to some of our Latin American countries that I've been to, accessibility is a really huge challenge. And I think it's an opportunity that we could showcase some of the inclusion that we have in Winnipeg, I'll be it, challenged in winter. I will be supporting these motions, but I…you know, perhaps Councillor Mayes and I can talk about this further and see if there's an opportunity for maybe a future motion to also have that looked at. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of this motion to consider the 2031 Pan Am Games. Yes, and thank you, Councillor Nason for your thoughtful remarks to consider the other games as well, the para type games that can speak to inclusion of those that are athletes that are participating in sports in a para event. Since the 1999 games, and I, again, pick up on what Councillor Nason's talked about, I still have my salmon coloured jacket and my tan-coloured pants from the 1999 games. Seeing 2031 as an opportunity to improve on those colour selections. But since…since the 1999 games, I'm looking what has been added to the crown jewels of tourism offerings here in the city. Such as the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Diversity Gardens, Qaumajuq are all fantastic tourism offerings that can be showcased through opportunities such as thousands and thousands…tens of thousands of athletes that come to our city…converge on our city to participate in games such as the Police Fire Games that will be held in 2023 and then potentially in 2031, the Pan American Games. And to Councillor Nason's point, para games that…Parapan Am Games or Olympic Games that are hosted in different cities throughout the world. Not to mention, the variety of different restaurants and businesses that can be, you know, patronized through athletes that are coming to our city. The hotels, you know, all of those economic factors. So, it's an opportunity to work in partnership and collaboration with entities like Tourism Winnipeg and Economic Development Winnipeg, Chamber of Commerce to have a concerted plan put together to attract those opportunities here to our city. So, fully supportive of the motion by Councillor Mayes. And consider it a great opportunity to break a few eggs to make that omelet, to attract that type of tourism to our city that will help, maybe, provide additional amenities, but certainly, put Winnipeg on the map that we are ready to host the world at different events in our city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Eadie: I think I'm unmuted. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will just speak quickly to these motions. I will be supporting them, of course. I think that Winnipeg is a great place to host sport games of any kind given that we are…actually, I do believe…you know, I believe we're still considered to be a very welcoming people here in middle of the continent of North America. And down in South America, we know we have...Winnipeg is a place where people come to live and to play a part and to experience our cultures, and I mean many cultures. So, I think it's a great idea. And yes, it might be a longer term vision, but I would point out...and because the legacies we know of the '99 games, I'm not sure how much…we did spend some money with the other games that we had in 2017, but I would point out to all of us as Council, as we look forward 10 years from now, we know that, for example, we're supposed to be having a state-of-the-art recreation centre over in Waverley West. We're doing consultations on a state-of-the-art recreation centre for the east side of Winnipeg. And ultimately, part of that vision that comes from some years ago was an internationally status type

indoor sport recreation facility over in the Maples, Madam Speaker, that we know of. And it was there to attract very large international, say, basketball events or badminton, what have you, those kinds of sports. So, this just falls, I believe, along our long-term future plans for this city when it comes to recreation and sports. So, there is still a bit of legacy from '99 in the Mynarski Ward over at the old Ex grounds. What we really have to focus in, though, folks, is the…is that we need to understand that when we establish these things, we need to maintain them so that they are highly used by the people of Winnipeg as a legacy. So, I'll leave it at that. And thanks to Councillor Mayes and the Mayor for bringing this motion to Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Back to you, Councillor Mayes for closing on your motion.

Councillor Mayes: Sure. Thank you. I will try not to be long. Very good comments from everybody. Thanks to Councillor Eadie for his comments. And yes, there was that Maples Community Centre, was certainly in the Hemson report and I'm sure we'll come back to that at some point. Very good points by Councillor Nason. Thank you for raising that about the para games. Obviously, we should, as we go forward, work on that. Very good suggestion. Thanks to Councillor Chambers. Good comment. I thought at first he was going to say he was confident that the new Canada Diversity Gardens building will be finished by 2031. But luckily, he didn't say that. Hopefully by the time this mayor has finished his term in office we will have the Leaf building open. I remain optimistic for next October. The point I had missed earlier that I should have made was, of course, the Canada Games included locations in Gimli and in Kenora for sailing and rowing and the '99 games certainly included facilities outside of Winnipeg. I believe in Minnedosa for some events; rowing. Perhaps other points in the province, certainly, so it wasn't just a Winnipeg thing. It was a Manitoba thing. My neighbour often wore that salmon shirt for years when I lived in Brandon. So, that's what's in my mind's eye. Though, at the other point that Councillor Schreyer made, which was good, and Madam Speaker was a volunteer as well as…you know, I talked to some people who has been behind the 2015 games in Toronto. My old friend Bob Richardson, who I knew from Carlton was heavily involved in that as well as another gentleman and he certainly said, you know, that people do remember the volunteers. I've talked about this at EPC, the Mayor and I both did, the people remember the volunteers in the Winnipeg games in '99. And it isn't us just creating an urban myth or blowing our own horn, this is really what people from other Pan American countries remember is the, what Councillor Schreyer was talking about, the army of volunteers who came out. They came out again in 2017 and I'm confident they'd come out again. But it was a nice moment to realize that there was that spirit in Winnipeg. I lived in Toronto and before I came back, I was at the venue, as it turns out, modern pentathlon, Madam Speaker, was running, but I saw a bunch of different venues. It was terrific. It was very well run and tons of volunteers. Same again in 2017. All over, I kept running into the Mayor in parking lots at different venues. As I was running in, he'd be running out. Tons of volunteers. So, it's an opportunity for us to shine again and Councillor Schreyer is right to raise that. That really was, the story was the great volunteers from the city and throughout the province.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Mr. Mayor to close and then the question.

Mayor Bowman: I'll be brief. Great comments all around. I really appreciate Councillor Chambers' comments about the venues and the amenities that we have been building in our community for many years that are new. They're only going to get stronger between now when we could potentially host another Pan Am Games or the Junior Games. World-class amenities. That's why we're being increasingly recognised on the global stage as the place to visit globally. Winnipeggers are increasingly acknowledging that as well. And you know, when I speak with mayors from around the world, often what comes up is a question about how this community is able to rally together in the way that we do our volunteerism is something that, it's not usual. It's not…you know, people say, that is not normal that level of volunteerism. And I think all Winnipeggers should be very proud of it. It was interesting hearing the comments about Pan Am…Pan Am Pool. I'm sure all members of Council have their experiences with that facility alone. I know our councillor colleagues like Councillor Santos lived in the area growing up. I certainly have some of my…my…some of my best memories in my life are in that facility. My dad for many years, trained there. I learned how to be a lifeguard there. I later competed with Manta before going on to swimming for the Bisons and then come back and swam with the Manitoba Masters. I was racing at the provincial level up until about seven years ago. Haven't been in the water enough. Now my children are training there and in competitive swimming. And it's one of those facilities that transcends multigenerational enjoyment in use. Staff are outstanding. And that's just the one facility. The Sport for Life Centre is exceptional. Right in the heart of downtown. And again, the staff are just amazing at that facility and so many others in our community. New amenities will be built in the near future including the Winnipeg South Rec Complex, something that I campaigned on and fought hard for. And you know, was really happy that we were able to secure the funding from other levels of government to have that be built in an area of the community that does need some additional recreational amenities. And so, yeah, I'm excited about what might possibly come. I think it is important to, as Councillor Mayes has rightfully noted, to caution people that we're not voting today on whether to proceed with the games, it's really just, do we want to have those discussions. And if there are other opportunities, you know, Councillor Nason's noted one, I'm sure there are many others as well. We should absolutely be looking at those. We want to welcome the world to Winnipeg because we have a community that we would be proud of that is up to the task at hand. And let's see where we can go from here. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, I'll call the question on amending Motion 1. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Call the question on the main item as amended. Item 7. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 11 – Welcoming Winnipeg – Renaming Skatepark West

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

Mayor Bowman: I know Council…Councillor Gillingham will likely speak to this in more depth. I just want to thank members of the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee. I want to thank members of Council for their leadership to create a framework that is, as far as we understand, the first-of-its-kind to deal with the absence of Indigenous perspectives and place names in our community. You know, ultimately, Council will decide on case by case basis, you know, whether it follows those recommendations or not, but I think the dialogue is really important right now. I think it's setting a leadership example, coast to coast to coast in one of the many ways in which we are on our journey of reconciliation. And I want to thank members of Council for their ongoing support for Welcoming Winnipeg including Councillor Gillingham, who I know we're going to hear from momentarily. Thank you.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to begin by thanking my councillor colleagues, actually, Councillor Klein and Councillor Lukes who back in spring supported this motion that came to our community committee to rename Skatepark West the Matt Jonsson Memorial Skatepark. For those who I think have heard the story before, were told an unfortunate, tragic accident, Mr. Matt Jonsson, just 24 years old, passed away tragically in an accident last winter. And his family and many members of the community stepped forward to ask that this skatepark be renamed the Matt Jonsson Memorial Skatepark. As a young man, Matt was…and his brother were involved, actually, in kind of the plans for the skatepark with many others, led by, you know, the unstoppable Connie Newman, who many of us know. She was a principal at the time and she reached out to some of the kids who were using…that were skateboarding and said, how do we do this together? You know, you young men and women help us plan this skatepark, and they did that. And so, Matt and his brother Cole were very involved in and active in the skatepark. After his passing with Connie Newman's help, Matt's mother, Tish and Matt's brother Cole reached out to me and put the…we put the wheels in motion. Councillor Lukes and Klein supported it from the start. This council supported it, I think, back in June. It went to the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of community members and I want to thank them, as the Mayor already did, for their work and for looking at this. One of the things that I think is really exciting about this project, in the renaming process, is that Tish Jonsson appeared before the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee and said that part of the new signage and the name change, they also wanted to add a water and treaty acknowledgement that will accompany the signage and be placed there. So, one final interesting note is there's been such overwhelming support from the community and businesses that the costs of a new sign are being covered through donations of businesses in the area, particularly one business. So, it's all very exciting news to see this name change. Tragic reasons, but Matt Jonsson will be kind of forever remembered at the skatepark. So, thank you for your support.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gillingham. Any further speakers? Mr. Mayor. I'll call the question on Item 11. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk, Item 12.

Item 12 – Municipal By-law Enforcement Act Enabling By-law Amendments

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

Mayor Bowman: I'm sorry, it's been a long time since this matter was pulled, so I'll wait to hear from my council colleagues. I can't recall who pulled this, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker on this? Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Well, I've been waiting for this for a long time. The Municipal By-law Enforcement Act offers a much faster and less cumbersome process than the Provincial Offences Act to seek compliance. This report recommends the administrative transfer of an additional 156 offenses. Approval of a…approval of this by-law will enable improved compliance. As we grow up and out, as more and more people move into our city, this report and associated by-laws and changes will enable compliance in a much more timely manner. And like I said, I've been waiting for this report for months. I think probably two years to come forward. It's good work. It will present some changes and challenges, but overall, very positive. So, good work departments. I know it's been a long time coming.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further speakers, Mr. Mayor? I'll call the question. Item 12. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Item 13.

Item 13 – Multi-year Funding Formula for the Winnipeg Police Service

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

Mayor Bowman: I'll wait to hear from council colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. This was stood down by? Councillor Eadie, go ahead.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I said to speak to…I'm in support of this motion It's asking for some extra time to deal with the content of...which is trying to come up with a sustainable, appropriate budget formula, model for the Winnipeg Police Service. I noted that there's been a committee working at it with the Chair of the Police Board on there, which I think is very important that the Chairperson is there in order to represent the citizen perspective going into this, I guess you would call it a steering committee of sorts. And I actually really love the approach. Again, we see councillors here who are looking at…on the committee, looking at having our community committees play a role in going to our residents, in this case, to talk about the various funding formulas, the models that we can look at moving forward in the City of Winnipeg. And I know it has a lot to do with what we've been hearing over the last number of years, two, three years, in regards to the police service who are essential to the city and to my ward and our community committee. So, I'm in support of looking at this. It's actually quite complex, though, when it comes to funding because, you know, it's not just dollars. The reality is, is that there are a number of provincial pieces of legislation that really say, well, the formula, the money that needs to be spent has to be spent in these areas because it's the Winnipeg Police Service who is responsible for a number of the regulatory or ongoing dealing with various types of crime as well as various ways of preventing crime through, you know, through the Justice Department of the Province and police service working indirectly where the City isn't really giving any direct direction in terms of dealing with those things. So, really, what I'm saying here is that, with the police service, there are many things that have to be funded for the police service and accomplished. So, any formulas that move ahead and how we fund...and you know, ultimately, we all…and even the Winnipeg Police Service, contrary to people's belief, they actually would like to see and always strive to try to reduce crime. They don't want to have to deal with crime. They don't want to have to deal with murders. They don't want to have to deal with rapes. They don't want to have to deal with any of these issues. The reality is, is that our society, and societies for as long as…I studied history, society's had major problems that police services have had to deal with. And so, when we look to funding and making sure that they can do it, we have to do that, but we also have to recognize that we need to direct money into efforts that actually...and we voted on two reports today; the anti-poverty as well as the…we changed the name of it, that policy that stems from 2008. But I have only one issue, and I like that they'll be organizing with the chair, whoever the current chair is at the community committee, to get this public consultation and efforts happening is that I heard mentioned that there's five different formulas. Well, they are talking about in January, community committees going out to the public to talk to people about the various models to figure out…and at community committees, it's very important. As Councillor Lukes has pointed out, things have…starting to slowly change here at Council where, you know, community committees are given a higher level of…and the councillors are giving a higher level of ability to give input. But in order to do a proper job, and I'm the current chairperson of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee, in order to appropriately go out to my ward and to Councillor Santos' ward and Councillor Sharma's ward, I really need to understand these formulas…formulae that we've looked at from other cities. So, I'm hoping that, you know, we're given the delay, but I would certainly like to see something that I think the steering committee has already looked at. I would like an opportunity to look at what that is because I want to…I like to pride myself, I believe that I have a bigger picture in my mind, maybe because I can't see, I could visualize connections and those kind of things so that I can understand what the dynamics of the different means of funding the Winnipeg Police Service so that it's sustainable and that the police service has the ability to actually serve and respect the people of Winnipeg. So, I'll leave it at that. I'll be supporting it, but I just wanted to get on the record that, you know, it would be really important to have a look at these potentially five different formulas that apparently people have already been considering. So, thanks and I support the report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yesterday was a big anniversary, one of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba. In the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry is quite a few sections. Section on policing, though, today I think is relevant. Both over policing and under policing are sections in the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry was launched after the shooting of J.J. Harper. Aboriginal Justice Inquiry was presided over by Murray Sinclair. Murray Sinclair has done quite a lot of speaking as of late of what that looked like for him, including a death threat that he has recently uncovered or at least made public. He, of course, knew when that happened. The work that...the motion that we did in last year's budget, 2021 was a compromise. And I along…it was a compromise and I believe I along with Councillor Gillingham was the author of that compromise. I…while this substantially...this item before us is to note the delay because it was supposed to be done for budget 2022. And I wanted to acknowledge that that's not the timing we see here today. I do want to acknowledge that it's a great deal more difficult. It is…we bit off a bit more than we could chew in the timeline. And that is…I take responsibility for that. But it is important to situate this in the discussion of AJI mostly because it hurts my

heart, Madam Speaker, that Murray Sinclair keeps saying, which he did when he was the Commissioner for Truth and Reconciliation Commission, that he will not see these done in his lifetime. I think it's incumbent upon all of us to get to work so Murray can see a lot accomplished during his lifetime, Madam Speaker. We owe that to that great Manitoban. And I am biased because he was my former boss. But the…to situate it in the AGI, I think is really important. If you didn't read the AGI, you don't know why, for instance, Madam Speaker, a councillor like me can have a 10% defunding goal and moved the North End police station. But it is in the document of over and under policing that you would understand that, Madam Speaker, but you cannot understand me fundamentally if you don't read it. So, I am looking forward to each and every community committee entering into this discussion, each and every community committee to even just manage. I hope the community that does engage in the Council work of community committees. I do think it is a good mechanism. We have it. It perhaps was under-utilized and I want to acknowledge that too. I think it is a…really good to get each geographic area of the city and to dive deep into policy work like we did with the Economic Recovery Strategy. As a councillor, you know, that's…this is your head's up, right? You can get prepared for that meeting. You can call on your community that has written you, Madam Speaker, and invite them into the community committee in delegation to hear and discuss with you their concerns. You can lay it over and hear and discuss more concerns. And that gets this place working in a fundamental way. So, we do have five options here. They run the full gamut of sustainability, I think, people will find. And in the new year, it's a little later than we'd hope, but it…I look forward to productive discussions.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is difficult when it looks like…when it comes to finding savings in our budget. And I hope we have some sense of understanding that. Some sense of acknowledging that it can be difficult. In fact, from the administration, when it comes to looking at the problems of costs, complicated. That is not to say there is no obligation on behalf of any department to explain these things. We are asking of the police…Winnipeg Police Service…we're not asking them of every department, but we're asking the Winnipeg Police Service, now, it's an important thing. But let's give some perspective to this to be fair to ourselves and to the taxpayers of Winnipeg. I don't want to give the impression that if they do this successfully and somehow we're satisfied with this and we act on it, that somehow we have…we have…we have solved the issue of a sustainable budget for the City of Winnipeg. At this time, as things go, we do not have a sustainable budget model for the City of Winnipeg. And I hope there's no ambiguity. People perceive that as being an ambiguous statement. It's not sustainable how we do things. But we have to answer this question. And every taxpayer deserves an answer to this question because the answer is unambiguous, it's just a fact. Okay, so here's the question. Because the question…part of the problem is, people actually believe that Winnipeg Police Services has the largest budget…budget increase, and it's not true. So, why would you want to mislead people? Why would you want to mislead the taxpayer into believing that? If you give people the wrong information, they're going to end up with the wrong solutions. So, I'm just going to ask this question; did the Winnipeg Police Service budget increase 20 times in the last 30 years? Simple point-blank question. And there's a real relevance to this. And I'm going to ask it again; did the Winnipeg Police Service budget increase 20 times in the last 30 years? No, it didn't. Point-blank. Let's remember that because that's a really important statistic because our construction budget did or at least the costs of our individual projects did increase about 20 times in the last 30 years. So, it is important what we're doing with the Winnipeg Police Services, but why would we want to delude ourselves and the taxpayers and the people we represent in terms of thinking that we're solving the sustainability of this budget by dealing solely with the Winnipeg Police Service. It has a disproportionately high increase in the last 30 years, especially in the last decade. But let's not pretend for the sake of doing our job and for the sake of accountability to the taxpayer that pays for it that we're now within the realm of solving our budgetary sustainability issues because it doesn't. It might delay it by a few years and that's all. And you could apply that to different departments as well. You can continue cutting on different budgets, but how does it help us? I voted with the Standing Committee on Finance. I voted with Councillor Rollins to make sure that we find…see where we can find greater efficiencies in the Winnipeg Police Service budget, but I'm not going to pretend to the taxpayer, to anybody, that this is the way we solve it. If we continue the way we are, given what we do, what we concentrate on, I guarantee you we won't. We're not going to solve sustainability because what we're asking the Winnipeg Police Services, we're not asking to do with our greatest sector of inflationary increases over the past generation, that being construction. And I don't…I don't mean the private market. I don't mean as consumers, I mean as taxpayers. The taxpayers' increases are due more to construction…much more to construction than the increases in the Winnipeg Police Services salaries and pensions. That's a fact. It's a simple fact, so it can be incorporated in everything we do, in terms of at least acknowledging it. I look here on a…on…it looks at project structured requirements and as part of the development of the report, the Public Service will; Item 3, "Commission a statistically representative third-party survey of Winnipeg residents concerning the funding of the Winnipeg Police Services." And other things that are essentially good. But you see, I don't believe that included in that statistically representative third-party survey that they're going...that is going to Winnipeg residents, that it includes giving the perspective on their own taxes, on their own budget, their own city budget. Their city budget, not ours. We're responsible for it. It's theirs. It's everybody's, including ours as taxpayers, not as members of the Council. It's our responsibility for it. Accountable to whom? Well, the taxpayer. Well, the same people, isn't it the same people we're going to have a statistically representative third-party survey of Winnipeg residents concerning the funding of the Winnipeg Police Service? Well, how can that…how come we haven't seen that same line when it comes to construction inflation? We've had reports come

back to the Finance Committee. They can't answer my questions and somehow that's okay. When it comes to the Winnipeg Police Service, it's not okay. So, maybe it's not okay. I voted with Councillor Rollins to make sure we can get some answers. Why didn't we do something for the big one? Boy, is that not only…not only is it not sustainable for the city budget, it's misleading to the people of Winnipeg that pay for it all. Our bosses. Why would we do that? Why would we do that? So, the next election, I mean, you know, there's going to be some form of accountability. I know we get to hide behind all sorts of projects and, you know, corporate communication budgets that put out excellent press releases for the media, you know, but that's…that doesn't explain history, that's not going to change a budget. It sounds good for a while, but literally, these are things that you can't hide behind in the long-term because the budget is a budget. Real statistics are real statistics and they are going to play out with people's lives and reality to the extent…and I just got texted by my wife. She made the point, you're not going to deal with poverty if you don't deal with construction inflation. Okay. How many years do you have to hear this? Yes, it is. Nice to get backing from my wife, because she's on to it. So, it's getting around. So, let's face it. It's not an opinion. And I'm not asking for anybody to change their political values. Act on them. And what we're doing here for the Winnipeg Police Service, don't pretend we're going to solve it. Don't pretend they're…don't make anybody a scapegoat. Just deal with the facts. And we're not going to deal with the sustainability of the budget at the rate we're going. Let's use these words we use in the Winnipeg Police Service. Let's use them where they count even more. Let's do that.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I won't be raising the topic of construction inflation this afternoon. It's been raised couple of times already. I just want to support this motion before us for the extension of time recognizing the amount of time that it's taken to get this matter across the goal line. There is extensive consultation that is to occur with members of our public to determine what is a proper and appropriate formula for the consideration of a development of a police budget. You know, does that formulae take into consideration Winnipeg's population growth? Does it take into consideration consumer price index that we're seeing is 5…almost 5%, 4.7%? Recognizing that it's going to be more expensive to purchase items that the service needs to do their jobs. Is it based on crime severity indexes? You know, what is a proper formula that depoliticalizes this process in the formulation of a sustainable and predictable budget for our Winnipeg Police Service. So, I am supportive of adding an extension of time for this process to have a robust consultation, allows it to engage with Winnipeggers and stakeholders in consideration of what a true budget should look like or what the calculation of that budget should look like so that it's not a political process, that it is based on something that we can go back and justify whether it's an increase or whether it's a decrease to their budget going forward. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Nason: What a difference four years and five months make. June 20th, 2017, I'll say it again. Proposed agreement with Winnipeg Police Association, the longest most sustainable in almost 20 years. It's on the Mayor's website. Nice little graph, general wage increases, historical 17-year average, 4.59%. Proposed five-year average under the...let me get this right again, longest most sustainable in almost 20 years, 1.98%. But yet, here we are saying that it's out of control? Eighty…was it 85% or 86% of the budget is labour? We've got a challenge. Fourteen percent is stuff that you can really work with. I don't know where you're going to squeeze everything out considering we're number one in crime severity. Our murder count continues to be way too high. Yes, there's lots of underlying conditions, our drug crime is pretty darn high. So, where do we go? We're battling this, we hear people hollering from on high that we need to cut, cut, cut, cut. But how will that make our residents safe at night? Where do we find it? Why is it taking so long? Because you have so little to work with. Do we have enough officers on the frontline? You know, I hear there's a lot of challenges with mental health on our police force, job satisfaction. I, too, attended the recent graduation. Lots of fresh faces, lots of people eager to go, lots of multi-generation police officers. Male, female. Seeing members of the Punjabi community being into the fold. It's great the inclusion that we have. But I don't know that we're going to find the magic here. The numbers that are looking to be coming out tomorrow. You know, Councillor Gillingham's budget, we'll see how much more debt is added to our bottom line. But our operating costs, I think we've hit the ceiling. I don't…you know, I'm looking at a growth in Transcona. It's growing. Residents continue to clamor to me that they're not seeing the police on the street. I tell them, data-driven policing. But we've…we're a growing city, but yet, some of our services remain flat. You know, is it time to re-envision the police force? Possibly. But I don't know if we're going to get there. I'll support this today. It's an extension, but it seems to be taking a long time to get there. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Seeing no further speakers, Mr. Mayor, back to you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yeah, this is…this is just an extension of time. I want to just remind all members of Council, those that are viewing, you know, the police budget is something that it's...there's a…I'm not sure necessarily all members of Council appreciate the difference between the operating and the capital budgets. The operating budgets are required by law to be balanced. And you know, I've had the opportunity to work with very…well, two

outstanding Finance Chairs over the years who have tabled balanced budgets and we've been able to work collaboratively with Council to balance them. The police…Winnipeg Police Service portion of the operating budget is amongst the highest, if not the highest. And it has long been acknowledged by many in the community that it has been growing at an unsustainable rate. And so, the question, of course, which is difficult, is whether or not…whether or not…you know, what the appropriate allocation should be going forward. And so, I know there are various views around the table. Some would, obviously, like to have just increase in what I would view, at least, is in an unsustainable way, the police budget. The way in which you solve crime in our community and public safety is by just having more police officers. Police play an incredibly important role in our community. They and they alone have the legal ability to make arrests the way that they are entrusted to do and we, obviously, thank them for it. But I think many members of Council and the community recognized that you can't arrest your way out of crime, that there are other ways in which City resources and other resources in our community can be properly invested to deal with the root causes of crime, to build healthier people, healthier communities. And so, I would have…I would have liked to have been voting on the multi-year funding formula this year. I do appreciate the fact that Public Service has further public engagement as well as consultation with members of Council to conduct in the new year. I'll be supporting this and hopefully everyone can support the extension. I want to acknowledge, though, that no other previous council has even tried to move forward with the funding formula because it's a pretty difficult topic. And it's one there's various…various views around the council chamber. I…we're not likely going to reach consensus when we get a funding formula because the views are pretty strong on this. Some just wanted to have a lot more boots on the ground. Others want to actually cut the police budget in real terms. But I think we owe it to taxpayers. I think we owe it to Winnipeggers to at least try to have that conversation and to try to reach a funding formula. I think there will be value in the discussion. I'm hopeful that folks can be pragmatic and look at the budget, look at where we want to deploy our resources. I haven't seen these options that I heard referenced, but I'm looking forward along with Council to see them in due course and then to have a vigorous debate, you know, in the new year. And so, I would just…I would just say, thank you to all those that have engaged in the process. I want to thank the police service for the work that they are doing. There's obviously going to be strong views around the council chamber and in our community about what is the appropriate level of funding for the Winnipeg Police Service. But I'm very proud that this council has the courage to try tackle it, to have that discussion and debate that previous councils weren't prepared to have. And I'm looking forward to the discussion in the new year. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. With that, I'll call the question on Item 13. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Item 14.

Item 14 – Market Sounding and Analysis for a Private-Public Partnership (P3) for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades - Biosolids

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a…this is a motion to receive as information of market sounding that was requested by the Provincial Government. At the very heart of it, it's a receive as information. We did add at committee the request which now seems not entirely needed, but I still think it's good to put it on the record. Asking for the Province to immediately forward our ICIP request as submitted by Council to the Federal Government. I'm very grateful that our premier joined me yesterday here at city hall to indicate that she would be forwarding this ICIP request as well as the ICIP request relating to the initial implementation of the Master Transit Plan. And I just want to thank her for that. I'm looking forward now to hearing from the Federal Government in due course. I do think it's important to put on record a few facts, though. Fact; we're not…we're not voting on anything related to water today. We're voting on a sewage treatment plant report. And unfortunately, we've heard repeatedly in delegations from Manitoba Federation of Labour, I did correct Mr. Rebeck at the time, and he acknowledged that. Again, I believe I heard Mr. Delbridge from CUPE today refer to water treatment. I may have misheard him. But unfortunately, we do see consistently assertions relating to the sewage treatment plant that it's a water treatment plant. There is a difference between what is treated in a sewage treatment plant and the drinking water that we all enjoy. And so, I want…I think it really needs to be clear. And I will continue to correct people if they start to not have discussions about this based on fact. So, that is really important to put forward. Again, this is…we had a request from the Province to do the market sounding. It's been completed. This is to receive it as information. The ICIP request that will be forwarded will be the one that Council had submitted which does not contemplate the privatization of the operations or maintenance. That's not something we are voting on. It's not something we've considered. In fact, at Executive Policy Committee, when we were asked to do the market sounding we specifically did not do the market sounding on that. And so, appreciate delegations are concerned about the prospect of that and have, obviously, some very ideological views on P3s and the private sector, but let's just be clear, this is receiving a report as information with the request that our ICIP request be immediately submitted to Ottawa. Thankfully the premier has agreed to do that. And so, hopeful we can support this. And, of course, we'll turn our attention to securing commitment from Ottawa and bring in those dollars to help continue the leadership of this council to make needed upgrades to the North End Sewage Treatment Plant, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be supporting this report. I'm just going to limit my comments to express appreciation to Premier Stefanson and several of the ministers; Ministers Johnson and Fielding and Helwer as well for their support of and forwarding the City's ICIP application. I also want to thank my…Mayor Bowman who has been consistent on his press of the Provincial Government, both former premier and making the case against the current premier on the importance of these two files; the North End Treatment Plant Upgrade and also the Transit file. And also, to my councillor colleagues. I mean, across this council chamber, councillors have been consistent in, you know, standing firm to say, these are important investments for the people of Winnipeg. Not only for the people of Winnipeg, but these investments are important for the capital region. These investments are very important for the Province of Manitoba as well. These two investments can be and should be seen not only through an environmental lens but also through the reality that they will position the City of Winnipeg to grow and to develop and that also, they should be seen through an economic lens as well. The city and the capital region economy cannot grow unless there's capacity opened up within the North End plant. We cannot meet the mandate within the environmental license that is a provincial license the City has to meet. We can't meet it unless the North End plant upgrade is undertaken and completed. And so, this is…yesterday was, obviously, a very, very good news announcement. We're looking forward to the Federal Government approving, you know, the application as well on both files. And I just wanted to say today, today is, you know, a day I think to express appreciation, to look forward of optimism. There's a long, long way to go yet on both of these files. But I'll certainly be supporting this motion.

