-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:24 AM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>
Subject: Winnipeg.ca : Submit communications to Council / Register in delegation

** EXTERNAL EMAIL, USE CAUTION **

The following message was submitted using a Winnipeg.ca email contact form. The validity of the identity of the sender or the information provided cannot be guaranteed.

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:23:52 AM

Personal information
Full name: David Grant
Email address:
Phone:
Job title:
Organization:
Address:
City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:

Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 6,10,12,water #1, IRPW #6 and Gov March 11.

Service inquiry: Register as a Delegation, Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: Via Zoom
Comments in writing: EPC Item 6. I applaud Brian and Devi for making this motion. I agree that this rule should be embedded in your code of ethics. Since the advantage to be gained by unusual gifts of taxpayer money can last more than 60 days, I suggest that the time be set at 100 days instead.
Item 10, on WPS funding. This report could have considered the 2 topics which troubled the people at its outset. How much funding should we devote to WPS. Should these funds be from the city's coffers, or from the profit generated by WPS operations. While the total cost of generating this report is not reported, it was money wasted. The 'public consultation' fails to grapple with either matter. If asked, the public would have told Council to remove this conflict of interest from the shoulders of this very essential service. If I had asked for this consultation, I would feel cheated by what we got.
Item 12, return to work. I strongly support this motion. I find it deplorable that we would have acted in panic in 2020, and for 2 full years, not have reviewed the efficacy and 'need' for these measures. We can lead the way to restoring our downtown in 2022.
Under SPC Water item 1, sale of landfill gas, I see that we at last have some numbers. I see also that no one pursued the idea of using this very dilute methane stream to generate electricity, with minimal

clean-up. I did this sort of estimate and cost analysis for many years for producers like Imperial Oil. In those days, companies would shelve an idea, if its economics were as dismal as yours. When the interests of stakeholders are respected, you would never spend $10m and $2m every year, while expecting income of only $300k.

IRPW #6, crosswalk lighting. There is a short time as the high lights go overhead, that they are out of the view of the driver. Adding low lights will help make drivers aware of a 'fresh' amber. This is only a danger when the pedestrian fails to notice the car, which at this point is very close. Any analysis of crosswalk safety by a professional will point to the behaviour of potential victims. Records will show that I suggested to Councilors years ago that we need a red lamp to deter pedestrians until vehicles have had a few seconds to stop. This can be done in conjunction with the new low-ambers. Only these red lamps can help, when the person on foot is not watching for cars. Only these red lights can reduce crosswalk injuries.

Under Governance March 11: After reading this item, one might wonder: Why register lobbyists?

We have a carefully designed REGISTRY. With respect, may I suggest that it is largely Ornamental?It is better than what existed many years ago. When I moved to Winnipeg, I got some mysterious calls from folks wanting to meet with me. Later, I realized that a person with my name was important in the back rooms of city hall. Those mystery calls could have been from lobbyists.

Cliches on being results oriented:If you have only a hammer, you look only for nails as you cannot fix loose bolts.If you want to avoid a cyber attack, you need the advice of an expert in the latest cyber-crime exploits, not a lawyer.A secure election depends on a rule set which closes every possible means of cheating. Malevolence has shown itself to be ingenious, so the rules need regular review. If you want to avoid lawsuits, you might want the advice of a lawyer. It does not always work.

If we want a rule set to prevent crooked influence of our elected officials, it should identify and prevent all known means by which such influence has ever been applied in the past, anywhere. I do not believe we have that here, yet.

Transparency is an important part of assuring the public that everything is being done above board. Transparency has been promised by politicians at all levels, even as more of what they do is hidden from public view. There are many honest reasons that an official might choose opacity, but once things are hidden, crime can sneak in undetected.

Where do we find the best governance? The US has many rules, but the bottom line is that undue influence robs US taxpayers of billions of dollars every year. Public-interest groups in the US can follow carefully recorded money trails, usually into re-election coffers. Bribery has largely been stamped out. It is clear that senior Canadian governments are very vulnerable to the harms of undue influence. Manitoba has a voluntary registry. Some suggest that it is just an ornament. There are countless decisions made that benefit obscure and specialist causes, but for which no note is made in the registry. If my neighbour can apply influence with no public record of her actions, then we must be concerned that criminals could do the same.

For more than a decade, governments have been trying to prevent the elected from using private emails to do their business. When most follow such rules, a politician who does an end run around such a rule, may be suspected of criminality. The ease, with which law enforcement can narrow their focus to rule breakers, acts as a very strong deterrent to crime.

When we look at the EU, we find opinions from many hundreds of the best minds in elected life. They are a rich resource. Their parliament voted 99% in favor of a mandatory registry of lobbyists, but not until last year. They were very late to the table, in terms of ethics rules and transparency.

More important is the fact that one member of the EP wanted to close some obvious loopholes, and that most votes were against closing them. A solid program can still be built on their registry, by means of regulations. Such a program can make sure that all means of influence are published.

I know several Councilors. Everyone is a good person. These days that is not enough. Each of us must be seen to be free of any ethical shadow. More complete reporting helps. A rule set which makes undue influence nearly impossible would help more. This would begin with a mandatory lobbyist registry. I ask you to ask for an actual outline of how Winnipeg can achieve that goal.
As someone quipped a year ago, important things cannot be voluntary. Would property taxes work if they were voluntary? I think all of you know the answer to that one!
With respect, it seems that Council may have wanted to go there, but your 'staffer' talked you out of it, without listing the steps in detail, and without presenting a full cost-benefit analysis. On a related matter, the report fails to indicate how many informal contacts were made by those not Registered in each subject year. I am disappointed in what we have, but I am offering some words and ideas to support Council going forward. THANK YOU.
File: