COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, June 23, 2022

The Council met at 9:41 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 Klein.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And good morning to my colleagues and those that are joining us in the gallery and remotely. I want to…I want to begin by acknowledging that on this day in 1985, 329 innocent people, including 280 Canadians, were killed by a terrorist attack on Air India's flight 182 that was bound for the United Kingdom from Canada. This remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history, Madam Speaker. And so, to honour the victims of this tragedy and of terrorist attacks across the world, our Federal Government has declared June 23rd, every year, as National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism. Accordingly, the flags at city hall and elsewhere, including at Portage and Main, are at half mast today to pay our respects. Madam Speaker, I want to…I want to congratulate…offer congratulations to the City of Winnipeg's Safety Services team for winning the Vitality Award at the annual CPHR Excellence Awards gala. This award acknowledges the work done across all City departments, safety teams and departments, management teams who continue to make safety a priority each and every day for our staff and the public that we serve. We're very proud of the work that you've done and continue to do so. I'd also like to congratulate Jason Bell with Parks and Open Space and John Atkinson with the Municipal Accommodations who assisted in guiding the Crescent Drive Park's forest pavilion and receiving the 2022 Governor General's Medal in Architecture. So, great work. Thank you for your dedication as employees of the City of Winnipeg. It's been a busy month. I'm not going to canvas everything that we've been up to and I've certainly been doing over the last month, but I do want to just thank those that organized the Pride parade, including my Council colleagues that were able to join. I was very proud to once again walk and speak, of course, at the Pride parade. I want to thank members of the Ukrainian community that joined me recently to plant flowers outside city hall on the Main Street side. There are blue and yellow flowers that will be growing this summer to continue to show our support, and I know that that support is one that is shared by all of my Council colleagues. I've had the opportunity to donate blood recently. I want to just encourage Winnipeggers to consider…consider donating blood. I know right now there is a real need in our community for donations. And also want to just give a shout out to school administration and student leaders at Hugh John Macdonald School. I had the opportunity to visit with them recently to help with a community cleanup. And outstanding leadership…student leaders there and our future is very bright because of them and students across our city. I also just want to acknowledge National Indigenous Peoples Day that we celebrated earlier this week outside city hall. I want to thank all those that provided performances in the pouring rain, including our one and only Councillor Rollins, who was out jigging with me. She did…I don't believe there is video evidence of my dancing, which I'm really grateful for, but it was a great celebration of Indigenous peoples. We have much to be proud of. We have many items we'll be speaking to today that make me really proud to serve on this Council. I do want to acknowledge and welcome Indigenous governments that are here today in the gallery and I hope will be speaking in delegation. The government to government relations that we've been building as a Council is something that I hope all of us take great pride in, and I know Winnipeggers support our efforts to build economic reconciliation efforts in the city of Winnipeg. So, megwich and welcome to those that are joining us today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We'll have a few other morning announcements, one minute each, please. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today in the chamber to recognise two momentous occasions for the people of Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood. The first, I'd like to celebrate and recognize the Charleswood United Church, for in 2022, they will celebrate their 100th anniversary of working in the community, being there, providing

programming for so many in our community. So, I want to recognise their 100th anniversary. And a special mention of Barbara and Fred King, who are Charleswood residents, who on July 14th of this year will celebrate their 60th anniversary. So, best wishes to Charleswood United Church and, of course, to Barbara and Fred. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Klein. Councillor Chambers, your morning announcement. One-minute, please.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Marilyn Firth who's in our gallery today, who is the retiring Executive Director of the St. Norbert Market. What started out as a tiny farmers market 34 years ago has grown to become the largest outdoor market in Winnipeg and the surrounding area. Under the leadership of its executive director, the St. Norbert Market hosts thousands of visitors each year and brings hundreds of thousands of dollars for many local vendors who set up shop each week. Dramatic changes have taken place over the past 34 years, many of them under the guidance of the Executive Director, Marilyn Firth. Marilyn has been the Executive Director for the past 14 years and describes the market as an extended family. A gruff uncle in the corner, families with small children sitting chatting with one another, and moms and pops cooking up great food while fiddling and guitar playing cousins perform together on the stage. Marilyn has overseen well over millions of dollars of investment at the market side, including doubling the size of the market, a water management project which addresses annual flooding of the site, and construction of permanent washrooms. The site had no bathroom facilities and a new building which allows the market to remain open year-round which also saw the installation of a new heating system, which Marilyn lobbied me about when I first came on to Council. The past two years have created many challenges and opportunities throughout…throughout the COVID restrictions, Marilyn advocated for and kept the market open so individuals could have access to fresh local farm products, including the launching of the online market that continues on to this day. The results of Marilyn's commitment to the market and to Manitoba families will carry on for years to come. To quote Herman Grower, the president under my…the president of the board under Marilyn's guidance, "The market has become a strong force, an outlet for farmers and artisans of Winnipeg and the region. She has helped position the market as a key player in answering the increasingly important questions asked by people about their supply of food. Everyone at the market; the board, staff, and vendors, respect and appreciate Marilyn's commitment to the market and her willingness to always go above and beyond the needs of the organization. Her visionary leadership will be missed and wish her well in her future endeavours." Congratulations, Marilyn, on a well-earned retirement. Thank you for your endless contributions, not only to the St. Norbert Farmers Market, but also to the community of St. Norbert and indeed, the city of Winnipeg. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Our final speaker, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rising today in light of some comments. A number of us were attending last week the Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts. There was some unfortunate comments made from the podium, I thought, about former Mayor Katz. I wanted to put some additional facts on the record. I feel I owe that. And I think if we're made of what's real in this city then we should be presenting as much of a factual picture as we can. There were comments made about how the former mayor had given a key to the city to Gene Simmons of Kiss, and this was…this was laughed at by the crowd. And that is true, he did do that. I wasn't here. I think former Councillor Nordman's decision to walk out on that was probably the right thing. But I think a fuller picture of the record of the former would include that he gave keys to the city to a number of artists. The current mayor, to his credit, has given three out. The former mayor gave at least four out to artists over his ten years, including noted artists like Twyla Tharp, like Paul McCartney, like Bob Geldof for his charitable work which has been enormous, and including Tom Cochrane. And in fact, the Free Press stated after the ceremonial key to the city was given to Tom Cochrane, this makes up for the Gene Simmons one. So, all of this I think was factual and I think one could criticize the former mayor if one chooses to, but I think his record on the arts actually deserves…deserves to have the full factual picture painted a little more accurately. So, I wanted to leave those comments on the public record. I feel…I think that's who we are as a city, it's trying to give a bigger, more full picture in these debates of what has…what has gone before us. So, I'm pleased the former mayor chose to give those keys to people like Twyla Tharp, Bob Geldof, Paul McCartney, and I actually nominated Tom Cochrane, and Councillor Browaty was there, and I wasn't, so then I'm glad Councillor Browaty was there to represent the City at that one. So, I just wanted to make those comments in regards to what has gone before us. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes.

MINUTES

Councillor Gilroy moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now move in to delegations. I'd like to call forward Whelan Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer, and Jolene Mercer, Director of Governance, Treaty One Nation. They will appear

before Council in support of Item 1 of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 15th, 2022. It's regarding Gaawijijigemangit Agreement – Municipal Development and Services Agreement for Naawi-Oodena. The delegation, of course, is attend in-person. Welcome.

DELEGATIONS

Jolene Mercer: Thank you. Good morning, everybody. I'm Jolene Mercer, the Director of Governance with Treaty One.