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

Councillor Mayes: Well said by Councillor Gillingham. It's a day to express appreciation. And also, well said by the Mayor, correcting some of the misinformation that's been out there. There was never a vote to privatize. There was never a vote to the privatize operations in maintenance. That's expressed. That was clear. In fact, EPC was unanimous in rejecting the call for the Province back several months ago to look at privatizing, to do a P3…to do a P3 for operations and maintenance. None of the members of EPC were in favour of that. So, we have moved a long way since then, no, and important announcement yesterday. If you did sit here ten years ago, stood here right about there, the first day I was sworn in, we voted on the capital budget. There was provision in the capital budget for biosolids building and for nutrient removal. Few hundred million dollars seems almost quaint in a way. And Councillor Schreyer will probably point out the impact of construction inflation on this project because it's an excellent example of that. So, there was thinking about it ten years ago, but I want to commend the Mayor for actually getting this shovel in ground on the first phase. That was historic, a number of us were up there with the ministers and I certainly spoke about the belief of my St. Vital representative, Rochelle Squires who has for years been advocating for getting going on this North End as well. So, I think that's worth mentioning. But we have shovel in ground on the first phase and here we are. We have never been closer for getting going on the second phase. It's not there yet, but at least we've cleared the first hurdle and we will be seeing the submission go to the Federal Government. This is our number one infrastructure project. If one looks at the infrastructure 2020 plan, admittedly, that's an advisory document. The politicians didn't draft that. We know that because Insect Control is number two and no one here ever been out there advocating for new Insect Control building for their ward. But that report was clear in identifying biosolid as our number one capital project. So, here we are, hopefully we will have a chance to announce the funding is approved. I know from my former colleague, used to stand right about here, Dan Vandal, when he was opening the North End, doing that announcement with us in the summer, he was talking about how he was embarrassed this had taken this long, but was proud to finally get going. Hopefully, we'll have Minister Vandal there again with us later this year while we still have this mayor in office to get going on this phase. There will, however, be a debate. It is a positive day. We are just going to receive this as information. There will and should be a debate about how do we want to do this project. I know having sat at the committee for debate on south end, I know Sudhir Sandhu, Tanya Paulson and some of the group from the building trades that come to us at the frontend, as has industry groups saying, get some local workers here, get some local companies here, get some skilled labour here. That project has not been a resounding success. It has gone well over budget. I think we can learn from that as we go forward on this phase two. I would certainly hope we have the involvement of the skill trades with us as we go forward. I think that would enhance the project and guarantee...well, if not guarantee, increase the likelihood that it will come in on time and on budget. But we'll have that debate. Some may want to do a P3 after all, some may want to do a traditional model. First thing I would like to do, model that looks at some community benefit coming out of that next phase. I don't want to delay it. Certainly don't want to delay it because, as Councillor Gillingham has pointed out many times, there's a real cost to not proceeding with biosolids. So, let's get it going, but let's make sure we've got people from the skill trades with us as we go forward. I don't need somebody coming to the committee again in a few years. When we debated south end, somebody opened their comments with, "Told you so", as we were debating the cost overruns. I would prefer not to have that moment again. So, hopefully, we can get going on the North End. It would be a good problem to have, how do we want to build it, is a much better problem than fishing around trying to find the money because for the past decade…we have been talking for the past decade. So, action not words, it's time to get building on this phase two. I'm glad we're not having to have a knockdown, drag out fight with the Province about this whole P3 idea they were trying to oppose. No one will impose it on us. We will have a debate on the floor of

council about how to proceed. I certainly hope we can proceed in some measure of partnership with the skill trades and the building trade workers. And it's a good news day. As Councillor Gillingham has said, we've never been closer. And it would be quite an accomplishment. I think it would be something we could all be proud of and tell the future generations that we got this thing going, we took some action, it wasn't just words.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer. Next is Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yeah, there was some concerns about…about terminology. We are talking about sewage water, not drinking water. And I've made the mistake myself. There can be…yeah, we're talking about sewage water that goes into the river water which, within my lifetime, had been used for drinking water. Make no mistake about that. So, we can see how these mistakes can be made in terms of terminology, I've done it myself. But having said that today, we're dealing with accepting a report. And people have concerns about, you know, the motivations for people...you know, whether we're going to accept this report or not. I think what we're getting at…people are getting scared. I mean, let's face it, it's not like…you know, some people don't understand. We've got a severe unsustainable construction inflation problem. And they are trying to figure out how do P3s help. And there's no really any evidence that I can see that they do. We say they do, but you know, why is it that there's a move away from that, including by politicians of every colour in this country? When we hosted the Federation of Canadian Municipalities here in Winnipeg a few years ago, I mean, I remember conservative politicians in the Maritimes, you know, making the point that doing more of these type of high capital projects in-house was cheaper for them. And to be your own contractor is cheaper than when you're giving the entire contract away. And that…well, there's a kind of…there's a kind of reality to that. So, we can ask some questions; why are people scared about this? Well, because the only...the greatest thing that we know is unsustainable is our construction budget. And we also know that in the media, there's been pushback on the virtue of P3s. So, let's not blame people for their fear. But I think we're…you know, we might be worried this is an ideological issue. And well, it might be, but it's an ideological issue that I think splits every political party. So, in what ways are they ideological? Let's face it. So, let's ask the question. Back in the good old days, I don't think it was really radical political days. I don't think we didn't think radical…you know, Winnipeg at the time, as we did across North America. When we built this amazing plant 100 years ago...let's face it, it's 100 years old. Did we use a P3? Did it break our bank? Are we reeling from the economic results of building a plant in the first place? You know. We didn't use P3s for generations of building this country and our cities, you know, post-confederation. How do I…how do I say this? It's going to sound ridiculous but it's not because people will say it's an ideological concern. But okay, well, when John Diefenbaker, progressive conservative prime minster of Canada back in the '50s, '60s, '57 to '63, well, they didn't have P3s. Was he being ideological by not having P3s? Did it break the bank when Federal Government was involved in infrastructure and construction projects around the country? When we built the original Disraeli Bridge, was it a P3? Stephen Juba, overly ideological, well, he was mayor for 20…20 year…1957 to 1977. Was he over-ideological in what way? In what way was Stephen Juba ideological when they built the Disraeli Bridge, well actually, just before he became mayor? I think he was there…MLA for Point Douglas, I think? Before he became mayor. When they built the Disraeli Bridge in the '50s, did they use a P3? Did it cause us economic hardship in any way when they built the Disraeli Bridge and overpass in the first place? Okay, so now we're looking at the mayor, overly ideological for not using P3s. I don't…I don't see it. I never thought of that before. We didn't have to, it wasn't an issue. Today where it's considered an ideological issue, but to me, it's just a fiscal issue. I don't blame people for being concerned because of the rate of construction inflation. How it's ruining, essentially, our ability to budget on every single level of government. Okay, so, who was premier at the time? We've got Duff Roblin, progressive conservative premier of Manitoba. Wow, man. He didn't put the word progressive in progressive conservative, but he sure did express the term progressive conservative. My kind of progressive conservative, over ideological. When they…when they were involved in infrastructure and construction projects without using P3s, was it an over ideological government that made their decision to do this without it? Happens to be in the modern age because of the rate of inflation in terms of…in terms of its size of our economy. Construction costs have risen drastically just proportionate to the size of our economy and the ability of taxpayers to pay for it, but they pay for it. The taxpayers pay for them. But the rate of increase of these very construction projects that they pay for has risen 10 to 20 times higher than their wages and salaries that pay for it through their taxes. So, now we're into a new era of high finances and through the financing itself one can make a profit. Before, governments just did it on behalf of the taxpayer without P3s. But now, by so-called sharing the risk with the taxpayer, there's a way of also sharing the profits because of the high…high level of investment, because construction has become so expensive in proportion to the size of the economy to pay for it. The ability of the taxpayers collectively to pay for it. It never used to be this way, but that's how high construction costs are getting, vis-à-vis everything else, essentially. So, people are getting scared. Are they being ideological for being scared? Well, how? Maybe it's their conservative…fiscal conservative concerns…perspective. Is that over ideological? I don't blame anybody for being fiscally conservative. Well, they are just trying to find out where their money is going and trying to account for it. And they are finding out, well, in the era of P3s is the era in which we had the...in the history of this country, outside of, let's say, the Depression and World War II…since World War II, let's say, the highest increase in construction costs paid for by the taxpayer in proportion to the salaries and wages of the taxpayer themselves. I don't know a better way of putting it. That's really clear that sentence there. So, we can't blame people for being worried about P3s because in the very era that we've had them, we've had the largest increases in proportion to the taxpayer ability to pay for construction. So, what's the virtue of P3s? Have they saved us

money? Well, we know during the era of P3s, we've had the largest increase. So, don't blame people for being concerned about them.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When I had the occasion to read the letter from the minister responsible for municipal affairs of the Province of Manitoba last Wednesday, a couple of days after a significant event in my life, I was freaked out. Because what I thought I seen there was the Province demanding that we flush kitchen table dollars down the toilet to provide more profits to the private sector who only go into P3s because they can make more money because they're capitalists. That's how it works. Because the private sector is about making money, making profit. That's what they do. Construction companies that we deal with, who we will be dealing with, and who have…we have dealt with, their sole purpose, in the end, is to make money for shareholders, profits, to go to shareholders or, in terms of family business, that profits goes to the family and it's spread around. So, ultimately, we all know that the vast majority of construction in this province, in this city is undertaken by the private sector. And that would probably be the case for most Canadian…Canadian cities who don't have a construction division to be able to build it, even a bridge for that matter. So, when we look at and we hear from ideology type people, this effort that somehow a P3 is the answer and that we should evaluate it, it always cost more money. I know when I was at FCM many years ago now, and there was somebody presenting on P3s and how this was a great way for municipalities to go ahead and get those big capital projects done. It would minimize the risk to the municipalities, so on and so forth. And you know, I was sitting in the back with a group of municipal representatives from Alberta. The bastion of capitalism in this country, Alberta. They would have nothing to do with a P3. Nothing. Because you know why? They know it costs more money and not that you would get into necessarily operations, it's not a lot of people working, for example, on our…on our…on our, well, blueline. Part of that is a P3. It's maintained. And so, ultimately, I wanted to stand this down to speak to it just because, you know, we need to make sure...and some people say, well, the P3s and that phase two on the blueline came under budget. Well, if we actually budgeted…Councillor Mayes, if this city actually budgeted the way a P3 goes about building a budget with padding here and padding there, yeah, you'd come under budget all the time too. It's a matter of how you facilitate and do a budget. In the south end plant, where we're going over budget, it was a very detailed…I think we were down to 98% design when it went out to the bidders, they bid, it came back, we went with the lowest price. And yes, Councillor Mayes, I told you so, all right. But you know, ultimately, I don't like this, you know, you go with the lowest bidder. You really have to look at the ability and what we're achieving. And I like the idea and concepts that my fellow councillors are talking about, about a social dynamic. Anyway, I just…for me, yes, we will have a debate about how this thing moves forward, but a design, build, finance, again, the private sector using their money, means they're looking to make more money. And a lot of these huge corporations who would have or partnership of these huge organizations, who have tons of money to utilize, they want to make more money on their money than, you know, putting it in a bank and trying to earn the interest there, right? You know, they're out to make more money, because that's what they do. They are capitalists, that's what you do. So, this is a public interest asset, highly public interest. You would never want a private for-profit entity running a public interest especially a sewage or any other kind of related to social health. It's the public interest. And we need to make sure that when the work gets done, and it's a huge amount of money, and it is the water bill payers, the City side who will be paying. The Federal Government and the Provincial Government are putting money in from those levels of taxpayers. It's all taxpayers' money. So, if you want to spend the taxpayer's money, you know, why give away more to profit? Don't do it. It's not a good idea. It doesn't work. Most people know that, and I know…I'm pretty sure our current Mayor understands that as well. So, and just to point out a couple of…you know, we can argue semantics or whatever, the south police station which was also merged with the west, I believe, it was going to be a P3 like the east district, but what happened was, the City could get the money for way cheaper. The cost to do it was way cheaper to do it in the public way. But make no mistake, I don't know what construction company built it, but it wasn't the City of Winnipeg that built it. It was the private sector and they made money. And I would point out as well, that there was a proposition for the north district station from a property owner who wanted, and this was…I'm not giving names or anything, but they were basically saying, well, we want a piece of all this extra money that Katz has been giving out. That's what they said. They have been giving out all this extra money to these over people and they wanted their opportunity to make more money than they could by just selling their piece of property. And you know what we said as the City of Winnipeg? We said to them, too much money, good-bye. So, you know, anyway, I don't know more…what more to say other than, I hope we don't even have to discuss in the future the idea that any kind of P3 situation. What I really want to see is built into the contracts that we avoid what's happened at the south end plants. And also, what we need to do is, one thing they do with P3s, like on the phase two blueline, is what they factor in, not only with the financing, they factor in the proper amount of money to maintain that asset, so it's in pristine…it's in the same condition as it was built in 30 or 25 years. The City, when we budget, like this North End plant, we're going to have to make sure, it will be the water bill payers. Well, I said water bill, but it will pay for sewage. Oh, I guess water and sewage is tied together, eh. Anyway, the point being is that that water bill, water and waste bill, is the one where people will be paying in Winnipeg for this. Other than the money we do receive from the other two levels of government. And so, when we move ahead with this, we need to be cognizant of that because we know affordability, we've talked about that as well. Inflation is up. We're actually driving some inflation with our water bills. But most water bills are going up because we need to deal with this inflation.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I'm not sure if you heard, the clock went off. Are you just wrapping up?

Councillor Eadie: Sorry, I'm done. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: I am voting to receive this as information. Thanks.

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

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm also voting in support of receiving this report today as information. It's very exciting right now. We are finally getting the funds forwarded…or we're getting the ICIP application forwarded now from the Province of Manitoba as requested by our Council to Ottawa. Again, I know we don't have the political interest around the Council table to do a DDFOM model for phase two and phase three of the sewage treatment plant. I'm not sure I necessarily entirely agree with that position, but I believe that decision should be Council's and not the Province's. When it comes to the model to build it; design, build, finance, as the report before us today indicates, is quite possibly a good model to go forward with. We have a history on our water and sewage treatment plants have typically gone over budget. We've had challenges and issues with that infrastructure. By comparison, the projects that we've gone for with the P3 where we transfer some of that risk, things like the southwest rapid transit line, the Disraeli Bridges project as well as Chief Peguis, have found ingenuity from the private sector to build a better product and sure, private companies make money, but the City of Winnipeg gets a better product for the money as well. With Chief Peguis, it was doing an overpass for Rothesay at Chief Peguis and using a dry pond, a much smaller…using a parcel of unused land to hold water in after a major rain event and use a far, far smaller pump than was originally contemplated. After the event, to get the water, the land drainage away from the roadway and that dry pond. Disraeli, being able to keep the entire structure open, keeping four lanes open through rush hours through the entirety of the project and building a brand new structure. And for southwest rapid transit, it was combining a rail bridge, I believe, with active transportation amenities over Bishop Grandin. That was a way to save significant money. The other thing, too, is because the private sector has skin in the game, per say, they get a large commissioning payment the day the facility opens. So, Chief Peguis opened a year ahead of…a year ahead of time. Southwest rapid transit, massive savings were found after, you know, original budgets were contemplated. So, I do believe design, build, finance has a model. It provides greater risk and then share some of that risk. So, a big thank you to the Province of Manitoba and to the people around the Council table. Mayor Bowman, Councillor Mayes, they've been tireless advocates for this. I don't think anybody wants water and sewer bills to triple. Right now, with the capacity at North End plant coming up against the wall, growth in our city in the next number of years is realistically capped because of capacity limits. Big problem. No matter where you are on climate change and global warming and all of those things, the one thing I think we can all agree on is clean air and clean water are pivotal to life. And this is one of the things that we can do to help protect the water quality of Lake Winnipeg. And of course, I'll just make mention as well, the fact that the Transit ICIP application went through yesterday. Wonderful news. A modern transit system for Winnipeggers will benefit everyone, whether you ride the bus or not. I think it's a very exciting time to see these projects moving forward. So, again, I'll supporting moving this forward as information, but I do think we should look seriously at the DBF model for this project going forward. Thank you.

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

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just going to read the motion. I got to admit, councillors, I wish…I very enjoyed our…4:00 right now. We're still…I think we've had every vote at 16-0 so far, but we're continuing on. We've had a really good, wholesome discussion about P3s, but that's not the motion today. So, let's get back to what we're talking about. We'll have time for the P3 debate at another day. But right now, it's…number one, it's the Province of Manitoba be called upon to submit its funding application for the headworks with the biosolids facility project to the Federal Government as requested October, 2019, 16-0, I'm going to put it out right now, 16-0. Number two, do all things necessary to do so. I'm going for another 16-0 on that one if someone wants to split it up. But let's just focus on the…our motions that we have in front of us. We have a long agenda. It's 4:00 today. I've got to admit, I'm getting a little bit cranky. Maybe I need more sugar. I don't know. But again, the motion today is not about P3s. The motion today is about taking an incredibly important project, getting it out the door. That's what we're talking about today. So, I will be supporting getting this project out the door. We'll have the debate about how we're going to model it, progressive, whatever other models there are at a later time, but today, this is the motion in front of us, and I support it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that...the question be put, I think that's what Councillor Nason wants. Mr. Mayor, do you wish to close? Mr. Mayor has last word here.

Mayor Bowman: No one can top the eloquence of Councillor Orlikow. Please call the vote.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, call the question on item…we know when folks are joking, we know when they're serious. Let's…calling the vote now on 14. All in favour? All in favour? Recorded vote for Councillor Orlikow. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: The item passes unanimously. The count, Mr. Clerk.