Whelan Sutherland: And good morning, I'm Whelan Sutherland. Like was said, I'm Chief Executive Officer of Treaty One Development Corporation.

Jolene Mercer: First off, I'd just like to say thank you to Michael Jack and the City of Winnipeg staff for all of the hard work that we want into the development of this municipal development services agreement. We had many late evenings, some weekends, and some lost vacation days over it. For the past 150 years, we have been locked out of the Canadian economy. And for over 20 years, we have been waiting to develop Naawi-Oodena. This municipal development services agreement is a major step towards this development, and it is required to have the lands designated as reserve lands. We feel that this agreement is fair to both parties. It outlines the purchase of services, and more importantly, it outlines the joint committee, which is the dispute resolution process. So, in the developments of our master plan and doing research for the agreement, Whelan and others visited across Canada all the urban economic development zones. We looked at their municipal development services agreements and we asked what kinds of challenges we had. We wanted to ensure that we don't have those same challenges, or if we do, that we have processes in place to address those challenges. So, this will ensure a smooth process for implementation of our master plan. The master plan took over 18 months to develop. This was after numerous consultations with the surrounding communities, as well as many engagements with the Treaty One members. And this plan can be found on our website at treatyone.ca, if you'd like to take a look at it. Naawi-Oodena will be developed as a mixed-use place where people can work, they can shop, they can eat, and they can play. There will be seamless integration between Naawi-Oodena and the communities surrounding it. The difference will be that we will have more Indigenous, I guess, flair to our community in terms of the design of our buildings, in terms of the environmental sustainability of what we develop, as well as even the plants that we're using. So, looking at using plants that are native to the prairie habitat. This development is the first step towards self-governance and self-sustainability and wealth generation. Through reinvestment of profits into capital projects, revenue will flow back to our seven Treaty One nations and will have an impact. So, not only in the city of Winnipeg, but within our home communities.

Whelan Sutherland: Awesome. Thank you, Jolene. I want to recognise and I want to say thank you to the Mayor and councillors for today. Also want to recognise Grand Chief of the Southern Chiefs Organization, as well. Like Jolene was mentioning, tremendous amount of research went into this. We went across Canada. We worked with other urban economic development zones, created that communication process with them. We know through a study done by SCO that there's $9.3 billion that stimulates the economy in Manitoba and it's something that we know has been proven that First Nation involvement in urban economic development zones is beneficial. So, the one thing that Jolene...I want to recognise the government aspect, because there's essentially three pillars of Treaty One. There's our government, our land department and economic development. We can't…without one, it doesn't work. And so, with that relationship that she worked with the City of Winnipeg in developing and formulating has given us the ability to do other things. I want to thank the Mayor for inviting me down to Regina for a roundtable discussion. That was very, very respectful. I had a great time. And at the end of the day, this is going to stimulate the economy, it's going to create jobs, it's going to be a great thing for the city of Winnipeg, a great thing for our First Nations, and a great thing for all of us.

Jolene Mercer: Yeah, so when we're doing our engagements, that's probably the number one question that we get is, when can we start working? When are these jobs going to be available and when can we start participating in the economy? So, we're very excited to be at this point. Often, a municipal development services agreement takes many years to develop. We've been building a relationship with the City for many years. There are other urban economic development zones in Winnipeg. However, this will be the largest urban economic development zone in all of Canada. It will have a huge impact not only in Manitoba, but we have people across Canada that are watching us, they contact us weekly, sometimes daily. People and organizations in other parts of the word are watching and contacting us and asking us for advice or ideas to move forward. So, with that, have a great day. And actually, the most important thing to remember is we are all treaty people, and so we all have a role to play in that treaty and the implementation and the upholding of that treaty, and we also have a very important role to play in reconciliation, and we feel that this is a huge step for the City of Winnipeg for reconciliation. Thank you.

Whelan Sutherland: Megwich.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. If you'll stay with us, please, and we'll take questions if there are any. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just heard that people from around the country and around the world are watching what we do here. And I'm just wondering, you know, coming to this point, was there anywhere that you were watching and other precedents and other models you were considering that got us here? Lessons that we learned to get us here.

Jolene Mercer: For sure. So, I'll just speak briefly, and then I'll allow Whelan because I didn't actually go coast to coast with him. I wasn't there. But Treaty One did visit every urban economic development zone in Canada. So, there are some that are very small, which we have in Winnipeg at 1075 Portage, a little bit bigger on Madison, but also larger developments like Number Two and West Bank. And so, not only taking the time to tour those places, but to actually speak to the people who are the ones that are in it everyday to see what types of challenges, what kinds of developments they have there, some of the developments that worked, some of the developments that didn't work, and what those relationships looked at…like.

Whelan Sutherland: Yeah, and that's the key – communication. I mean, that's one of the biggest things that we took from visiting all of these sites is the communication with the municipalities, if it's strong, it was very successful because at the end of the day, it was; if we're successful, you're successful. And so, that was our biggest takeaway was those lines of communication with municipalities ensuring that they're open. And when Jolene was working with the City of Winnipeg, with Mike Jack and the team, and they developed the communication strategy, the working table, like, that was key for us and that was something that we're going to make sure happens, communication.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Thank you for both of your presentations. This is exciting. Winnipeg, we know, is way behind many other jurisdictions when it comes to the development of urban…you know, economic development zones. So, this is…this is really exciting. I appreciate that you highlighted, too, those involved. So, you know, commend Treaty One, all involved in Treaty One with the work. All of our City staff. I think, you know, the individuals who facilitated the communication, the working table, it's just a really, really exciting model to see how, you know, a joint committee can be beneficial to all and productive. So, the question I would have though is, not everyone has had a chance to read the report. Not everybody has had a chance to go online and see Naawi-Oodena plans. Can you just highlight some of, you know, what is being proposed to be developed there and what can…you know, what can we expect to see at full build-out?

Whelan Sutherland: So, it is mixed-use, and we do have it phased out, essentially, you know, mid to high density homes. We have some commercial spaces. We worked with the City in regards to our water mitigation, so we do have, you know, plans for a major infrastructure development, things like that. And our key at the end of the day is working with the City. So, recognizing the City of Winnipeg's needs because I'm a Winnipegger, too. And it's…you know, I take that to heart, and it's something that, you know, ensuring that we meet those needs. And so, it's mixed-use. There's a tremendous amount of investment opportunities. And as soon as…we're projecting August, if everything works well, putting shovel to ground in August.

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

Councillor Chambers: Madam Speaker, and through you to the delegate; and again, want to thank you for the presentation today. And just as a follow up to Councillor Gillingham's question and the comment he just made, can you give us an idea in terms of the first shovel in the ground, which you're saying is August, till the last ribbon is cut, how many years does…will that be and the jobs that are created around that?

Whelan Sutherland: Well, without murphy's law, we project in August. In August, in 15 years, I mean, our intention like Jolene had mentioned, we're all treaty people, our intention is if it's not…it's not just for First Nation by First Nations, this is something that we want people to come and live, the general population, the communities, to come…to come and enjoy. And so, our projection is August to start put shovel to ground. We have block A. Again, that Jolene mentioned, if you look at our website, you could see we have five essential key businesses that are all complementary and synergistic in the area. We did do a tremendous amount of market research and studies. We went into the community. I want to commend Councillor Klein, as well, who come and said hi to us. At our first session, we projected a couple of hundred people, we had close to 600 people from the community and River Heights, as well, that came across. So August, five businesses, and then, from there, it just hopefully pans out for the next 15 years, yes.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Through you, Madam Speaker; megwich to our presenters. And also, for their involvement and keeping me involved in the process to the best of their ability. I also want to acknowledge the work that was done from the community and answering questions and being available, which leads me to the one question that I would have is: do you foresee that communication and that collaboration continuing as we move forward with this very exciting and new economic zone in our city?

Whelan Sutherland: Short answer's yes. And like I said, I'm...with the relationship that we've developed and formulated with the City of Winnipeg has been amazing, and it's something that we want to continue to move forward, and we want to use that as a benchmark with other municipalities, because in our travels, we've...we started to build our relationship with other First Nations all across Canada, and that's strong. That's key for us. And with...with the City of Winnipeg and all that we've done and have accomplished to date and are going to accomplish, I think that that's something that we should all be proud of.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, over to you.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. And thank you very much to both of you for the work that you've done as well as coming in today to City Council. You'll note there's an absence of Indigenous symbols. We're hoping to rectify that later today. My question is this: subject to Council's approval today and given this will be the largest Indigenous economic development zone in Canadian history, provided it's approved, what do you think that this communicates to Canada about reconciliation in Canada? And also, what do you think it…what do you think this means or what would you like Winnipeggers to hear about what this means for Winnipeggers? I know…you know, Whelan, when we first met, I certainly didn't have any grey hair. I know we've met many, many years ago. Your hair hasn't changed. But you know, I'm just mindful of, you know, despite the challenges we have as Canadians on our journey of reconciliation, so much has changed. This is a hopeful day for me. So, I guess me…yeah, my questions are really just, what does this mean do you think to Canada's journey of reconciliation? What do you think should be communicated to Winnipeggers?

Jolene Mercer: I think this is a huge step for Winnipeg towards reconciliation. And I think that Canadians will see it that way. Other cities will see it that way, as well. Not only in terms of the development of the lands, but the municipal development services agreement itself recognises that we are...we are a government in ourselves and that we have costs associated with that. And within that municipal services development agreement, it allows us to…to raise capital, I guess you could say, through taxes to cover those costs so that we're not always having to put in proposals or get contribution agreements from the Canadian government which can be very difficult at times in terms of timing of when things happen, in terms of sustainability of it, and, you know…and never being able to plan into the future because you don't know what's going to be approved and what isn't. This is huge for us. And I…to me, it says to Winnipeggers, you know...I think it paints us in a very positive light. I think that this is an opportunity for us to highlight the best of the best of the people that we have here in Manitoba, and more particularly, I guess you could say in Winnipeg. We have almost 100% Indigenous team, including our planning and design team. So, we have a young woman with a masters in design. I'm probably saying that wrong, but you know, whose experience and expertise is in interior design. And we have somebody who has designed all over Canada and in other places in the world, who also designed the gardens at the Assiniboia Park. That's who's designing our greenspaces. So, not only is it an opportunity for reconciliation, but it's really an opportunity to showcase. And by approving this agreement, you're allowing us or sharing with us that opportunity to show everybody what exactly we have and what exactly we can do.

Whelan Sutherland: I can't even add to that. That was awesome.

Madam Speaker: Thank you both for your presentation today.

Jolene Mercer: Thank you.

Whelan Sutherland: Megwich. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next delegation is David Grant. He is in opposition to the following items of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 15th, 2022: Item 1…or pardon me, Item 5 – 2021 Council Report – Workplace Safety. Item 17 – Loan Guarantee for The Convention Centre Corporation. Item 23 – Reissuance of Two Audit Department Reports. And Item 24 – Intersection Signal Infrastructure Investigation. Madam Clerk, the delegation's remote today? Welcome, David Grant.

David Grant: Thank you, Speaker Sharma. I want to express my thanks to Council for affording this opportunity. I do appreciate it. Thanks to the Clerks folks for making their effort to make this run smoothly. It was good to see Councillor Mayes at the marathon. I was about to begin such a run in Ontario, but they (inaudible). So, it's good to see our political friends taking part in this strenuous running activity. I look forward to seeing many of you on Canada Day. Back to the

items at hand: converter theft. Working with other municipal folks, which this action suggests, is good, but this action ignores the work of WPS who should remain our frontline in the fight against this crime wave. Our own WPS are highly skilled and have been working on this problem. And of course, there are far too officers who ever hoped to prevent the theft, but arresting those involved can deter others. At Kevin Klein's open house, we learned how hard WPS has been working to stamp out these thefts. Next topic, there are many Winnipeggers, Winnipeg residents who cherish their summer car. Using such a car, especially if it's a collector car, through the salt and the endless barrage of stone chips can ruin them. Many of those who have a beautiful summer car use the lesser car through the winter. No matter how nice such a winter car, it might fall victim to the changes you see before you. It is time for you to stand behind the residents in their struggle against these driven elitists who fail to understand the challenges in going through life with little money for shiny new cars and the big garages in which to store them. There are some streets where all the beautiful summer cars sit in garages under covers, but there are others where no one can afford a garage. Please change these rules to keep safe those whose winter car is not brand-new and cannot afford new cars. Workplace safety: our police officers and cadets spend a lot of time in vehicles in traffic. Often, they do so without the benefit of the seatbelts. They are exempt at the moment. Air bags only mitigate this risk of injury a little. More importantly, we should look the way the PE system on the...in the guise of looking at how to improve safety for employees. We should look at the way the PE system has evolved in its 20 years. Photo enforcement: initially an ambulance of WPS vehicle on an emergency call would still get a ticket, the supervisor would see a list of notices and would compare it with bona fide emergency runs, and they would not be paid, they'd just be absorbed. Those who are on routine patrol or non-urgent travel has an incentive in those days to obey the law and to stop for amber lights and to keep their speed down. In those days, marked WPS vehicles would break for intersection safety cameras, thus not getting a ticket. Last year's WPS ticket gate brought to our attention the fact that once your plate is on the PE immune list, you and your boss will never get a fee or ticket. Never even see one. We also know that plates can be added to that (inaudible) to that list after the fact. While this list may save a little bit of office time, the knowledge that a City or private vehicle is immune will eventually result in bad driving decisions. Remember the clichés about driving the vehicle as if you stole it. Now, for the sake of employee safety, I ask with respect that you work with City staff to end the use of what's known as the immune vehicles list. These are vehicles that can never get a ticket no matter how they drive by the photo enforcement system. Moving on to your Convention Centre: when the…expanding the Convention Centre was first pondered in Winnipeg, I discussed this at length with my city councillor and explained how such expansions had gone terribly wrong in their cities. Boston had just come to the realization that their expansion had…would never pay for itself, as (inaudible) did. His support for the expansion was obviously driven by forces more powerful than the economic arguments I raised. Like centres in so many cities, there's no way to pay operating costs in off beat years, much less the capital cost of building huge new facilities. While I've active…an active part of events which use the larger centre, and it's lovely, I have been against tax dollars being expended on the huge mistake that was the expansion. Why are there no better options considered beyond digging into our taxpayers' pockets to pay for what is a facility used by a very small number of residents? AVL: Automatic Vehicle Locating. It's an effective means to monitor the use and misuse of City vehicles. It should have been in use for years. We don't need an auditor to see that not using it was a bad policy. City hall is wasting the time and skills of the auditor. He even says so in his report. If anyone really cared about waste, action would have been taken in the years since this problem was first waved around in the public. Wasting the time of the auditor seems to be a little more than a means of kicking this major problem down the road. There are no signs that this pattern will end. Signal's blunders in the headline. Mr. Massey, your Auditor, is already stretched thin. It seems very wrong to throw this failure of management into his lap. Are there no performance reviews among Public Works staff? Is everyone so afraid of hurt feelings that we not shield their eyes from even the most blatant mistakes? Perhaps the October election will bring new eyes to the problem. The years of delay on this topic prove that this...that the will does not now exist to deal with this at city hall. There's still time for Council to act and show that they stand for taxpayer interests, and this involves action by Council to support internal performance review processes. Anyway, thank you very much for letting me speak. Okay.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, David, for your presentations. Seeing no questions, have a great day. Thank you. Next, I'd like to call forward Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, who is here with us in-person from the Southern Chief's Organization. He will appear before Council in support of the report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 15th, 2022. It's regarding the Contribution Towards Redevelopment of the Former Hudson's Bay Company Building Located at 450 Portage Avenue. Welcome, Grand Chief.