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Klein: The motion was…as Councillor Orlikow said, that was just as information, right?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Klein: Oh, okay.

Madam Speaker: Whatever it says in the documents before us. And Councillor Nason, are you calling for all the votes be put now? The rest of them? Is that what you just said? On to question period at nearly 4:00 p.m., which is a pleasure. Mr. Mayor, question period. Let's put 30 minutes on the clock. Any questions? Should we do the by-laws first? Okay, let's do that. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. And I think there was...yeah, I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 102/2021, By-law 103/2021, By-law 104/2021

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

Clerk: By-laws No. 102/2021, 103/2021 and 104/2021.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the By-laws No. 102/2021 to 104/2021, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 102/2021 to 104/2021, both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 102/2021 to 104/2021, both inclusive, 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. Now question period for the Mayor. Any questions for Mayor Bowman? Okay, don't see any, let's move on to 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 NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

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

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. The…next is the notice of motion that is from last month's Council agenda. That would be introduced by Mayor Bowman and it was seconded by Councillor Orlikow. And it was regarding United Nations Race to Zero Campaign. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Canada is facing a climate emergency…

Madam Speaker: Just one moment. Councillor Nason?

Councillor Nason: Mistaken, we were supposed to be moving on to question period followed by the Standing Policy Committee on Finance.

Madam Speaker: I think this, perhaps, could be in the wrong spot. This notice, is it…it should be under Water and Waste, I believe.

Councillor Nason: It's under Water and Waste on my agenda, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, and it's not on mine. So, okay, and I'm going by on old paper copy because we had issues with the computer this morning. Mr. Clerk, if you could verify where this notice should be? I believe it's Water and Waste.

City Clerk: Correct, Madam Speaker. It would be under Water and Waste.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for the clarification. You're on the ball, Councillor Nason. Yeah, we'll now go to Motion 2, okay, under this committee. This is moved by Councillor Nason and seconded by Councillor Klein. And it's regarding changes to the snow clearing and ice control policy. So, it will be an automatic referral to the standing committee. We have no motions, no by-laws. Let's have question period for Councillor Allard. Councillor Chambers and followed by Councillor Lukes.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS**

**Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,**

WHEREAS the current Snow Clearing and Ice Control policy does not adequately address the requirements to ensure accessibility for all citizens, specifically with respect to the priority placed on sidewalks;

AND WHEREAS in the most recent snow event, many sidewalks weren't plowed until days after the initial storm which left a number of residents being placed in harm's way in terms of mobility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works direct the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 30 days on revisions to the Council Policy on Snow Clearing and Ice Control to reprioritize all Priority 3 residential streets, sidewalks and back lanes to Priority 2

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD**

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Chair, and through you to the Chair. Thank you, Madam Clerk, sorry, Madam Speaker, through you to the Chair, it has been just announced that City of Winnipeg will be undertaking a residential street plow starting Saturday, November 27th. I've since been getting tags on social media and emails with respect to the pending street plow, and residents are somewhat concerned with respect to the fact that plows will be coming down the streets,

will cars be…that remain on the street, given the notice, given the Acts that are in place to notify residents that they should be removing their cars from the streets? Will the City of Winnipeg be actively ticketing and towing, courtesy towing, vehicles off the streets to maximize the efficacy of the street plowing operations and getting the streets safe in terms of the ice off, the accumulation of sand and salt off of our streets, and plowing right down to the concrete? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Chambers. I do believe it is Council policy. I also believe that we recently passed any power to the Public Service to now ticket using photo enforcement. I believe that to be in effect. And yes, courtesy tows are a part of our practice and will continue again this year, and welcome any further questions.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Chambers: Follow-up question. Madam Speaker, in periods of time where the City is actually cleaning the streets post-Winter, they do put out street signs indicating no parking, temporary street signs that indicating no parking on residential streets. Will the City of Winnipeg be putting out street signs indicating no parking in advance of the residential plow that was recently announced?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: I'm going to have to seek clarification on that. I understand that for the most part the residential parking bans are communicated through the media, websites, and there are some circumstances where street signages are…is used. But I believe that is the…that is the exception and not the rule.

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

Councillor Lukes: Sure. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So, I don't know if Councillor Allard can answer this, I will be directing it, I have directed it to Mr. Cantor. So, the reason we got today, why the streets, why the P3 didn't occur was because weather conditions prevented us from addressing residential streets sooner. So, it was over a week ago that we got more than 10 centimeters of snow as per policy, we look…we got actually 20 centimeters. But as per our policy, over 10, we look to cleaning and calling a P3. So, we're told that one of the important considerations that was factored in our decision to not clear them sooner was that the ground had not frozen yet. This meant crews could've damaged curbs and boulevards. Now, while the ground…now, he's saying the ground is frozen even though milder temperatures are in the forecast, they'll be effectively able to clear residential streets. So, I guess my question to you is, the damage that I have seen on the roads, to vehicles, the MPI claims that are going to be occurring or that are occurring because of the icy roads are going to be astronomical. Why, in your opinion, did we not have a residential street plow sooner than what's being called for this weekend, almost a week and a half later, when the conditions really are the same? I don't know if you'll have the ability to answer that, but I just want to put this on the record that I think there's a…I am very easy on Public Works. I'm not hard on them at all. But I think that what has happened with this calling of the P3 is not acceptable because there's been an awful lot of MPI damage in claims that have occurred, the streets…the weather conditions are not going to be much different then they were when the snow came, and why did it a take a week to call a P3?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: My understanding is the Public Service is working within our policies, and that there is discretion with the Director. I was talking to some of my colleagues on Council, and I think we're planning on asking some more direct questions, perhaps even calling for a report on where we're at with snow clearing generally, and are we following our snow clearing policies, and generally asking those types of questions. Whether that will be verbal or in the form of a report, I think I'll be asking similar questions.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Councillor Allard, I recognize that we have big budget constraints within the City of Winnipeg. In your opinion, do the budget constraints take priority over when a P3 is called?

Councillor Allard: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Lukes. I don't…I don't think that that's a big consideration. I understand when the snow needs to be plowed, it's plowed. I have no reason to think otherwise.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Yes. Snow, snow, snow. The snow event that we had saw Winnipeg Transit vehicles stuck all over the City. I'm wondering through you, Madam Speaker, if the Chair might be able to advise as to why the Emergency Service Plan was not enacted due to that snow event?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Sorry. Anyway, now to speak to your…through you to Councillor Nason, I'm not aware why the emergency protocols were not enacted. I presume that the criteria in order to do so was not met, and therefore that emergency not called. But if…if you have information that would indicate otherwise, I welcome that information, and I would welcome following that up with the Public Service.

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

Councillor Nason: Again back to the snow, snow, snow, and the matters of clearing, clearing, clearing. Several members of the community have been very vocal on the accessible community, with inaccessible, unpassable sidewalks/walkways. What is going to be done to ensure that they're adequately maintained to a passable standard given the recent Supreme Court decision?

Councillor Allard: Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Nason, the recent Supreme Court decision is news to me. I would love to review it and see what implications it may have for City of Winnipeg snow clearing operations. My understanding is that the current policy on sidewalks snow clearing is that it is to be done concurrently with P1 and P2s. There's special consideration for areas around schools, and that as resources become available the plowing equipment and personnel is then deployed to residential areas, whether a parking ban has been called or not. So that's my understanding of our policy. I for one, would welcome any ideas, support to try and make our…well, one, to ensure that we are following our current policy; and two, see if there are ways of making our sidewalk conditions better. Questions like would we be… you know, what would it take to plow all the way to pavement; questions like can we get to sanding sooner if we are going to have snow packed surfaces that become slippery. I did call for a report from our Public Service asking for ways to make our sidewalks less treacherous. We did get that report. It was passed. I had asked for costing and options, what I got were options, not costing. So, we do have an updated policy in terms of…in terms of dangerous sidewalks that has been passed by the Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works Committee. We also have a report forthcoming, our Public Service will be participating in a convention workshop-type of event, where there will be sharing of best practices and communication shared between other cities and people who are experts in the field. And so, I asked for an update after that occurs from the Public Service. I welcome more conversation on this, I'm sure there will be more.

Madam Speaker: Final question.

Councillor Nason: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, extended snow route parking bans and snow are nothing new to Winnipeg. And I'm hoping that the Chair might be able to ascertain or explain why the snow events and this parking ban that was called, was not enforced and no tickets were issued? No courtesy tows were done. If you could explain how that came to be, I'd appreciate it.

Councillor Allard: Certainly, Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Nason, I am not aware of…I'm not able to answer that question, I don't have that information. I'd be happy to follow up with the Public Service.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, let's move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance. We'll get right into question period. Councillor Mayes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. I had a question for Councillor Gillingham obviously, about…we got a lot of talk earlier today about the Canada Community Building Funds. However, there was a discussion earlier this year, I think June/July, about the Canada Community Revitalization Fund. You can hear in my voice, there's a hyphen between Community Building and…virtually identical name program, both Federal Government, both with "Community" in them, both funds. The one this summer, unfortunately there wasn't a debate at EPC about which projects to put forward, the civil service made some recommendations, and three projects were put forward. There was some internal debate about time-pressures, but projects were put forward. The idea being, well, if those are approved that would free-up money that was previously budgeted. Any news from the Federal Government yet on whether any of the City of Winnipeg applications were approved? Anything from…I mean, obviously we were in competition to some extent, with everything from Mustangs

Football out at Maple Grove Park to some other projects in my ward, the School Division was looking forward to numerous other things. So, any news yet? Because if we are getting some funds freed up, I would very much like to have a debate at Council about what to do with those, rather than simply deferring that decision-making to the civil service.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Through you, Madam Speaker, I want to thank Councillor Mayes for the question. I thank him for giving me a heads up, it allowed me to reach out to our CFO, Ms Kloepfer who reached out to city staff to confirm that there has been no…no formal news, no announcements from the Federal Government on the application. They did ask for some more information related to one of the projects submitted that the Downtown, Wolseley by corridor, they looked for more information. So that was provided to the Federal Government, but there's been no news as far as approval or projection of the applications. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thanks. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Through you, Madam Speaker, to the Chair of Finance, tomorrow is the budget day. I've been in dialogue with Chair of Finance yesterday, sent an email out to just shortly. My question through you to him is, last year we had the pandemic occurring as we do this year. Last year, there were no vaccinations, everything was virtual. We're sitting in here all day, we come in to Council for meetings all day. I'm being told that tomorrow is presentation is only virtual and not in-person. Over half of Council, as you know, under this governance model is not privy to extensive consultations of the Public Service or in-depth briefings or access to the risk list. Why is the meeting tomorrow virtual and not in-person, or in-person and virtual?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you, through you, Madam Speaker, thank Councillor Lukes for the question. Yes, she did contact me last night, and I did bring the matter forward with our staff just to see if they can accommodate. I will also say that tomorrow morning, at the same time, there will be a council seminar, we have City Centre, thank you, Councillor Gilroy for reminding me. We also have City Centre Community Committee, they'll be meeting. And…but I'll just say to Council, stay tuned, I've been in dialogue throughout the day with our staff on the possibility of accommodating. Just a reminder though for everybody that whether it's in-person or virtual, councillors can have access to, you know, to ask questions, receive the information, councillors, once again, will get a copy of the budgets, and staff and I am available after that Council seminar, I believe even later in the day, we're talking about perhaps providing another opportunity for councillors if they want to have further dialogue and certainly for the councillors that are going to be in community centre, not…City Centre, pardon me, Community Committee tomorrow morning will have access as well to staff and to myself. And then, again, post-after tomorrow, anytime, please feel free, any councillor to send questions to myself or if you need more information from myself or our CFO, we'll do all we can to provide all the information that councillors are looking for, any questions you have related to the budget. I'll take the opportunity right now to say what I said before, I'm asking every councillor to vote for the operating and capital budgets when the time comes. And I see Councillor Eadie smiling from ear-to-ear, so I'm hopeful that he's going to be supportive. Thank you. But stay tuned, more information coming on tomorrow, okay. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Gillingham: Oh, if I…if I might on cue I think we have an email that has come in from…from our Clerk, thank you.

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

Councillor Lukes: So, the second question is: if it's just a virtual meeting tomorrow, no one's asked me where my address is to get the books, to get the budget books. So, I don't know when that's going to be happening, but I've got things I'm doing later on tonight and you know, how am I going to get the budget books if it's virtual? No one's asked me a thing about that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you. I'll get clarity from our staff on that. I know, last year, we actually provided the budget books to councillors and the Clerk, all during COVID. They were delivered to addresses anyways as I understand to some people who wanted them. Nonetheless, I'll look into that and I'll send an email out later today once we conclude our meeting to give clarity to all councillors.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anything further? No further questions? Let's move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. Councillor Mayes. There's no report. No report. There's a notice of motion. And I'll call on the Mayor for that. That is...was from last month's Council agenda. And it's regarding the United Nations Race to Zero Campaign. It's moved by Mayor Bowman and seconded by Councillor Orlikow. Mr. Mayor, your opportunity to introduce the motion.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF MOTION

Item 1 - United Nations Race to Zero Campaign

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

WHEREAS Canada is facing a climate emergency, be it wildfires, flooding or heat waves, the country is experiencing the climate crisis in cities firsthand, and action is needed;

AND WHEREAS recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors' Caucus (BCMC) committed to acting to keep global warming to below the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement, which means reducing global emissions to zero or net-zero by 2050 at the latest;

AND WHEREAS in advance of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26, BCMC declared support for the Cities Race to Zero pledge as part of the United Nation's Race to Zero campaign and urged all Canadian cities to join Cities Race to Zero;

AND WHEREAS the Race to Zero is a United Nations campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates jobs, and inclusive, sustainable growth;

AND WHEREAS acknowledging that climate change is a serious global challenge, the City of Winnipeg developed a community climate action plan, an initiative called Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan: Planning for Climate Change, Acting for People;

AND WHEREAS the Plan outlines the City of Winnipeg and the broader community's commitment to work together. It provides a framework to proactively, meaningfully and effectively mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions setting the goal of achieving an 80% reduction by 2050;

AND WHEREAS the City also initiated a GHG emissions reduction modeling and financial analysis project called The Community Energy Investment Roadmap which will forecast energy use and emissions, and provide an estimation of the costs and benefits of implementing actions needed to meet climate targets;

AND WHEREAS PlanWinnipeg 2045 set out to meet and exceed greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 20 percent by 2030, relative to 2011, and net zero by 2050, by working towards partnerships with the community, businesses, and government bodies including Indigenous, Federal and Provincial governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. *That Council place on record its support for the United Nations Race to Zero campaign.*

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

Mayor Bowman: Sure. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank our Deputy Mayor for seconding this. Canada is facing a climate emergency. Whether it's wildfires, devastating floods or fatal heat waves, we are experiencing the climate crisis in our communities firsthand. Recognizing the urgency of a climate crisis, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Big City Mayor's Caucus has committed to taking action to keep global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement. This means reducing global emissions to zero or net zero by 2050 at the latest. I want to thank our Chair, the mayor of Halifax, Mayor Mike Savage, he recently represented Canadian cities at COP26