Jerry Daniels: Thank you. Bonjour, (speaking Indigenous language) I am the Grand Chief for Southern Chiefs' Organization, the Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples in southern Manitoba. I thank our creator for a beautiful day. I thank the Mayor, the administration, all the councillors for your tireless work in making our city a better place to live. And thank you for allowing some time for me to address you. I am honoured to be the Grand Chief of the Southern Chiefs Organization which represents 34 Anishinaabe and Dakota nations, 81,500 citizens…81,500 in what is now Manitoba. Eight weeks ago, we were pleased to make public a historic act of reconciliation with the gifting of the historic HBC by Governor Richard Baker to the Southern Chiefs Organization. The story generated hundreds of media stories and made news nationally and internationally. The project has been named Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgohn which translates to, "It is visible" or "It can be seen from a long way". And we have been told it will be the largest redevelopment of a historic

building in Manitoba and one of the largest historic redevelopments in Canada. A project…this project is a vision of the…of a revitalization of the heart of Winnipeg's downtown. With over 1 million hours of work in the redevelopment stage alone, this project creates hopes and opportunity with significant job creation. The project will transform the building into more than 280 units of affordable living, including assisted living for elders. Safe and affordable housing is the foundation that allows us to have sustainable life and to go to school and to work and to raise our families. Families living in the building will be…will have the benefit of a child care centre with more than 100 spaces for children that will follow the Language Nest Model. It will also contain health and wellness centre and a pharmacy with traditional and western medicines. The project will include a world-class museum, gallery, cultural centre where for the first time, First Nations will have an opportunity to tell our story. A ceremonial space will honour the survivors of residential schools and day schools, and it will contain a memorial to the children who never made it home. There will also be a rebooted (inaudible) restaurant, which so many Winnipeggers are excited about. The space and the building will act as a place of learning, a tourist attraction, and a beacon of reconciliation for Canada. The historic building will also become the future Governance House of the Chiefs of the Southern First Nations. Environmental sustainability will be championed throughout the renewal of the HBC building. And its low carbon, low energy technologies will closely align with the First Nations values of treading lightly on our Mother Earth. We are pleased that our energy modelling demonstrates a 35% reduction in energy savings, and an 81% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Conservation principles will be incorporated throughout the renovation, while remaining and maintaining the distinguished and historical fact dates, making the building a show piece of heritage, preservation and sustainability. It represents SCO's bold vision of what the future can hold, but we cannot do it without you, councillors. We look to you to support our project, Mayor, and so I am speaking in support of the proposal before City Council today, that includes the Tax Incremental Financing, a grant for permits and planning fees, and sidewalks and street scaping improvements at the conclusion of the projects. We have been fortunate to receive the support of the Federal Government and the Provincial Government, and we now respectfully request collaboration and with a final financial investment from the City of Winnipeg, this project will be a legacy that each of you will be a part of. Following an unprecedented year with the discovery of the unmarked graves of our children who have died in residential school, now is the time to create a new future together, to change…change the…the story, to make it about honouring the children who never made it home, and together, we can create a future that is about reconciliation – a deep, deep reconciliation – that our country can look to and that the City can be a part of. With the largest Indigenous population in Canada, with your support, that we can make it happen. And I'm truly believe that it is projects like this, and like Kapyong that Whelan and Jolene spoke of earlier, that are going to be a reflection and a beacon of hope for all of us. And it takes a great deal of leadership from councillors and mayors reflecting on what do we want for our children. What do we want for the generations that are looking for us? And so, with that, I say thank you, megwich for giving me time to join you here today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Grand Chief. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Through you, Madam Speaker; I want to thank Grand Chief for his leadership and the leadership of his team that's here and I know probably working as we speak on matters related to this…this historic development opportunity. I was really honoured to participate in the ceremony which welcomed the prime minister and the premier. I remember when I was…when I was running for office in 2014, I was part of a debate, one of, I think, about 40 debates. And one of the questions that was raised by, I think it was Richard Cloutier at the time was…was, there's a possibility, this building may close, and would you be support buying it or something to that effect? And I think about how far we've come in terms of our journey of reconciliation since then. I'm really proud and grateful that this is Indigenous led. I think that communicates strength and power and resilience to Canada. And my question is similar to the question that I raised with Treaty One a few moments ago; provided this is approved today, what do you believe it communicates about our journey of reconciliation in the city of Winnipeg with respect to the development that you're leading?

Jerry Daniels: I think the theme has been reconciliation…reconcile-action, I think, is what people have been calling it, but really, it is a commitment from leaders like yourselves to provide contribution, to show transparent…to show tangible actions for not only Indigenous people but I think the broader of Winnipeg community, provincial community, and through Canada. So, reconciliation is something we've been talking about since…since the beginning, since, you know, Phil Fontaine spoke up about what was happening to him and what was happening…what happened to our elders. That story has…has been drawn out over many decades now and has really come to be a true part of Canada since the…since the now realization of the truth of what happened in our residential schools. And so, it was so important for us, I think, to start to develop these sorts of projects, to see success and to create hope for our children. You know, to change that 11-year life outcome expectancy, it's a big part of it because right now, we're dying 11 years earlier as Indigenous people. We need to change quality of life, and these are factors in changing that narrative.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Grand Chief. Next speaker, Councillor Gillingham.

Councillor Gillingham: Through you, Madam Speaker; I want to thank you, Chief…Grand Chief, for your visions, your work. Just so you know, you should have spoken first as a matter of respect and honour for you as Grand Chief. And so, I've asked our staff already, our clerks, and our speaker if we could look at our procedure by-law in our delegations just

that, you know, yourself as Grand Chief or chief or a mayor of government leader, you know, would be given first place in the delegation. So, thank you for your patience as we, you know, correct things in my mind. Can you just speak a little bit...through you, Madam Speaker; can you speak just to the...the potential for the impact on Winnipeg's downtown, please?

Jerry Daniels: You know, there's obviously...you know, I've listed a little bit about what potentially is being planned. You know, speaking with our great staff here, Joey Kramer and Jennifer Rattray, you know, about the importance of providing, you know, a food service. You know, there's been a lot of talk about the need in Winnipeg's downtown. And so, we are wanting to create the highest impact that we possibly can with a great team and hopefully, with your help and those of the business community, that we can make that happen. And that's what I think it's really about. It's about that relationship as well that will continue beyond this project and continue to create and shape Winnipeg and Winnipeg's downtown.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Grand Chief, for your presentation today. I'm really excited about the opportunities for the Hudson Bay Building that the Southern Chiefs' been providing. The question that I have is, at one point during this term, there was plans to redevelop Portage Place, and there was an investor that was coming in to look at adding more residential suites, redeveloping the space of Portage Place, as well. Do you see, going forward, any collaboration or hope for collaboration to enjoin that space, as well, Portage Place, to make that entire strip of downtown a very vibrant area in our city?

Jerry Daniels: Thank you, councillor. Absolutely. I think that there's no limit to the amount of relationship building and business development that could talk place. And we're…absolutely want to be a vibrant neighbour, a contributor, to the downtown. If we can…if we can partner and work with our neighbours, that's absolutely what we want to see happen. I think that's about, you know, building a good community. And you know, I think that there's a great deal of opportunity. There was challenges there, but we are definitely open to doing that where we can. So, and I hope they're aware of that, as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much for coming here today, Chief Daniels. Very exciting development, very exciting for downtown Winnipeg. Just a question; why is Southern Chiefs requesting a TIF here and not going down the road of a municipal development and service agreement?

Jerry Daniels: I think that there's a potential for that discussion to happen throughout…throughout the development of this. Although we haven't said that this is sort of, you know...this is...this is all that we are going to be doing. I think that we are at a point in time where we want to be planning and be able to really line up all of our…you know, all of the challenges, the opportunity that will help with the development of this project beforehand. We haven't done the official transfer yet, but I believe that in August, that we start to really develop that sort of set in stone. And so, we want to prepare, because the municipal development agreement is something that stalls the project in many ways. It takes energy from us. And so, we want to move on the development and creating the opportunity for our assistance, and then perhaps we can engage that conversation sometime in the future.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, thank you, Grand Chief, for your presentation today. Megwich.

Jerry Daniels: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next listed on our roster is Victor Mondaca. He has withdrawn his delegation. Following that is Jacob Kaufman, from Ma Mawi, who will appear before Council related to Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, June 9th, 2022. It's regarding Regent Avenue Bus Shelters. And that's in opposition to this item. We'll have 10 minutes on the clock. Welcome.

Jacob Kaufman: Hi, thank you. Welcome…thank you everyone for having me here, yet again. Unfortunately, I have to be here, yet again. So, my name is Jacob Kaufman and I am the new team lead at the Amoowigamig public washroom located in between the Thunderbird House and the Salvation Army downtown Winnipeg. It is…it is amazing. So far, we have served 100...sorry, 1,934 people in 22 days. Just let that number sink in. it's pretty amazing. So, in regards to the bus shelters, in…sorry. Just give me a second. Instead of looking at addictions, mental health issues, and homelessness as a linear process as a straight line, we all have to understand that it goes like this: it squiggles around. Today…I woke up today and unfortunately, the first thing I thought about was, how am I going to get my heroin? I haven't done heroin in 23 years. That's crazy. We have to understand that these problems have to be addressed at the core issues instead of

doing knee-jerk reactions like we're doing right now…sorry, that we're talking about right now in regards to tearing down a bus shelter. It's…again, it's archaic, it does not work. We have years of examples across North America in other cities about how just sweeping it under the rug does not work. We have to deal with the core issues: Housing, affordable housing, cultural housing, dry housing, every kind of housing. We need them. We need to treat people like people. There's other ways that work better instead of just tearing them down. This is...I'm still having a hard time processing this thing where we're just going to tear it down, move it along and hope it disappears, because it won't. All it's going to do is push my family, my community, further and further in to different parts of the city. Yeah, there's other ways, let's do it. And honestly, let's call this what it is. I'm not going to sugar coat it and I've continually brought up this word, I will continue to bring it up. This is nothing more than the segregation of unsheltered people, the segregation of people with mental health issues and addiction issues. We're beyond this. We're better than this, Winnipeg. So much better. Please, let's not do this. Let's address the core issues; we need housing, we need more treatment centres, we need more addiction centres, we need more kinds of treatment centres instead of the traditional AA/NA space programs because they don't work. We need to instead of looking at one organization who's the loudest, look at all the organizations and work from there because I don't have all the answers. My program, the way that I work with my family, my community, doesn't work for everyone. I can say that. We have to look at every single organization and cherry pick the best things from everyone. And that's the only way that we're going to move forward with this. In closing, I would just like to ask all of us to treat people like people. We're all people, we're all humans, regardless of our status, regardless of the colour of our skin, our mental health issues, our gender, we are all equal. Please, let's treat everyone equal and let's treat everyone like people. Thank you. That's really all I can really say. Yes, sir.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Jacob Kaufman. We'll now take questions. The next delegation, Kate Kehler, is not able to present to Council. And I know, Councillor Rollins, you have an interest in suspending the rules, do you?

Councillor Rollins: Yes, Madam Speaker. She's not available to an emergency. And while the procedure by-law doesn't allow a swap, I'm rising, Madam Speaker, to request Council suspend the rules to allow Mr. Brandon, who is here today, to appear before Council on the item of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal, Public Works dated June 9th, regarding the Regent Avenue Bus Shelters. In addition, Madam Speaker, Jason Whitford, Executive Director of End Homelessness Winnipeg, wishes to also speak to the same item. But of course, Madam Speaker, in order to allow this, we need two-thirds vote of Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins is requesting extension of the rules by…for two additional speakers at the end of the current delegation list and that would be with no questions. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Any questions for our current delegation, Jacob Kaufman? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have felt for decades we've been sweeping things like this under the rug, but lately, we had a wake-up call and we're dealing with an issue today. I don't think we're going to come to any solutions today, but we're talking about something that we don't talk about. This is how specific I'm going to be. I've talked about this in Council. People tend not to repeat these statistics, but I'm not going to offer you my opinion here. Well, I will. I'm going to offer you some perspective, but first, in my lifetime, in the lifetime of most people here, we've had a government, a provincial government, that in eight years created 14,000 affordable housing units in eight years. Now, that was the province, not all of them were in the city, but they were building hundreds of affordable housing units per year in the city of Winnipeg. That's now…that's the government doing that. I'm not talking about private construction, and I want to know if we've ever heard of any statistics lately, when it comes to these issues that we've just talked about here on the council floor in terms about how many affordable housing units our government's creating here in the city of Winnipeg per year. Have you received any of that information lately, because I haven't.

Jacob Kaufman: No. No one has told me a thing in regards to how many housing units there are. There's not enough because unfortunately, the core issues: homelessness, mental health, and addictions, and trauma – horrible trauma – it continues. So, it keeps spinning like our globe. So, no matter how many people we house, no matter how many people we can get into treatment, no matter how many this, that and the other thing, there's going to be people to replace that, unfortunately. And we…I don't know what the answers are. I've never claimed to. It's just, I just know what I've seen, I know what I've done in my work over the last 15 years across Canada, and I know what didn't work for me, for my family in the years that I was living on the streets.

Madam Speaker: Second question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. I can say this…I can say this with confidence, something I happen to know, that the people that did this in that decade, in the 1970s, when they built 14,000 affordable housing units in eight years, that none of those people that led that had any intention for bus shelters to be considered part of what they were doing. Now, we don't do that any more, kind of thing. We don't do affordable housing like we used to. But I can assure you, bus shelters were never considered affordable housing. But I do have a question; when…in your mind, when you see someone in a bus shelter,

maybe they've been living there for a few months in the case in Transcona, but when you see some, what is…what do you hope for that person within a few hours or a few days or a few weeks in terms of what you think the system should be able to try for these people, since we're talking about systems? You just mentioned affordable housing units, you mentioned treatment centres, and all of these things. What do you hope for someone in a few…in a few days or a few weeks or a few months after living in a bus shelter? What would you…what would you like to see?