Climate Conference. And he was engaging with mayors from around the world who are also committing to taking action on the climate crisis. This motion simply states that this council place on record its support for the United Nations Race to Zero Campaign and that the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing. This is recognizing that we have and will continue to take actions, but it certainly is consistent with the dialogue at the federal level. Other municipalities are making similar pledge in order to obviously continue to show leadership and to also put pressure, quite frankly, on us to continue to take actions to achieve the goals as set out in the United Nations Race to Zero Campaign. For those wondering what is the Race to Zero Campaign, it's a pledge that's taken by cities but also by companies, states and regions even investors to become net zero, absolute zero or climate positive. Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan doesn't include a net zero by 2050 target, but an 80% emissions reduction by 2050. The Office of Sustainability is using the goal of net zero in their work. Specifically, they've been using it in the community energy investment road map which models energy and emissions out to 2050. It identifies actions to meet the net zero and includes a financial analysis of implementing the actions required to meet the net goal zero…or sorry, the net zero goal. Results of the community energy investment road map will be presented to Council in early 2022. So, next year and will inform the update to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan starting in 2022. The Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan interim goals for 2030 will also be updated, Madam Speaker. So, supporting race to zero, it aligns the City with the goals set out in OurWinnipeg 2045 and the goals that the City is working on through the Office of Sustainability. So, I'm hopeful that Council can please support this motion. And I want to thank members of Council...various members of Council have been working hard over many years. Some prior to joining Council and some using this platform to advocate for more actions. I know before I was even elected, Councillor Orlikow spoke…spoke to me about his efforts to help build a more sustainable world, a more sustainable city. I know Councillor Allard has also spoken eloquently about the climate crises, as have many members of Council. I know, of course, our Environment Committee, it is actually part of…Councillor Mayes' portfolio has also continued to take actions to build a more sustainable city. A city that's contributing to our climate change action plans. And I know we've talked today at length about the ICIP request. One of the ways to combat climate change is by getting more people to use more sustainable modes of transport, active transportation, but also public transportation, which does help. And then, of course, the work that is mapped out as part of the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan. So, again, hopeful that Council can endorse this and we can continue to do our part to help with the climate crisis, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Allard: I know it's 4:20, but I'd like to make a speech. So, I rise today to speak in favour of this motion. We are in a climate emergency and I applaud Mayor Bowman for using this…for using his term…for using this term and acknowledging this reality in the chamber. I fully support a public acknowledgement and declaration of this scientifically established fact that has been staring us in the face for decades. Climate change becomes more obvious with each successive disaster and extreme weather events happening multiple times per year in our country alone and countless more across the world. As a municipality, we're often on the frontlines of this issue and we have a role just as great, and in some ways, greater than the provincial and federal governments. Transportation and land planning are both at the heart of our responsibility and jurisdiction and it is with these two policy areas where we can make the most impact. Greenhouse gas emissions from private vehicles account for approximately 50% of our community greenhouse gas emissions. Transit and density are a huge part of reducing that number because of modal shift away from single passenger automobile trips. We need to create a city where more people choose walking, biking, taking the bus and taking passenger trips as well as to telework, which has become a new reality for many during this COVID crisis. We can build this city by supporting the efficient and convenient move towards greater use of alternative forms of transportation by increasing our population density through infill developments. Infill development goes hand-in-hand with increasing using modes of transportation that will reduce our per capita greenhouse gas emissions. Yesterday's news on the ICIP funding was…was an incredible step in that direction of improving our transit system. Increasing density in Winnipeg will reduce the impact and consumption of agricultural and natural spaces on the periphery of our city, which is critical to maintaining our carbon sinks, biodiversity and food security. Every member of this chamber has put forward good and much needed ideas that support action on climate. Councillor Orlikow, seconding this motion has been a tireless champion for our tree canopy and greenspaces. Councillor Mayes has put forward bold ideas like shifting us away from natural gas for home heating and cooling, buildings being our second largest source of community emissions in Winnipeg. Councillor Lukes, you've been an advocate for…Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Lukes, has…or you've been an advocate for active transportation since I was a teenager in a time…truth, in a time where active transportation in Winnipeg was only in its infancy. Councillor Gilroy, on across-the-board…an across-the-board champion for good climate policy, full stop. Councillor Rollins is an advocate for environmental sustainability, in particular, through a lens of social and economic justice and through her work with OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities. Councillor Klein has been a passionate believer in action on Lake Winnipeg, preserving and resuscitating its biodiversity and ecosystem health. Councillor Nason is a strong supporter of more…of a more accessible city for those using sidewalks and enhancing our Transit Plus system. Councillor Eadie is a tireless champion for the north Winnipeg parkway which is now moving forward because of his efforts. Councillor Schreyer who points out again and again the delaying action on much needed sustainable infrastructure will only get more expensive the longer we wait. Councillor Browaty, a strong and long time supporter of good and ambitious sustainable infill development. Councillor Sharma, an advocate for improved transit and active transportation in her ward.

Councillor Santos, an effective leader in urbanizing the Exchange District and fearless champion of affordable transit. Councillor Chambers, for his hard work on a sustainable lens in our procurement practices. Councillor Gillingham, for publicly advocating to prepare for the costs of climate mitigation and adaptation as well as financial resilience to better prepare for climate change. And last but certainly not least, our Mayor Bowman who stood with our new premier, Heather Stefanson…the Honourable Heather Stefanson, yesterday. They worked together to advance our Transit Master Plan and wastewater treatment plant upgrades, both of which are must haves for Winnipeg in 2050, that meets our, hopefully…that meets and hopefully exceeds its climate targets. Most of all, I look forward to what I hope will be a unanimous vote where each and every member of this council stands up to be counted. Supporting this motion acknowledges that you support the truth and commit to action on these and other policy areas critical to meeting our local and global climate targets. So, again, I applaud Mayor Bowman, Councillor Orlikow and all of my council colleagues for your actions on climate. And I urge you to support this motion wholeheartedly. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to support this. We have to keep moving forward. I'm going to put a little wrinkle…fascinating work…from a perspective of Councillor Allard on this. I'll put a little wrinkle in terms of where I've been coming from. If I may say, in terms of acting on…on this while we can in order to sort of make it…make our infrastructure sustainable. I would say, we have to work as fast as we can to make the costs of infrastructure sustainable because…because they are not and it's part of the dilemma we have as we try to progress and move forward on any aspects of infrastructure, which essentially we're moving in terms of...now almost any infrastructure we do will have some sort of benefit put into it in terms of reducing our carbon footprint. But we still have to deal with the sustainability…economic sustainability of this. And I'm going…I want to talk about the link between one eco and the other eco; economic sustainability and ecological sustainability because, to me, they've always been part and parcel of the same challenge in both cases when you're dealing with the environment and when you're dealing with economics. Think about it for a second, you're…in both cases, you're dealing with scarce resources. If you're not concerned about the environment because it's not really affecting the planet, our ecosystem, human health, whatever, it's not really having an impact on your environment then your environment is impact is infinite. There's no…there's no impact on a finite resources. If you're never polluting your air, you've got so much free…air is free and it's also clear, you don't have to worry about the environment. You don't have to worry about…about the economy. But when you acknowledge air as a finite resource, both in terms of…environmentally, there's only so much…there's only so much healthy air, breathable air especially within confined urban…urban areas. And I'm not making this up. We know it can happen in urban areas, specifically urban areas where you've got a lot of smog and a lot of pollution. There, we're dealing with the very finite resources, the amount of breathable air within a small urban area to the extent that, as an example, because I was involved with this back in the day. The drilling company I used to work with as a roughneck drilling for oil happen to own another company that was vying for contracts to help upgrade the transportation…transit system in Mexico City. Why? Because they had such a pollution problem in Mexico City. One of the very most populous cities in the world. And they really had a problem with healthy…with healthy air. With enough clean air for breathing. And they acknowledged this a generation ago. Very serious, in fact, one day when I was driving from Winnipeg to Panama, stopping in Mexico City for a week, I got stopped for driving on a Tuesday and it applied to foreign license plates too, that they tried to limit the number of…they tried to limit the number of cars driving on the road in Mexico City by alternating what number ending of a license plate could drive on what days. Why? Because of the breathability of the air. So, environmentally within that area, air was a scarce resource. And I'm not making this up. This was Mexico, the country of Mexico and the federal district of Mexico, the capital city, making this decision that breathable air is a scarce resource. So, we also deal with that in economics. What is economics? The production, distribution and exchange of limited goods and services. If they're not limited, you don't have to worry, it doesn't cost anything. Just take it. It's abundant. It's just there. And historically, and for the most part except for certain places historically, air was so abundant and is essentially free. Not necessarily the case anymore. It's part of what we're dealing with in terms of the limitations on our environment. And limitations on our environment are essentially the same both when you're dealing with your ecology and your economics. Take out the limitation, it's not a concern. So, we're dealing here with Winnipeg. This is our job. What can we do regarding reducing our carbon footprint, reducing our use of fossil fuels? And yes, Mayor Bowman said that…originally, with our Climate Action Plan, it doesn't say going down to zero. I don't see how possibly it could. It didn't include conversion to non-fossil fuel sources of energy. Luckily, Councillor Mayes heeded my pleas and brought forth a motion that includes conversion to renewables and non-fossil fuels. It's interesting that the vast majority of non-fossil fuels are renewables. Not exactly, because there's always wheels within wheels in this day and age and you can use a renewable, which is a fossil fuel, when you use the methane and we trap the methane from a landfill, from a garbage dump. So, interestingly we are doing that. It deals with the limitations of our environment in terms of how much natural gas we have in the world. Best place to keep it is in the ground. Best place under all circumstances, whenever we can. But let's not pretend we're getting rid of the use of fossil fuels in a decade we're not. And therefore, we're actually doing something practical. Unfortunately, it's practical to look at harnessing the methane emissions from garbage dumps. Well, that's actually a really practical thing to do. Because whether we like it or not, fossil fuels are incredibly valuable source of energy. There's so much energy in a drop of oil, let's say or a barrel of oil. It's really hard to convert because it doesn't have the same economic feasibility, at least not in the short-term. But it's so easy to get a

certain amount of energy from a barrel of oil. So much easier than to get the same amount of energy from solar or wind still. And of course, it depends where you are in the world. Oil, you can transfer around the world very, very easily by cargo ship. You can transfer oil…we've been doing it for generations. It's amazing how well you can transfer oil. We got…we've got to find…we have got to get out of this. We're not going to…it's not going to happen right away. So, I'm not here to say, well, wow, we have this wonderful…wonderful goal and we're going to need it. I don't know. But regardless of any particular deadlines that we self-impose while we're signing an environmental agreement, it's all very well and I'm all for it. But regardless of this, we have to do it anyway. And luckily, we have been. I remember I was in Manitoba as a kid. Matthew Allard talked about when we were kids. I'll leave it at that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thanks. In light of the hour, I will try to be brief. Councillor Allard's already pointed out everybody around Council has a role to play on this. It is…that is accurate, I think. I mean, you could say, well, top 100 emitting sites in Canada, only one is in Manitoba and that's not in Winnipeg. So, what really do we…can we do. You could say that, but I think this council's tried to put forward some ideas. Finding the funding's always a challenge, but I think we keep...I give Councillor Schreyer credit for the idea of coming forward with something about a study of moving away from natural gas heating. Councillor Allard's put forward a number of motions over the years. I should have mentioned Councillor Klein earlier. I should have mentioned his role in that whole debate about the interim solution around phosphorous nitrogen removal and Lake Winnipeg. I should have mentioned that earlier. We need to do more. I think there will be an opportunity for the next council to look at…I mean, if you look at the four big areas; ag, well, we've…within the City, we've at least started the Food Council. We're underway. Buildings, we are…do…we are looking at natural gas. We are looking at conversion. Waste, we do have the pilot project underway. I certainly hope we will start doing compost pick-up. That will be our big contribution on waste, in my view, and transportation. And yesterday's announcement was, I think, quite important in that context. And we'll have to keep debating electric cars, electric buses, other alternatives as this council goes forward and the next council. But I do think we all have some role to play in putting forward ideas. We have a small but mighty group there in our Office of Sustainability; Becky Raddatz, Jeanette Sivilay who's also our person on the Food Council. So, I think one other staff, Alerra, but that's…we don't have a huge number of staff doing this, but we need to keep generating ideas out of Council. Not many of them may get adopted, there may not be funding, but at least we can keep trying to take some steps. There are…they're, certainly, steps we can take to try and meet our targets. I hope there's the same generosity of spirit when the motion I have with Councillor Klein about seeing if we can do something for Green Action Centre to promote composting over the next couple of years as an interim measure, as an interim measure, not to replace the idea of a door…of a city-wide pick-up, but just trying to do something over the next couple of years, seeing if we can spur a bit more composting. That motion should be coming back soon and hopefully we can see if we can do something with that. So, thanks to the Mayor and Councillor Orlikow for bringing this forward. It is…it's one of these notices of motion that now appear in front of us under the committee agenda. This won't be coming to the committee, but it's a good opportunity to debate this. I'm not an expert on this, but at least we've got different people putting forward different ideas. We can try to do something and try to keep…keep moving forward on this area.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, I'll call the question on the motion. All in favour? All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, were you intending on voting? Okay. I think…I saw that you were sort of dealing with something there. The count for Councillor Schreyer. Yes.

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

Madam Speaker: That vote is unanimous. Thank you. Moving on to question period under this committee. Councillor Lukes, your question for Councillor Mayes, our chair.

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

Councillor Lukes: Yes, through you, Madam Speaker, the North End Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade is our number one infrastructure project, a project we've been talking for…talking about for over a decade. Historic funding, quite an accomplishment. Through you, Madam Speaker, would the Chair consider this: would the Chair consider a new way of doing things? Would you consider inviting all of Council to the federal and provincial funding announcement? You know, we all sit here and we vote for these generational projects, these number one infrastructure projects. But under the current regime of so-called collaboration, none of us are ever invited to the announcements that we vote for. Can you as Chair, can you commit to a new way of doing things and invite all who voted for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant to the announcement when the feds call it?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I don't know that I get any more notice than…

Councillor Lukes: I get none, so…

Councillor Mayes: Well, we'd discussed that at the Southwest Rec Centre announcement, but I wasn't invited to that, that I remember, I mean, and I voted for that in the budget, which I voted for, and some people don't, and I don't do the inviting either, Councillors, to be fair. So, yeah, I mean if…if people…I don't do the inviting, I don't do the federal inviting or the provincial. We did have…we did have a number of Councillors at North End, I believe Councillor Browaty was invited and was there, I think certainly, Councillor Sharma, Councillor Gillingham was there, I was there, the Mayor was there. Yeah, I mean, you're asking me would I…sure, if I had control over all the invitations, why not? I don't though. But and…and I'm sure I haven't…you know, I'd like to have been at the one on the Southwest, I voted for that, but I wasn't part of that. So, I mean, I don't really know that it's…I'm not…if the idea is, we're all in this together, then, yeah to some extent. And to some extent, people vote against budgets, I voted against one back in 2012 that probably had some benefit from my ward. But I think at the end of the day, I don't control the invitations, so yes, people have supported these things, but also, to Councillor Gillingham's point, if you're going to vote against budgets that contain these provisions and then say, but I'm a champion of these provisions, it's a little hard for those of us who go out in the community and then get berated for raising taxes. Every budget I've voted on has raised taxes, a matter of fact, if I'm defeated on that, so be it. But I've done that because we needed the revenue to fund things like the billion dollars worth of road repairs that have gone on for the past ten years, like the hundreds of millions of dollars of sewage, like the millions of dollars we've put into transit. So, I, frankly, sucked it up and voted for budgets that increased taxes for ten straight years, and I've probably, well, I will be…I fully intend to support Councillor Gillingham and the budget that I was part of. But to be fair, if you're supportive of something, please vote for it. I'm proud to have voted for some of the things we're doing in your ward. I think that Southwest Rec Complex, which some people have denounced, I think that was the right thing to do. I hope to stand here if I'm still around and announce something for Sage Creek and Bonavista. But I'll be voting for it if it's in the budget, when that day comes.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes, second question.

Councillor Lukes: I think sometimes many people have stated on the record that they don't vote for the budget because of the process and the lack of inclusion. But anyways, second question is: would you consider asking whoever does do the inviting, which I assume now will be the Mayor, I will ask him also; but would you consider asking him to invite members of Council to this historic number one infrastructure project when the funding announcement is made?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Again, I think…I think there's…there's a trade-off here in some ways. I mean, I know Councillor Nason isn't opposed to doing more on Transit Plus. Councillor Nason's raised that issue more often than anyone else that I've worked with around here. But Councillor Nason has voted against some budgets that have contained provisions around Transit Plus. I know he isn't, I know that's not the reason he's voting against it, but I think to some extent, it doesn't matter who went for it and voted for things, and who…who put…put their vote, who had to take the heat from the groups who show up here and denounce us. And I've done that for nine budgets in a row, maybe 10. So, yeah, I can certainly raise it with the Mayor. One might point out, Councillor Sharma voted against the most recent budget and was there with us at the…at the North End announcement and that would be fair. So, it's not pure and simple, who's…who is votes against the budget and who doesn't. But I…I have felt some frustration that that I've…I've been part of a process, I've taken heat for raising taxes, I've taken heat for increasing funding for the police. I've taken heat on a number of items. So, yes, when the good news part of the budget comes forward, yes, I don't…I don't fault Councillors for coming up and saying, "Yeah, I had

the courage to vote for a tax increase and therefore I'm going to come out and do these announcements on roads or whatever else it is, because that was…that was the compromise that I voted for."