Jacob Kaufman: Unfortunately, because I'm…it's been a day. I also forgot to mention the most important thing we need to, which is be patient with people. So, what I would love to see is them to be housed. For them to…so, the way we've gone…we're going about things nowadays is not...it should be different. So, we look at…look at housing, look at addictions, look at homelessness as a problem that we can fix like that. We have to sit back and realize that each and every person, even around here, we're all different. It takes some people a year, it takes some people a month, a week, a day, 20 years. When I got straight and came to Winnipeg, there were still some people at Main Street Project that were…that were there when I was there. I have faith in all people, everyone, that we can be better. The way I do things and the way that works for me and for others in this field is allowing people to…allowing people to figure out what works for them. And it may take a year, it may take a week, it may take 20 years. It took me nine years. Nine years as a…as a young kid to figure out what works for me. It wasn't AA, it wasn't NA, it wasn't…I had enough of sleeping outside, I was about to die. And it was when I came here to Winnipeg and I finally realized that, k, AA and NA is never going to be the answer for me, it's going to be just me choosing not to use my drug of choice. And having a community around me, a circle around me, of amazing people who did not push what they thought I needed, but they allowed me to figure out what I needed. And for…in my opinion, that is the best way to do it. Unfortunately, it takes a while, but it's worth it in the end. Like, I could never even imagine 23-year help. When I was first hit the street when I was 14, I could never imagine I would be in a city hall talking. That's crazy. I should have been dead a million times over. I don't…the creator is watching over me, he always has been.

Madam Speaker: Jacob, thank you. We do have some other questions. Final question, Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: I believe that shelter is a human right. I think it's tragic when we've come to this point in our society after having done more before, that we have to look at abandoning people in bus shelters as a solution. I don't consider it a solution. Now, the question is, do you consider it a solution that we should be building bus shelters or do we have just the right number? Because we at city hall, we can't ignore this stuff. And is it a solution, thus, continue with and enhance it or should we look for other options, rather than sweeping it under the rug, abandoning people in bus shelters?

Jacob Kaufman: We're abandoning people everywhere, not just in bus shelters, sir. But also, it's not like a one-fix solution. It has to be everything, it has to be wrapped around. I don't feel we're abandoning people. I feel that people feel that they have to stay in bus shelters. The reason that…and it's mainly elderly people that stay at KP I know because I'm there everyday, I live in that area and my family's there almost everyday. Talking to them, it's…yeah, it's…it's a bigger solution. The bigger solution would be housing, treatment centres, more shelters. We only have one shelter here in Winnipeg...sorry, two shelters now with 190 Disraeli, love it, that allow people who are under the influence inside. Salvation Army, Siloam Mission, they do great, but they still don't allow people inside who are under the influence. I could stand outside there, smoke a joint, and I could walk in smelling like marijuana, the most like harmless drug in the world, honestly, and I would still be banned and have to go sleep in a bus shelter overnight. We should be looking at why elders are sleeping in bus shelters and hanging out in bus shelters at KP Mall instead of downtown and it's because downtown's dangerous.

Madam Speaker: Jacob, thank you.

Jacob Kaufman: You're welcome.

Madam Speaker: Final question, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Mr. Kaufman. And I want to first say, I really appreciate your discussion or your story at the Siloam Mission dinner a couple of weeks ago. It was very moving, thank you. I represent the southwest quadrant of Winnipeg, and I really appreciated the e-mail that I got from the joint statement speaking about the dismantling of shelters. And there were six points that everyone urged the City to do. And I'm not as directly involved as other councillors are in the issue. I am involved, but I'm very focused on development and generating funding for the City of Winnipeg, that's another topic. Point number one was, create housing. Commit to provide 150 new units of low-barrier transitional housing with supports. So, my question is, and I tried to get a hold of Jamil and he called me and we've just been missing each other; 150 units, is that…is that what you feel you need? Like, I just…I don't see a big picture plan. And I did have the opportunity to meet with Minister Squires in February. The Province is putting a Manitoba homeless strategy together. I know my constituents are very concerned about this. I am very concerned about this. I just don't see a big picture plan. And I'm not clear on, do you only need 150 units? I find that kind of mind boggling, but this was a point that I wanted to clarify.

Jacob Kaufman: 150 units is absolutely ridiculous. We just did a street census, there's over 2,000 unsheltered family members lying on the streets of Winnipeg. I can…I can give the one…best example I can give you is Surrey, BC, when they made the modular housing. We offered housing to every single unsheltered person in Surrey, BC when I was there. In less than a week, we got everyone moved into the shelters or into…sorry.

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

Councillor Lukes: So, the clarification I'm wanting on this question, and maybe you don't have the answer, maybe I'll speak to…try and find someone that does. In this letter that I received, it says, "Commit to providing 150 new units". So, is that…like, I don't know. Like, I'm not in the weeds of this issue, I just…I'm hearing you've got so many homeless on the street that we have, I understand that, but…

Jacob Kaufman: We…150 new units, I mean, that's a great start. I shouldn't scoff at it. It is a great start. However, we need a lot more. We need a lot more. That's what it comes down to. And with the village being built on Thunderbird House grounds with the MMF opening up and redoing the apartments directly across from where I work on Main Street, that's going to provide just under 100 people housing. So, that's amazing, but we need…we need more. We need to look at different housing options. How many Manitoba Housing apartments and buildings are laying vacant around Winnipeg?

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you to Mr. Kaufman; you've described yourself as having lived experience around being unsheltered. For the benefit of myself and maybe others, can you clarify exactly, based on your lived experience, what the definition of low-barrier housing is and the importance of that?

Jacob Kaufman: Low-barrier housing is kind of a loaded question. So, for me, and for what I've heard from the community because I talk to them everyday, all day, is they want housing that, number one, is safe, where not like these hotels or boarding houses around the city where they're getting raped, beaten, robbed daily. They want housing that they go to, that they maybe can bring one friend in.

Councillor Chambers: Move extension of two-minutes for the response.

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

Jacob Kaufman: Cool, thank you. So, it's…what the community is asking for is housing that they feel safe in. Housing that they can…that provides cultural programs that they need. They need houses that are…they're asking for housing that is completely dry; so no drugs or alcohol. But then you have people like me who, I'm able to smoke pot occasionally, and I'm able to drink occasionally, those are not my issues. I'm not addicted to those things. So, we have to look at the bigger picture, and what they're asking for is all different kinds of housing.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Jacob Kaufman: And that's the best I can answer. Sorry.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you; my question is, you know, first of all, something that not a lot of people know, I've spent a night in a shelter when I was young because of what happened to our family and stuff, and it was a Salvation Army. So, I know the fear of being inside. But what do we…how do we get those that are seeking refuge in a bus to get to these homes that are being suggested when they say no? If that is still an option. If being in a bus shelter is still the option, how do we convince people that are having the most difficult time with in life to make that decision to go to a safer spot?

Jacob Kaufman: I think I'm unable to answer that because I'm not the one sleeping in bus shelters. We need to go out and ask the people…ask the community in the bus shelters what they want. That's the only way to do it. I can speculate. I can tell you what they've told me is, if they have different kinds of housing, safe housing, they'll move in. Like, there's no…you're on the EIA, you're making, what, like $350 a month for rent. That gets you a room, maybe with a locking door where you share a bathroom with everyone else in the house, where you share…

Madam Speaker: If you could finish your sentence, please. We've got a few other delegations this morning.