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Anything further? Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Well, since my name was called, I had to get up, and I know Councillor Orlikow will slap me if I ask too many questions. But with regards to voting for or against the budget, since Councillor Mayes brought it up, line by line, would that be something that maybe future Council, you'd be supportive of? Line-by-line voting.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason…Councillor Nason, if you'd like to pose a question appropriate to this specific committee.

Councillor Nason: Ah, never mind. It's okay.

Madam Speaker: Okay, any other questions? Councillor Eadie. We see you. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Yeah, thank…thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, we did receive the letter from Minister Johnson regarding the North Winnipeg North…the licence name, I'm not going to use the North Winnipeg Sewage Plant. And we do have, and we have, I believe had set aside the budget at $28 and $30 million for the chemical…temporary chemical removal of phosphorous, and in the letter though, what I found was quite concerning, is that there's a statement in there that the current temporary chemical removal process, I think Mr. Grant was talking about, is actually not going to help us meet our licence requirements as to the release phosphorous into…nutrients into our…into our waterway. So, my questions is: is there…and I'm on the committee now so it's good, but my question really is: is there a detailed report expected at Water and Waste, so that we can discuss what the Minister is saying?

Madam Speaker: Okay. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: No, not that I'm aware of. There's no report coming on…I was actually quite proud of the reaction at EPC, which was not to fly off the handle when that letter…that letter came in as we were meeting at EPC, it was actually quite dramatic. And it…but no one got up and said, "Well, let's…let's tear up this report that we had had to do. Let's, you know, let's denounce the government," and I think by taking a tone saying, "You know, we…we're ready to keep talking." I think that helped lead to yesterday's announcement. So, what did the Minister's mean by their letter? I don't…I mean, I think it opened the door to what happened yesterday, which was the Mayor did some good work with the Premier and we're putting forward the ICIP application. So, phase three, man, I don't know, but we're certainly not going to get that done in this term of Council to be blunt. I would be amazed if that, that's close to another billion or 800, I think it's currently budgeted at. That will be a real challenge. At least, we're doing to the interim measure though. So, I think that's something that is positive. If we can get biosolids done in this term, I think we'll have done something really important.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you…thank you, Madam Speaker, I appreciate that answer, but specifically in there, they identify and I thought, when I voted to go ahead with this temporary chemical removal being set up out there in the North End Plant; it's my assumption, everybody said that this thing would actually…would actually, you know, resolve our problem for a period of time, and it's not. So, my, Madam Speaker, is the Chairperson, because there's a public document on the record now willing to bring this to our Standing Committee, so that we can understand exactly what Minister Johnson is saying?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you for clarifying that. Now I get it. Yes, that is a fair question. We should ask the staff, what…what will the interim measure, I mean we're building a whole building to do this? What will that interim solution do? It obviously is not biological removal, which is going to trip the licence, but we're not reporting that it is. It is a chemical removal. But your point is a good one, what…if it's being asserted by the province, this isn't helping us address the licence at all, then we should have the staff speak to that. Very good, good catch Councillor Eadie, and yes, let's bring that up at the next meeting.

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further questions, let's move on to the Standing Policy Committee on Innovation and Economic Development. We'll go straight to question period. Any questions for Councillor Browaty? Any questions?

Okay, none. Next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development. Councillor Gilroy.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT, HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to move Items 1 through 14, 16 and 17.

Madam Speaker: Okay. We do have an amending motion. We have Motion 3 to amend 15. Okay, 15 will be pulled. And other items? Councillor Lukes. Six and 13. Councillor Gilroy, you mentioned a few numbers, does that cover it off?

Councillor Gilroy: I think that's…yep, that's…

Madam Speaker: Any others? Okay, I'll call the question on 1 through 5, 7 through 12, 14, 16, 17. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Clerk: Item 6, Subdivision and Rezoning, 347, 35…

Councillor Klein: Sorry, I recused myself at PP&D because of learning you can't speak to residents. So, I have to recuse myself now with my mask.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein will recuse himself for Item 6.

Item 6 – Subdivision and Rezoning – 347, 353, 363 and 365 Oakdale Drive – DASZ 30/2021

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

Councillor Gilroy: Yeah, I will just wait to hear from my councillor colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Speaking to the subdivision and rezoning on Oakdale. We all received e-mails on this subdivision and rezoning and I'd like to speak to it. I was one of the three councillors who participated in a public hearing. This subdivision and rezoning will able a new multi-family development that will see 270 new apartment units in the community of Charleswood, 270 new units. And this is significant. And I can…I can speak to this community with some authority. I have a 50-year history. Councillor Allard probably wasn't even born. I have a 50-year history with St. James-Charleswood-Westwood. As a young child visiting and staying in the big city on Carnarvan Way, summer after summer with family friends, and now visiting my sister on a weekly basis in Westwood and now Charleswood for the past 30 years. I can tell you, to see 270 new apartments become available in this community is incredible. It is incredible for many reasons. There's very limited housing options available for residents to downsize in the Charleswood area. There are very few apartments that have been developed over the past 20 years in the Charleswood area. And if you look at the demographics of Charleswood, you will see a larger percentage of older adults. And as we know, many people want to retire in their neighbourhood versus moving away from family and friends. And now, they will have 270 new units for them to consider moving into. And the project will also see a 4,148 square foot community recreation centre for the Charleswood 55 plus group. And I want to focus on this for a moment. You will recall there were many discussions a few years back by Councillor Klein for the Charleswood…supporting the Charleswood 55 plus centre that they were being moved off their site, a former city…a City facility that was going up for sale and there was lots of concern where they would go. When this report is passed today, they will have an incredible new permanent home. And this is fantastic news. We have seen that older adults and seniors have been one of the groups most negatively impacted during the pandemic. And we have seen how critically important socializing and activity improves the quality of life for any age. Now, this project involving change is not without some challenges. This project does represent change to Oakdale Street. Oakdale has large deep residential lots. And this particular site, a former church site, backs on to the William Clement Parkway. Undoubtedly, adding 250…270 units does fundamentally change the street. And I want to recognize the many residents who came forward and spoke to this subdivision and rezoning and who spoke about the changes and their concerns that will come about. And they spoke passionately about the process and the changes. And they worked with the area councillor to ensure the height was lowered and moved back. And that parking spots were added and that landscaping was…additional landscaping was added and more. And it was interesting, the consultant overseeing the public consultation process stated on the record that this was the most in-depth public consultation process she had done

in her 30-year career. The most in-depth consultation process. And that speaks volumes to me that the residents had every opportunity to be heard, to have their concerns heard and addressed and considered wherever possible. And in the report, as I noted, we see many changes. And I also want to recognise that the policies Council has put in place to grow a city are not going to be accepted by everyone especially when change is involved. It is impossible to please and accommodate everyone. And as councillors, we have dual role; we are members of Council and deal with decisions affecting the whole city and we are also representative of our wards. And I recognize it can be very difficult for councillors to balance the two roles. At the public hearing, I want to put on the record that all three councillors voted for support of this development to allow the development to proceed and move forward because countless City policies support this development to help grow our city. And this is a good development to provide safe, affordable housing for many community residents. And it is a change to the neighbourhood. And it is difficult sometimes for a councillor to wear both hats and to support residents and to move our city forward, but being a councillor is all about difficult decisions, as Councillor Mayes noted earlier. We've often spoke of a different model that could remove this decision making process with councillors. Maybe that's something a future mayor can move on. I don't know. I want to thank the consultants for doing such an in-depth consultation. For the developer for listening and for dedicating over 4,000 square feet to a permanent senior centre. This is city building at work. And I will continue to support and vote today on this very good project.

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

Mayor Bowman: Given the hour, I'll be brief. I note the local councillor isn't attending the vote right now. I will be supporting this indifference to the local councillor, who I understand has attended to this matter previously and has previously at, I believe, community committee has supported this…this subdivision and rezoning. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Mayes: We had a…I'll try and be brief. We had a somewhat mind numbing discussion at EPC about was the road surface chip seal or asphalt and around and around it went and part of it's going to be upgraded to concrete, part of it asphalt, part of it's going to remain chip seal. I think, indifference to the concerns of some of the local residents, I mean, it's…Lukes makes a good…Councillor Lukes makes a good point about the sidewalk was extended, that was part of the public consultations. Northerly, we may have to revisit that at some point and extend that sidewalk even more northerly. I don't think you'd vote down the whole multi…the whole proposal based on that. I can't blame people. It would…Councillor Chambers has inherited some of these areas that I used to represent. I have…still have some that have ditches and no sidewalks and kids walk to Minnetonka School on the road because there's no sidewalks. So, it would be...it's not that my ward has it all, so therefore, these folks should as well, but it's a legitimate concern people raised about their kids. So it may be that we have to come back at some point and look at extending the sidewalk. We done that on St. Anne's Road as it developed further south. We've probably done it in some other areas. So, I will be voting in support but I do think…it wouldn't shock me if some day we come back and take a look at…perhaps some future budget about extending the sidewalk even further on.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further speakers, Councillor Gilroy, back to you.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And yes, I just wanted to thank Councillor Lukes for her great words. I know she sat on the Assiniboia Community Committee that had...it was a very, very long…long conversation on this…on this one development. And I know that this is an important development. And I just wanted to talk a little bit about why this is important. It is increasing the density within our city, which is what we want to do. We have 270 units and apartments are really missing within the Charleswood community. And we always talk…I know Councillor Rollins is big on this, is being able to age in place. And this building is allowing…allowing people to age in place and stay in the community that they once owned a house in and raised their family in. And you know, maybe…maybe Mayor Bowman might be moving in it…in there one day.

Madam Speaker: Why are we aging everyone today?

Councillor Gilroy: Why are we aging, yeah. But I just…I think that this…a lot of great work…a lot of great work was done by the community committee and, of course, there was conversations at the standing policy committee and we supported the decision of the community committee. So, I hope that you're in support of this today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, call the vote on Item 6. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. The nay was? We'll record you. Councillor Nason. Was that it? Councillor Nason noted in opposition. And councillor Klein can return back to the chamber now. Mr. Clerk.

Item 13 – Rationalization of City owned and/or Leased Building Assets

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor…our Chair, Councillor Gilroy, Item 13.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you. This is an extension of time, but I will wait to hear from my councillor colleague.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any speakers? Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: So, I'm rising because I'm not going to be supporting this today…this report. On March, 2020 Council adopted the 2023 multi-year budget. I know that the process here is the Public Service and Council discussed timeframes. The Public Service was to report back within 180 days with a plan to rationalize City-owned or leased building assets. So, 180 days. Then, October 29th, 2020, they asked for a 60-day extension. Just 60 days, 60 days so they must have felt, you know, get it into the queue because it takes 30 days to get it into the queue into the system. Then on December 17th, they asked for 180-day extension. Then on June 24th, 2021, they asked for another 100…oh, that was 180 days, sorry. Now they've asked for 120-day extension. Then today, another 150 days. So, I have serious questions to the Mayor and the Executive Policy Committee who under this current governance model direct the CAO. How is the CAO overseeing the staff's ability to forecast and project timelines? And even more concerning, this is the Asset Management Department making these forecasts and estimates. So, dozens of City assets are not being efficiently and effectively used. We've known this for years. I'm in my second term, we talked about this in the first term. And they are costing taxpayers hundreds of millions. Now we're being asked to go for another 150 days to extend it. At SPC, we asked for a shorter timeline. The motion was defeated. It went forward to EPC with no recommendation. I look forward to doing a new way of doing things because currently, we are costing taxpayers millions by not being able to project and estimate how long it's going to take to do a report. So, I won't be supporting this today. It's more the behaviour I'm not supporting.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Here we go, another date in time. February 27th, 2019, it was a snowstorm that day. Hundreds of seniors in Transcona came out to the Transcona Retired Citizens Centre. City-owned facility that's been under threat of closure. Before I was elected it was actually closed down, then renovated and opened up. However, since this time that they're reopened, they've been on a month to month lease…month to month lease. So, they can't long term plan. Yes, COVID has come along and put the screws to lot of things, but the fact that they can't plan, you know, a year, two years out because they don't know what their lease situation is. What problems does that present? Presents problems for applying for grants sometimes, long-term sustainability of senior programming. Fast forward to another place, to a co-lease agreement that the Transcona Nationals and the Canterbury Park daycare are in at Optimist Park, the football park in Transcona. Another location that is struggling because they're in a lease overhold. So, these are…these are very finite situations that are affecting a lot of people. We need daycare in Transcona, but they can't expand the building because we're in overhold. So, we continue to drag our heels on this. This…I believe this was a pre-election 2018 thing that needed to get done. Here we are, three years into our term for this government term and we still don't have decisions on this. We need the Director, we need the CAO to get this job done. I'm not supporting this extension today.

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

Councillor Eadie: There we go. I'm unmuted. Thanks. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wasn't going to speak to this report, but you know, this rationalization of City buildings, you know, this goes back a long way. Actually, the original, the original started when I was trying to stand up for a seniors group in a City building on Dufferin Avenue. I can't even remember what year that was. But we own lot of buildings where we have different groups and…for example, Bleak House and I know everybody has these places in their wards, I believe. And I was cringing because I believe the way the City can assist groups that we don't normally fund like a seniors group, we don't normally fund their participation costs or whatever those things are. That's usually…they do other fundraising to do that. These buildings are a way that we are able to provide two organizations that we…you know, technically we don't deliver that service. So, I wasn't relishing what the report was going to come forth because I expect to continue to support groups that are providing for Winnipeggers and what they do in any way that the City can. And you know, in the budgets, we've decided we're not giving them operating grants to provide whatever activities those seniors are doing in these places. And there's other groups that aren't seniors, but…and so, my concern and...you know, there was a discussion about maybe selling the building to the seniors group or whomever. The problem is with a lot of these assets, they need a lot of repair and work. And really, one of the reasons the City would want to rationalize to get rid of it is, you know, where is the money coming to fix the building if the group that's there can't afford to pay to fix it? Although, at McBeth House, you have a seniors group who raised a bunch of money to fix that historical asset. And then, the City turned around and wanted to gouge them on a lease for that space in which they couldn't afford. So, anyway, there's a lot of history to this thing and it's taking forever. My question...and you know what, I think I'm going to vote with my colleague, Councillor Lukes because I think…I think she's right. You know, we want…it's really important that we deal with this because these groups are dependent on the City. And I'd just like to know...so, at