Jacob Kaufman: Sorry, ma'am. It's all about allowing the community and listening to them on what they need. I would suggest that I'd be willing to take you all for a walk down to the bus shelters at KP Mall, and we can talk to them and you can hear from their voices, from their words, what they're asking for.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation today. That concludes the questions from Council.

Jacob Kaufman: Thank you, ma'am. Have a good day.

Madam Speaker: Next, we have Craig Penner who will appear before Council in support of Item 7 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development dated June 6, 2022, regarding Regulating Short-Term Rentals.

Councillor Rollins: Point of order. I believe Council did approve the two-thirds, so that would be...Josh Brandon would be next.

Madam Speaker: That would be at the end of the delegation list.

Councillor Rollins: Oh, my apologies, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Our practice. These delegations have registered ahead of time. Welcome, Mr. Penner. And there will be ten minutes on the clock for you.

Craig Penner: Thank you. I would like to thank city hall for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of regulating short-term rentals, including the primary residence requirement. I would like to begin, though, by stating I disagree with using the terminology or referring to these businesses operating out of a home without a primary residence as short-term rentals. What our communities are fighting back against are not citizens renting out an extra room to boost their income, we are objecting to what is more appropriately referred to as a ghost hotel or unlicensed rooming house. And to refer to the operators as hosts implies they're actually on-site, which they are not. In my building, companies like Nest Host, Guest Ready and Roam Rentals have taken over control of multiple units and floors of buildings like ours. These companies manage the bulk of over 60 combined ghost hotel suites in a building of 194 units. They are providing the same service of a hotel without the licensing and oversight that regulates the hotel industry. In the process, they have bypassed the public debate regarding the rezoning of residential buildings and neighbourhoods into commercial space, while compromising the safety and quality of life for the residents. You need to look no further than the Google reviews for the Glasshouse and you would think that it's a hotel owned by Airbnb themselves. The ghost hotel investors, in fact, defeat their own argument that they are a residential, not a commercial business when they come to city hall providing their business reviews to validate their operations. We shouldn't be allowing these predatory investors and managing companies from bypassing the zoning process for a hotel because they think they're unique because they have a stove and a separated bedroom. The real reason they want to be referred to as something different is by doing so, they escape being zoned as a hotel along with the government oversight, regulation, licensing, health code and staffing requirements to run such a business. They are not job creators but job killers, as they operate as a hotel but eliminate all the other jobs outside the cleaners that come into our building daily. By cutting these out of the equation, they're able to offer a hotel-like product but at a cheaper cost but with a negative impact on the community as a consequence. Ghost hotel investors preach the free market to Council but use the manipulation of language to ensure that their rogue industry does not play by the same set of rules as the hotel industry. Without the primary residence requirement connect to short-term rentals, we will be…continue to be exposed to parties, noise disruptions, theft, vandalism and exposure to violence some of the guests bring within our residential buildings. We have seen weapons such as bear mace and guns in our buildings, no knock raids have become a norm, and short-term rentals have become a resource for criminals looking to evade law enforcement supervision in regards to drugs, weapons and human trafficking. The police frequently stop by our building looking for criminals on the most list knowing that criminals are residing in our building, but unsure of the unit. Online dummy profiles are easily created and criminals are able to switch ghost hotel suites quickly before a warrant can be obtained. With no employee or owner on-site, there isn't even the guarantee that it is the renter who is the one utilizing the rental. Last week, city hall heard a presentation from a Glasshouse ghost hotel investor who while claiming that resident concerns were exaggerated also made the argument that hotels have incidents of violence crime as well as human weapons and drug traffic, implying that it was unfair that ghost hotels are being singled out for having these issues. There is a big difference, however, in that a hotel is zoned commercially, but with employees who monitor, observe, report and intervene. It is impossible to monitor these potential risks without a presence on-site, and that really is not acceptable risk to be placing on your neighbours. In fact, not a single ghost hotel investor makes the Glasshouse their residence while claiming the environment is safe for others. If a customer feels unsafe in a hotel, they can always switch rooms or check out. In a residential building, residents have invested in making this place a home and can't just pack up and just go somewhere else for the night. I'll acknowledge that of the companies like Roam Rentals, Nest House, and Guest Ready, they have had an unequal number of incidents at the Glasshouse. They do, however, have a common theme in that none of these businesses have a plan of action in

how to address and manage the problem guests and the guests or customers allowed into the building. They don't acknowledge problems exist because currently, owners can only be fined $100 up to 12 times a year under current Manitoba condo laws. Not a single investor, manager or one of their employees lives on-site with over a combined total of 60 SCR suites advertised on platforms like Airbnb. It is cheaper to pay this fine than it is for them to respond on-site or employ someone to monitor and intervene. They will try and control the narrative regards incidents and what is occurring in our suites, but if they really knew what was happening, their neighbours would not be the ones initiating security and police calls for assistance. The cost of these incidents is simply shared by their neighbours in raised element fees and the city taxpayers for the use of the EMS services. Our building security of one person is only managed to…only employed to manage supervision of the entrances and to provide security runs of our common areas observing for building damage and intrusions into the building. It is not our security employee's required duties to manage their absentee businesses and the guests of these over 60 rental suites. By being forced to, they compromise their primary responsibilities of monitoring the entrances and common areas. These employees can't even verify who even belongs inside the building. By businesses not managing their guests, it establishes an unsafe work environment where a single security guard may be forced to approach an out of control party. The rental suite doesn't even provide worker's compensation to that employee if they are injured as they are not an employee of the ghost hotel. Incidents of employee assaults were so bad at the Glasshouse that at our AGM last summer, our security provider provided a security report presentation to our membership on what was necessary to improve the safety of staff, residents, as well as property. As these recommendations would impact the automation of the ghost hotel business mode, the ghost hotel industry and the developer of Urban Capital refused to accept any of the presented recommendations by our security contractor to improve safety. As Urban Capital had a large number of unsold units, they used their voting power to ensure future ghost hotel investors would not be scared away by rejecting the recommendations. They also used their influence to remove condo board members that had advocated for building safety. As a result, our security contractor withdrew their contract as they believed the Glasshouse was too unsafe for their employees to remain on-site. I will admit that not every ghost hotel guest causes a problem. How investors and managing companies don't even know their guests, regardless of the stories they present at (inaudible). As their neighbours, we judge these businesses by their worst customers and our worst experiences. These are the people and frequency of incidents that ghost hotels don't want to admit or talk about. Some may scream more than others, but they don't have people on-site that greet, supervise and check on the people they allow in the building. Most guests get buzzed into the building with no visual confirmation of how many people are entering and then those guests check in to a suite with a punch code. A door cam is not sufficient as you've already allowed people into the building. You have no guarantee of how many other people those guests might bring in after check-in. A door cam also does not monitor ongoing behaviour. Their guests can really could be anyone, and what may be a good time for a guest attending the city for a concert, tours or one night at the club might not be a good time for the people who make neighbouring units their home. Small units with a high number of guests who are consuming alcohol and sometimes are under the influence of illegal substances can quickly get out of control. Fights may spill into the hallway or assaults may occur by the residents and building employees. These are not isolated incidents as one of their guests…as once their guests are inside our residential buildings, it is everyone else's problem to deal with. Our family has made the downtown community our home for many years as suburban life is not for us. We have lived in a variety of apartments and have always felt safe. We have never had issues with our safety, regardless of the stigma presented about our community. Living at the Glasshouse, we have had to call 911 six times and have had to call security…call security too many times to even count. I've been pelted by ice, alcoholic drinks and eggs from the balconies while returning from work. Building employees have had worse with knives, can openers and garbage bags full of water dropped on them from the balcony. My spouse, when in a wheelchair while recovering from a severe spinal injury, had a guest from a ghost hotel suite attempt to assault her unprovoked…assault her unprovoked when she was incapable of defending herself. She already had a sense of independence taken away by her injury, but that exposure to violence while defenceless robbed her sense of safety at home. These incidents have all been connected to the ghost hotel suites and their guests and the lack of supervision provided. How many times in your home would it be acceptable to be disrupted by noise, have your family exposed to violence, required assistance from security or even requiring calling 911? The answer of what is acceptable should be the same at the Glasshouse as any other community, including the communities that many of these investors reside. Owner residence units have been in a steady decline due to our inability to address these problems. One retiree recently sold his unit for a $70,000 loss just to escape the parties and fights on his floor. As the units are sold off for a loss, many of them are purchased by investors and reopened as ghost hotel suites. If the Glasshouse cannot be where community members can own and reside in a home safely downtown, what other future condo developments and communities will face the same fate as ours? Forcing the very people you want to live downtown to move away. If we can't make the Glasshouse work to bring people to live downtown, what hope does any future development really have? Without the primary residence requirement in regards to short-term rentals, what other communities will slowly die with the risk residents give no other choice but to move away for their safety?