one point, June whatever, they said, well, we need X days, we'll come back with a report and then, all of a sudden, the next thing you know, they want 180 days. My question is, who's seeing what in the report that was going to come down the pipe, what was it that somebody seen in there, that said, oh no, we've got to redo this? What was that? What was the key point? I don't know. Did anybody hear…on the standing committee hear that, Chairperson? I don't know. But alls I know is it would be good to at least get a report on the table so that Council can make a decision. So, at this point, you know, give them another lengthy extension for what? For what? I guess they're too overworked. I don't know. I'm going to not be voting for the extension. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: This is my concern, that regardless of when this comes down the pike and we vote, my concern is that those buildings that are owned by the City, that are being used by non-profits like the Elmwood Community Resource Centre, whatever other organization such as Councillor Eadie mentioned, we all can think of…can think of a few, those that are in those buildings, if we pass a report immediately that doesn't give any further instruction in terms of what those organizations are supposed to do, then what could happen is, the administration...my fear, this is my concern, that the administration is going to just go out and tender it. Without…and therefore, it leaves those community organizations, those already renting those buildings from the City and puts them out on the street. That's my concern. So, I understand, sometimes, you know, you move a…you provide a by-law and it says that the administration has to do all things necessary, but I've also seen where there's ambiguity in terms of how the administration deals with it. To the extent, to the extreme extent, whereby there is a by-law and it's the by-law for the city and the administration doesn't act on the by-laws, clearly written, because they…as we've been told, it's all on record. I'm not exaggerating in any way, shape or form. It's, say, yeah, but the…but the Council didn't give us immediate directive to enact that element of the by-law. Now, I know that might sound funny, but it happened, and I'll…don't want to get into it now, I don't have that many minutes, I've got six minutes. But believe me, it happened right here at city hall while I was elected. And I don't want that to happen in which we…to the extent that we don't know what's going to happen to these organizations that are renting these City-owned buildings. So, in my case, I'm not really worried about when because it doesn't affect my concern whether it's now or 150 days. My concern is, if we are to go ahead with some sort of plan of what they call rationalization or whatever, dealing with the selling off of City buildings, whatever they call it, that those that are in them, those community organizations, that they are doing their job for the community, aren't going to get first dibs and they're going to be on the street. That's my concern. So, regardless of how the vote turns out, I believe several members of Council would share those concerns. Why? Because there are community organizations renting space in City-owned buildings. Councillor Nason just talked about…for the common good, child care facilities and I believe what he was saying was a City-owned structure. So, if that's the case, we have to make sure that regardless of the decision, regardless of the recommendation and the plan by the administration, and if the Council is to vote on this, that regardless of what it says, it has to say that those organizations that are already there should get first dibs and be able to buy the building. Because let's face it, we're not saving the taxpayer and these different levels of government and charities any money by having them rent from another organization…from another party that might buy the building and still have them rent from it. They still have the option…they should still have the option of being able to buy the building themselves. How do we know this is feasible? How do we know this is viable? Because many non-profit organizations, community organizations do own their own building. Some of them don't. Some of them rent from the City. Some of them rent by…by private owners…by owners of…private owners of buildings. But why do we want to put our community organizations in that kind of dilemma? I have to admit, when I speak of this right now, I am speaking specifically about the Elmwood Community Resource Centre because they're in a City-owned building. Well, I would hope we don't go through the ridiculousness of not giving them first option to buy the building. It goes against the intent of why they're renting from the City in the first place. So, I would hope that regardless of what kind of plan we have in terms of what buildings we're going to sell off, that we're still within the intent of why we had them in the first place, providing that regardless of whether we're being efficient with certain aspects or with certain buildings that it still allows the reason, the virtuous reason for why we've been renting to community organizations, non-profits to remain on account we at least agree that that's a good thing. And give them a chance to buy it themselves because they can pay rent or they can pay a mortgage. Well, which one will save taxpayers' money? Well, we always know, essentially, for the most part, it's cheaper to own than to rent. It happens to be. So, allow these efficiencies by these organizations. And these organizations are by definition organized. They can usually handle it. How do we know? Because many of these same sister and brother organizations owe…do own their own buildings. And they are glad that they do. So, I would hope with all logic, sensibility and reasoning and care that organizations such as the Elmwood Community Resource Centre, when this comes down finally for a judgment by Council, that regardless of what we do with that building, that the ECRC gets to stay there or at least have first option to stay there if they have what it takes to buy the building and continue with payments made by, essentially, every other community organization that has to go through the process of either paying a mortgage or paying a rent. In this case, we don't know the ramifications if they're not allowed to get first dibs on buying the building. So, I think that's consistent with, I would assume, with the majority of councillors and we could work on that together without shocking our community organizations that do the best they can for our…within our wards. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Any further speakers on this item? Seeing none, Councillor Gilroy, back to you.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I'll try to address some of the questions and what I heard from different councillors. You know, we heard at the standing policy committee that they are working on this. They are calling our different stakeholders and, you know, starting those kind of dialogues. And that takes time. I think we have…I think it was like around 75 leases that we have in our buildings. So, we really got to…we got to do this right. We've had throughout our term, we've had a few cases where we've sold our properties and it was a very public and for lots of people concerning. And I think this is something that we have to do right. And we know that they're working on it. We also know that they're coming back in a few months with a plan. I also want to highlight that, you know, I do want them to talk with our different stakeholders. I think that that's key that they're hearing…there are starting those…some of those conversations now, rather than just finding out when a report goes live. I also believe that COVID has changed things, Madam Speaker. We now have where we have staff…we have lease…leases for our staff are being working in other different places where we're leasing that out. And now, with COVID, we've got to manage, okay, what are we going to do? We're trying to encourage everyone downtown, are we going to drop the leases in these other buildings and amalgamate? Like, those are tough decisions that we have to make right now with COVID and an economic plan that's coming forward. We also just finished our…our real estate policy framework. And so, for the first time in our real estate policy framework, it will give the opportunity for non-for-profits to have first right of that property. So, that's going to change a lot of things. So, I know that this is taking a long time, but we are talking about our City buildings and I don't think those things should be rushed. And we should do a good job. And we should be meeting with stakeholders. And we should be doing our due diligence before moving forward. And we do have to be remindful that when we're looking at leases, especially within our downtown, Madam Speaker, this is a very different time than it was a few years ago. It's a more challenging time. And we as a city have to figure out how we're going to manage that. Do we stay in these leases? Amalgamate into different buildings? You know, we also want to make sure that we're not, you know, being the ones that are taking people away from our…some of the downtown buildings that might be in dire need. So, these are very conflicting things that are happening all at once. Our staff is doing what they can to manage it. They have asked for some extension of time. I don't think this is unreasonable due to what we're dealing with, with COVID, due to what we're dealing with…with, you know, these being our assets and what we've heard when we have sold off our assets and how it's been handled in the past. Let's do this right. Let's get a proper report. Let's give them the extension of time that they need. And hopefully, let's let our stakeholders have the opportunity to work with our administration because I think that that's prudent. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. With that, I'll call the question on Item 15. Call for a recorded vote. All in favour, please…15…13. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Nays

Councillor Eadie, Klein, Lukes and Nason

Deputy City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 12, Nays 4.

Madam Speaker: Item 13 passes. On to Item 15. Yes.

Councillor Klein: I've been…the motion that I was…that I had to recuse myself for, that happened because of discussion at the standing policy committee, I've been informed that, unfortunately, our current mayor had made a statement that I wasn't in the room insinuating that I wasn't here to be part of that decision when it was my motion. And if that is the fact, then I would request an apology or obviously to have that looked into further because that is unbecoming of a professional.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein, thank you. That's not my recollection of what was said, but I can certainly review the tape.

Councillor Klein: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, Item 15 and it has an amending motion going with it.

Item 15 – Determining Appropriate Available Property for Homes for Heroes

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is kind of…this is a good news story for the City of Winnipeg. Originally, when this first came forward, we didn't know if we could…could host Homes for Heroes within our city limits, but with work with Community Services, it turns out that we could facilitate…facilitate them on the property that we found. I want to thank Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason for the work on this. I know that Councillor Klein was helping to push this forward. And at first, I wasn't…I wasn't supportive of it because I thought there was, you know, the east of the Red…East of the Red Complex was going to go there, but after due diligence with our Community Services Department, it turns out that there will be lots of opportunity for us to have…have both Homes for Heroes on that location as well as a complex in due time when the time comes. And I think that there's amending motion. Do I speak to the amending motion at this time, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein will introduce it. You certainly can. It's been circulated.

Councillor Gilroy: Okay, so just a…I am in support of the amending motion. We did work with our administration during this time with the…and I will let Councillor Klein introduce it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Klein.

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

WHEREAS some flexibility is required in order to ensure signalized access to the proposed East of the Red RecPlex;

AND WHEREAS Homes For Heroes has reviewed the proposed changes and has no concerns regarding the impact on their proposed development;

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

1. *In Recommendation 1, delete the words "the one acre south half" and replace with "a one acre parcel in the southern portion"*

2. *In Recommendations 2 and 5, delete the words "south half" and replace with "parcel"*

3. *In Recommendations 4, 6 and 7, delete the words "south half" and replace with "one acre parcel" in all instances*

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, Madam Chair, Councillor Gilroy. I'll introduce the motion. Everyone does have a copy of it, but we are requesting that Item 15 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property Planning…Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated November 10, 2021, be amended as follows. Recommendation 1, delete the words "one acre south half" and replace with "a one acre parcel in the southern portion". In 2 and 5, delete the words "south half" and replace with "parcel". And in recommendations 4, 6 and 7, delete the words "south half" and replace with "one acre parcel" in all instances. I will talk to the motion now. I believe that's in order and I can add some comments at the end.

Madam Speaker: Yes, you have an opportunity to close as well.

Councillor Klein: You know, I think I'll wait until I hear from my colleagues.

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

Councillor Nason: It's been a tough couple of months. Been working on the East of the Red Complex and trying to get it updated and get community consultation prepared for the site. I want to thank my predecessor Councillor Wyatt for leading the charge on this wonderful joint venture area, that's Park City Commons, getting the library established, Transcona Library. And just, the plan for that area, like, it's coming together. I want to thank the, you know, the veterans that have served our country. There are many out there that are suffering, and been a long day. Mr. Howard and the Homes for Heroes team want to come here desperately. And you know, I started talking to him a few years ago back when I was at the Province. He was crying. So, we're talking more than three years ago he's been trying to come. Talked to him through Councillor Klein, I guess it was probably two years or more ago, three years ago, trying to figure out a way for him to come. And yeah, I was shocked when the East of the Red campus site was pinpointed as a potential area. I was caught off guard

that it may have been pointed towards him and the Homes for Heroes organization from the Public Service because the consultations that we were preparing for to release just a short time after this came to light, really had to quickly pivot and try to figure out a way that we could have a win-win on this site. Other sites like the Roland Michener site, again, a city place that we haven't found a repurpose for or sale of. Our old library, we haven't found a purpose or sale for. We've got these assets. We've got this space. This is an opportunity and one that I can't believe that the Public Service came to a spot where they can agree with the motion that was brought on the floor of PP&D by Councillor Klein. I was shocked. I was sitting up in that gallery, couldn't believe it. I do feel I aged about ten months in the time…from the time it was announced. The stress, the community pressure, because the community wants East of the Red. My community is very veteran-centred. You know, we've got…you know, we've got the Transcona Cemetery which we're trying to find a way for them in the Field of Honour along with our other cemetery to find a place to intern them to reduce cost. So, we're trying to do things for veterans, and this motion is a good one.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. Thank you, Madam Speaker. The day after Remembrance Day, I went back to the Elmwood Legion. Speaking with...spent some time with some of the more senior active members of the legion membership. And they brought this up. They brought up the challenge that more than ever before in Transcona. Not just Transcona, but including Transcona, that there are veterans. Veterans, remember in this day and age, veterans of different times as being a soldier…different ways even during an era of peace during the Cold War. You know, depending on where you're stationed and things like this, you're still a soldier. You're still there, you know, at risk in defence. And you know, making the point to me that on the evening of September 12th, that they had concerns that there are veterans that are homeless. Veterans that...well, of course, let's face it, in this day and age with all costs going up, but we don't explain why. We don't ask to be explained to why. It's harder for people to find affordable housing, adequate housing and that this is happening to veterans as well. And so, this is fresh to me. And of all the things we were talking about, why would they…why would they bother to talk about this? Because it's important to them. Because it's important. You know, the day after Remembrance Day, and it makes you wonder why people did what they did. Well, you know, you can never know what the future is, what the future holds for that what you defend. But when my Uncle Henry fought in the Korean War, not his first war, but he…not the first war he was in, but when he did fight in the Korean, he had no idea the difference it would make that he fought in that Korean War. He went back 50 years later. The Korean government invited some Canadian soldiers. He was just a private, but he had no idea the virtue of...he couldn't have known. And boy, was he shocked. Didn't regret it and that this should happen to these people is sad. And it's an expression of something greater. It's not just about the veterans, but when it's happening to veterans, it really tells you something. When it's happening in Transcona, it really tells you something. It's not just about those people, but when it's happening to them, that tells you something that for a lot of people, things are getting worse. Isn't that funny, you know? Because after World War II, things were getting better. After World War II, we went through the longest period of uninterrupted economic growth. And we weren't going into debt. We were going into the longest period of progress for housing for everybody of every race. That's a fact. And we're in an era that's not very progressive. If you look back at an area of greater progress. So, I challenge anyone to say I'm wrong. And I know progressive…it's certain human…you can put your own values into that. And people fought for us to have the right to express those values in the system we have. But you know, it's sad when it happens this way. So, you know, I really do feel for Councillor Nason's concerns. What I do want to know then, because I'm not…I'm not opposed to the amendments. I'm not exactly sure of the relevance of them. They're…I agree with…but Councillor Klein did say, he's going to wait. So, I do await that Councillor Nason is involved with this. He had seconded that. And on that basis, given the area councillor, I do give credit, you know, credit…credence to the local councillor on this. I know the area very well. My in-laws live very, very close. I'm in that area a lot. It's literally, well, a half a block outside my ward. And I think it's an excellent location. So pleased that it be there. And I just hope we make…make the right decision, the best decision we can and I'm open to the amendments as made by Councillor Klein and the residing councillor, Councillor Nason as well on something that is a bigger issue than as explained here. We're talking about affordable housing. We're talking about poverty today. This was a big day today to talk about the issues hitting our society. That it should be happening for veterans, well, let that be a lesson to us.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is very diff…this is very difficult. Now, I actually, you know, I'm on a board where they have a stake in some of the land in this particular area where the City said this would be a great place where the veterans housing and Mr. Howard wants to move forward. They're talking about…and I've been working with the City, trying come to an agreement on servicing and so on for a piece of property to build affordable housing. Although, it wouldn't be as affordable as what would be provided for the veterans who do need also another level of support in what housing is provided for the veterans who do deserve housing. How we as Council are put into a position and how Councillor Nason could be put into a place to try to figure out and make a decision to utilize property that the City already acknowledged...our administration was working about another organization using that land to build housing. I don't know what the change in acre or south or north, you know, there's lot of detail I've heard at this other board level about where

building could happen. I don't know if this is related to changing where the acreage is to a place where the City was trying to tell the other organization that maybe we could reconfigure it and do it this way when they are already put together a budget, construction and you know, pretty well ready to go as soon as they could obtain the money to start building. Now, again, how…how did we put these veterans into this place? And that's that difficulty in…Councillor Nason isn't talking about the difficulty because he's right. There are other properties that the City owns where we can refer these veterans to, but no. How did this arise? How did this happen? The other organization with that property has had dibs in it for like five years. Reference to them being able to use it to build affordable housing. So, like, I don't get what's going on here, but boy, I think it's a real awful thing the way we're playing with veterans here. Like, you're going to force me to vote against veterans? I don't want to vote against veterans. But listen, I don't know what's going on with this. You change which part of the property, I need a detailed report to explain to me how everything is going to work out on this property that had already had plans. And, well, in Transcona, we have other properties that are quite suitable for veteran's housing as well. What's going on here? I don't even know how to vote. I really don't. I hate being put in this situation. How we ended up here, it's just ridiculous. So, unless I hear something that explains my concerns that everybody is going to be able to be accommodated here on this property and that our City's administration has figured it out, how it's going to work, then okay. But if I can't hear that it's not going to work out for everybody, I'm not voting for it. And you know what, people are going to hate me because I voted against veterans. Well, forget it. I didn't vote against veterans. I voted against somebody's poor decision to not refer them to the Roland Michener Arena for crying out loud. Rip it down, build some veteran housing there, that's a great place for it. I'm done speaking.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you very much. Madam Speaker, Councillor Eadie does raise some important points. And it is one that I believe that in his speech, Councillor Nason, Madam Speaker, mentioned too in terms of attention. And certainly, as Chair of Protection, Community Services and Parks, you know, I note the timeline of the East of the Red plex. And I note that this motion was walked on. And so, East of the Red plex was in the middle of…folks in Transcona were in the middle of consulting on East of the Red plex. The feasibility study happened in 2017-2018. The feasibility study upgrade began September, 2021. The public engagement was happening November. And where are we? Well, we're at the November committee of Council changing potentially the trajectory of East of the Red plex for community organizations. If you are the Kiwanis that owns property near this East of the Red plex, you may be, indeed, confused. Now, area councillors, Madam Speaker, can consult with local organizations like the Kiwanis who own adjacent property and consult with the stakeholders like the board that Councillor Eadie is referring to. And consult with local stakeholders that there was always supposed to be housing on the property of East of the Red plex. It was part of the economic package, in fact, that was in the field. But I also share the concerns that Councillor Eadie was mentioning because East of the Red plex is an interesting build. It's supposed to be a one-stop shop, multi-use centre where families and individuals and for sure veterans can do different activities in the same location. But there were partners and they were partners that former Councillor Russ Wyatt, Madam Speaker, spent some time telling me that he had developed. But we can put our real estate policy aside to develop Homes for Heroes. But one thing that is concerning to me and was concerning for other councillors like Councillor Eadie, and we should perhaps check if we've lost him, technically. He's rejoining. Is that…is that there is no report. So, Madam Speaker, I do find it confusing when the councillor for Transcona said, I found…and used the words of the Public Service as if they are pointing to East of the Red plex property because I think the record shows, Madam Speaker, that in fact, they did not have an opportunity to do a robust report in line with what Councillor Eadie is discussing. And I share that concern because we had just, actually, amended the real estate property to be able to talk to community-based organizations with respect to properties that we would consider having them look at first. And so, if there was time and if there remains concerns, I think councillors could lay this over to get the report from the Public Service and to consider properties that aren't East of the Red plex. Now, who you elect matters, Madam Speaker, and I think it is quite possible that Council will follow the vote because Councillor Nason is a signatory to the motion and I want to acknowledge that. So, I hope that, you know, I will watch as he continues to lead the discussion in his community on East of the Red plex, Madam Speaker. I am considering supporting the motion because Homes for Heroes is a compelling initiative. But I want to acknowledge that we don't have a report from the Public Service here. There could have been other properties if they had been asked. And you know, a walk-on motion that goes right up to Council without the time built in for a report is a difficult motion, indeed. And I don't think it is fair, Madam Speaker, to put the words of the Public Service in this when they were not given time to do a report on it. And the record does show that in part other than their verbal reports at committee. Thanks, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So, look, I can only speak from experience on this. On experience working through trying to develop a large recreation campus. This has to do, for me, about growing communities. Pardon me? No. Let me tell you about this. This has to be do…this has to do about growing communities and recreational space. Here's the experience part. Currently, there are 20 acres set aside for the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus. Twenty acres, that's a lot of space. But you take into consideration, roads, drainage, right-of-way

and more and 20 acres is eaten up very, very fast. It's becoming hard to fit everything in. I believe the land currently allocated for East of the Red rec campus is around five acres, if I'm not mistaken. And to be honest, I'm very concerned about selling off super valuable land direct…valuable in the sense that it's directly beside East of the Red campus. I see the permitting numbers coming out of the Transcona Ward. I see the rapid growth of new Canadians and many, many young families. We all know how important recreation space is. And from what I'm experiencing, there's never enough. It's like the TikTok video, there's never enough, and it's really concerning me. And for the record, I did not vote for the motion at SPC because it came together in just over 30 minutes. Councillor Nason didn't speak at SPC, so I was kind of wondering what that was all about. For me, it was…to me, it was just too fast to make decision. There…like Eadie…Councillor Eadie states, there was no report. There's no background from the Public Service. There was just kind of questions we were asking them at the time. Now, I will say, there have been other motions that have been walked on with no reports that Council here today…or Council has voted on and I think waiving fines for libraries was such a motion. So, strange things do happen here at city hall. Honestly, I do think the sale of the land will impact and constrain the future expansion opportunities at some point for East of the Red plex. I really do. But if the area councillor's fine with that, it's his constituents he serves, it's got nothing to do with Homes for Heroes, it's a great organization. I'm very happy for them. I'd love to see them settle here. I wish them all the best. You know, I didn't vote for the motion, I think it was Councillor Eadie and yes, I got slammed multiple times for not voting for veterans, right? Because it's been position, not voting for veterans. But it's not, not voting for veterans. It's kind of thinking of the bigger picture and being concerned about growth and space and the challenges I, from experience, I'm facing, 20 acres isn't enough. But it's not my ward, I'll leave it up to the councillor, the area councillor, if this is what he wants, I'll support his wishes.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Good work by Nason. Good work by Klein. Very good work by Gilroy pulling this together because it probably would have been easier just to say, you know, I'm just going to walk away from this at my committee. I don't know anything about this, but I'm just going to blow it off. Didn't. Good work. East of Red RecPlex; I was looking at last year's capital budget. I can't say what's coming tomorrow, but there's $1 million allocated in, I think, '24 or '25. It's a $100 million project. The next page in the budget is $380,000 for a Sage Creek library. If Anders Smith comes up to me and says, good news, I've got money, 20 million bucks, let's go build that second school in Sage Creek. And I said, you know, it might be where I'm thinking of putting the library. Of course, I have, you know, 1/30 of the funding or…you know, 1% of the funding, but don't go ahead with your thing. I think you'd say, well, what are you talking about? So, East of the Red RecPlex is, shall we say, not fully budgeted for in the last budget by about 99%. So, we would hold this up because, well, that's where the East of Red RecPlex might go. I think we can adapt. So, let's go. Let's roll. I'm going to vote for it. Good work by Nason and Klein and especially, Gilroy for steering this through her committee. So, I'm supportive. I don't know what's going to happen with the East of Red RecPlex, but to hold this up because we might somehow find 100 million or 60 or 80 or whatever it is, we'd be holding a whole lot of other projects if that's the way we proceed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Klein to close on your amending motion.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me address some of the comments that were made because I think it's important to address them because we've had lots of opportunity to ask questions of each other. Nobody has. No one's ever sent an e-mail. No one's ever sent a phone…made a phone call. So, to Councillor Eadie's questions, which are fair. I thank him for asking them. The land that he was referring to was two acres of land that we sold for $1 to the Winnipeg Housing Organization to build residences. And they are hoping to get funding. They're under a time crunch, so is the Homes for Heroes. In meetings with them held by the Public Service, I was in attendance at others, the Public Service determined that that wouldn't be the best location. And they then moved that location to where closer to the rec centre. And then we were told at community services, Councillor Rollins is the Chair of that department, needed that land. And then, after a brief period of time, all of a sudden, they did some checking, whoops, we don't need that land anymore. We're just…people were going to sell it. We're just going to sell it. So, we're talking about a very different parcel of land. The notice of…or the motion for amendments that I'm putting forward today are because of a result of the Public Service's work to ensure that the proper access and infrastructure is there, thus, reducing the amount of land to a certain extent and allowing for agreements to be made. I've heard that cost is a factor. Like, we're basically…we're only selling this for $400,000. We heard from the Public Service that that piece of land is valued anywhere between $700,000 to possibly $1 million one day, but they couldn't confirm it. I will point you to a motion you all voted on that said any land for sale by the City of Winnipeg would be offered to not-for-profits first for $1. This is a not-for-profit. Big picture. Let's look at the big picture. We spend $80,000 a year, according to Stats Can, at minimum on residents living on the streets of Winnipeg. Vulnerable residents. We know from the Government of Canada that over 200 vets are unfortunately homeless on the streets of Winnipeg. Over 40% are Indigenous. Think about what you're saying and what you've said before. And most, not all, but a large majority, sorry, are women, female vets. They're not there because of the same issues we might have. They are there because they put their lives on the line for our country and they suffered a brain injury. I call it that because I spent some time with some vets about this program and talking to them about that. And I met one young man that just about drove me to tears. It was a brain injury, it's not PTSD, he said. It's a brain injury. The stuff I saw. The stuff I had to

do. Dave Howard couldn't be here today because he's opening another facility with the mayor of Edmonton. They graduated another few residents from Calgary who were vulnerable residents living on the streets in Calgary and are now full-time volunteers for Homes for Heroes because they have a house and a full-time job thanks to Homes for Heroes. Every one of those people that are helped, those individuals that stood for us actually saves the City $80,000 a year. There's 200. And Homes for Heroes is going nowhere until every vet is no longer living on the street. This is a not-for-profit. They provided a list of properties to the organization. A number of properties. Why didn't they go to Roland Michener? Because then they have to get a…they have to apply for a zoning change and the department itself or the director himself said, could take least two years to do that. Well, we're all here voting on funding, and we're doing all this, you know, request of money from the Federal Government. We all know how important that is. And we know that there's restrictions and there's time restrictions on that. Winnipeg Housing isn't dealing with the same thing. This motion wasn't just a walk-on. We know that they've tried to be here. And they want to be here because of 17 Wing. And they feel that we have a serious issue with our vets. Indigenous, over 40%. This is a solution. I look at everything we voted on today and very nice stuff. Winnipeg Poverty Reduction and so one, there's the safety measures and so one. None of those programs offer a solution today. When this place gets built, people move in right away. They're not asking us for money. They're willing to pay $400,000 plus, because I asked…the department sent me some notes. They…basically, they like to say, this site, oh, it ranged from $1.4 million based on the highest and best for multi-family, da, da, da, da, da. But here's the reality, this organization is going to have to pay for site recovery for one acre. Probably $160,000. Cha ching. Now we're at 560. They're probably going to have to pay…well, they do have to pay for site remediation. Cha ching. That's $200,000, at least. So, we're up, according to the Public Service, because we're going to have subdivision costs and other costs associated with the development over $700,000 maybe $800,000. Because they have to pay for the servicing. This isn't about what's for the ward. The Community Services themselves said they don't need this land. It's sad that Homes for Heroes is in Edmonton launching a brand new facility. When we had the PP&D meeting about this, it was sad that he was in Kingston launching another one because Kingston gave them the land and money. It's sad that while we were discussing this and it was in the media, the mayor of Brandon contacted Home for Heroes offering land and funding. Did we? Listen, I'm not going to get into what happened in the past anymore than that. There's a fact of the matter. We have serious problems in our city. We have citizens that have to live on the street and many of them are vets. This is a solution and a program that cost you nothing. In fact, they're going to pay you to do it. And then they're going to save money because they're going help residents and vets get off the street and get back to their lives. Saving you $80,000 minimum per year. It's not hard math to do. I get that I'm different than most. And I know sometimes I get told what people think and say about we don't want his motions to go or whatever, but take me out of this. I didn't come here to fight with any of you or to be political. I came here to get things done. This, to me, gets things done. I feel bad for Councillor Nason. I do. Because he had to get the wrath of residents from both sides. One more minute.

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

Councillor Klein: Thank you. Thank you. He got a lot of hassle saying that he wasn't supporting Homes for Heroes in his area. And then he got some people asking about the rec plex. He had to deal with all of those, and from what I understand, spoke to or responded to every one of them. This is a good thing for our city. And I appreciate most of all…like, Councillor Gilroy and I often will joke and have fun at meetings. But when it…when it was necessary, and Councillor Santos, I have to acknowledge her, when it was necessary, we got to work. And we came up with a plan that works. We got something done that day. Just because it went fast, don't let that scare you. That's how things happen in the real world sometimes. They go fast. And this is a solution and we need a fast answer. We need to react faster. I'm not going to belittle any of the other motions that are forward. This is the only one that begins to help day one.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Nason. Councillor Gilroy to close. Councillor Klein, thank you. Councillor Gilroy. Pardon me.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know it's been a long day so far. I just want…I did want to talk about what I heard from some of my councillor colleagues. And you know, this was tough. Like, I'm not going to lie. Like, I wish there was a report in front of us. But you know, we have had these things happen in the past. They are applying for CMHC funding and they are trying to meet targets and deadlines and sometimes that's the way…way things go around here. And I wish there was a report in front of us because I agree, those are the…sometimes the best way to…those are the best things we can do sometimes. And we really got to know and understand the numbers and all that. Winnipeg Rehabilitation Corporation, I'm on the board too. Councillor Eadie, this has nothing to do with them. They are still doing their development. They are supportive of this. The original request was taking part of their land away. That is not happening. This is going to be on the…on the same land as the red…did I say something wrong? The East of the Red. Sorry, it's been a long day. So, this…it won't be interfering in the Winnipeg Regional Housing Corporation. They do really good work and we want to keep the momentum going. And they are happy to see this organization come…come along and be part of the affordable housing and support it because this…what this really is, is supportive housing, it's not supported housing, so that's something to note. And I do want to talk about that…you know, there is going to be the ability for this land to come back to the City. And I think that that's really important. And we made sure that was in the motion. So, say, like, we don't know

when the East of the Red is going to be, you know, developed. Say, you know, ten years down the line, this organization decides that it's done its work, that property's going to come back to the City. So, I think that that's really important to note. And our…you know, our staff did an amazing job making sure that we had all these little things in there to make sure that we were protecting our asset as much as we can. You know, the amending motion that you see in front of us here today from Councillor Klein and Councillor Nason is just allowing access to that property. It will take away some Homes for Heroes land, but we need to be able to access that other…that other acre. So, I think that that's important to know. So, that's all that the amending motion is doing today. Also, too, there's still an ability, the planners did...we did discuss this at the planning, in part of the East of the Red, some of the things that were maybe talked about in terms of raising funds for that project was another housing project. And the planners still think that there is room on the other parcel of land to do that. So, there's still some…maybe some abilities and some capabilities of still having other housing as part of that next parcel of land that's available. And I do want to say that, you know, I probably wouldn't be supportive of this if it wasn't for the area councillor coming forward and hearing from Community Services that, you know, that they felt that there wasn't the need. I mean, those are things that I think as councillors, we do have to look at the overall ability to make sure that we can have a rec plan in the future and the land and the space. And I think, you know, I do hear what Councillor Lukes had to say. And in our conversations, I did ask her directly because she was more involved in her area making sure she has a rec plex. So, I do want to note that those…you know, those are concerns, but I listened to what the administration had to say from Community Services. But at the end of the day, I think we came up with a good plan. The land will come back. The City is making money from this. And I don't know, maybe Councillor Nason has a motion in the future to try to direct some of those funds, but…to direct that into the East of the Red, but I'll leave that up to him. That land will come back to the City if…if and when that project ends. We are providing supportive housing and a different kind of supportive housing that is needed for our veterans. And we are making sure that we are supporting Winnipeg Rehabilitation because they do really good work. And Councillor Eadie was dead right, their plans are going to move forward, this has nothing to do with their plans, and they do amazing work and we would never want to prevent the work from not happening. So, this is basically a collaboration that's coming in a short time because they're trying to access funds. And you know, we will see if this comes to fruition because I think it will depend on the funding arrangements with the Federal Government. But I am supportive of this project and I hope that my councillor colleagues support it too. Thank you. And the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. I'll call the question on Councillor Klein's amending motion, Motion 3. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

Madam Speaker: Amending motion passes unanimously, Mr. Clerk.

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Now, on the main item, Homes for Heroes, as amended. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

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

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

Madam Speaker: Home for Heroes passes unanimously. Mr. Clerk, onto by-laws. Councillor Gilroy.

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

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move the following by-law be read the first time; By-law No. 93/2021, By-law No. 94/2021 and By-law No. 95/2021.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary?

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Eadie: I don't think I heard a motion to suspend the rules to go past 6:00 p.m. I'd like to do so before the next vote.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes just indicated that. I was going to get to it. All in favour of going past 6:00 p.m.? Contrary? That's carried. Don't believe so. Councillor Gilroy, the next section, please.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that By-law 93/2021 to 95/2021, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Clerk: By-laws No. 93/2021, 94/2021 and 95/2021.

Madam Speaker: I don't think I called the question yet. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 93/2021 to 95/2021, both inclusive, be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Question period. Any questions for Councillor Gilroy? Seeing none, Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. Councillor Rollins.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
DATED NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

Councillor Rollins: Oh, Madam Speaker, I'd like to move consent agenda Item 1, 2, 3, 4, with special thanks on the greenspace corridor north of Inkster Boulevard, your work, Madam Speaker. And thanks to PCSP.

Madam Speaker: Shared with Councillor Mayes, but thank you. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now have question period under this committee. Any questions for Councillor Rollins?

Councillor Rollins: I see none, Madam Speaker. I'd like to move consent and adjournment, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: No questions, thank you. Councillor Rollins moves adjournment.

Councillor Rollins: That…I think that was unanimous.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 6:05 p.m.