Madam Speaker: Right on time. Thank you.

Craig Penner: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Questions? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you for an excellent presentation. If…let's say, you know, during the course of debate, there are changes to this motion, what would you think are…would be the most important parts to this motion that make it regulation most worthwhile?

Craig Penner: When it comes to my family's safety as well as my neighbours, the only one that really will make a difference is the primary residence requirement. That's the only one that matters. I know the taxation issue can help the city in regards to, you know, investing in some infrastructure, but the fact that these businesses operate with absolutely no supervision and no intervention, it places us completely in the crosshairs of these incidents, especially when they get incredibly violent.

Councillor Schreyer: And for the record, can you explain what you mean by primary residence

Craig Penner: What I mean of primary residence, I mean primary residence as in...well, there's two options in regards to that. There are incidences of, say, someone wants to rent an extra bedroom, you have a primary resident on-site. Someone going away on vacation for two weeks, they want to supplement their income for the vacation, they rent out their suite for two weeks. You know, that's on them, that's their home, but what we find is these suites being taken over with absolutely no supervision, no involvement. Nobody actually lives anywhere, nobody you can even communicate with.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to the presenter here this morning; are you aware that the taxation piece will not go towards general revenues and infrastructure, but the taxation piece will go back to the Economic Development Winnipeg for the purposes of promoting Winnipeg as a tourist destination? Are you aware of that?

Craig Penner: No, I was not aware of that, but I would hope that if we are attracting tourism, we will be attracting to reside in appropriate accommodations and not residential accommodations.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you. Second question: in terms of short-term rentals and primary residence, what are your thoughts on restrictions around number of days that can be utilized whether it's in a month or within a year?

Craig Penner: As in restrictions? That could be…that could helpful, but it…when it comes to restricting days doesn't necessarily restrict…place any kind of supervision in regards to what is actually occurring on these suites. That is how…that's how these businesses remain profitable, is they cut the corners. They have no involvement on-site, no supervision. And cutting the amount of days might cut the amount of incidents, but I don't know if it's going to be a solution to...a complete solution to our safety problems we're experiencing.

Councillor Chambers: How about a…last question, how about a new combination with the residents? I note that there are other jurisdictions that not only include a regulatory clause about primary residence, but also, the number of days that these suites can be used throughout the year or throughout...

Craig Penner: That would definitely be helpful because you may find people much…much of our problems, there's regulation that can control this. We have a lack of enforcement in regards to a lot of the issues, whether it's public health, commercial zoning. You may find experienced people that claim it's a primary residence, but they really…it's really not. They may have…they may live in a home with their spouse but then claim this address as their primary residence. Limiting the amount of days might help control the amount of people that are trying to cheat the system.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. If you could stay on the bench here, Craig Penner, and we'll just hear from the next delegation and then take questions. Next is Jason Penner, who will also appear before Council in support of this item. I think he is appearing via Zoom, Madam Clerk? Jason Penner.

Clerk: Yes, he is. Jason, if you want to go ahead and unmute yourself.

Madam Speaker: Welcome.

Jason Penner: Hi there. Hi, councillors. I would like to thank City Council for this opportunity. Unfortunately, my home, the Glasshouse condo tower, serves as a study in how rogue industry, in this case, ghost hotels, exploits economic opportunity to the detriment of communities and their residents. It's imperative that the City take action limiting short-term rentals to primary residence only. The Glasshouse condo tower was completed in 2016, and in until 2021, it was residents

who held the majority of positions on its condo board. Over the years, the number of ghost hotels in the tower increased, and the number of concerns and incidents involving ghost hotels increased, as well. Disturbances at all hours, partying, violence and signs of criminal activity, including human trafficking. These issues escalated further during the pandemic. The Glasshouse tower became an ideal venue for ghost hotel COVID parties. When a neighbour of mine asked a ghost hotel COVID party to quiet down, she was told, everyone knows that you come to the Glasshouse to party. And then, an intoxicated partier attempted to assault her. Used condoms and empty liquor bottles disposed of on residents' balconies. Knives thrown from balconies. Men assaulting women. Police raiding units. Not a single operator of the 60-odd ghost hotels at Glasshouse lives there, and yet, they make claims of knowing what it's like to live there and that residents are exaggerating and fabricating their accounts. We live here. We know what we've witnessed happening in which units, and we know which units are ghost hotels. We're also very much aware of how unresponsive to incidents ghost hotel industry continues to be. Condo boards are limited in their powers. Still, the resident majority condo board tried to impose a 30-day minimum stay requirement and install elevator fobs to restrict movement throughout the tower. Efforts to address concerns. The apartments at True North Square, for example, have fobs on their elevators to provide security. Ghost hotels oppose both measures because they wanted to retain their business model, even if it was at the cost of residents' safety and security. And if elevators were fobbed, arrivals for ghost hotel bookings could not be remotely admitted. This is where Glasshouse developer, Urban Capital, became involved. Urban Capital has retained significant voting power through their unsold units. Until the proposed measures, the developer was steadfast in remaining neutral on condo board matters. However, their unit sales had slowed, and what sales…what units were selling were to ghost hotel investors. Responding to a potential impact on sales, Urban Capital forced the 30-day minimum stay to be withdrawn by threatening to overthrow the board. Then, come the next election, Urban Capital and ghost hotels used their voting power to oust long-serving residents and put install themselves as the new board. Safety and security initiatives were discarded and none have been…none have been implemented since. In response to the board take over, Glasshouse's security provider prematurely cancelled their contract. Their job providing residential security had become a burden and compromised by the commercial security demands of 60 ghost hotels – six zero, about. The security company's recommendations went ignored. Problems continued, and their staff no longer wanted to work in the building. Glasshouse residents are also giving up, selling their units at significant lost…loss, which in turn yields more ghost hotels. Ask any realtor, one ghost hotel operator at Glasshouse told you, the condo market is cold in Winnipeg, indeed. So why then would residents sell their homes at Glasshouse at losses of up to $70,000? Several have taken this hit and they've done so because ghost hotels ruined their dreams of downtown residential living. Police check in with Glasshouse security regularly regarding their most wanted. Short-term rentals are ideal for criminal conduct and evasion. On August 13th, 2017, a man was tortured to death with batons and electrocution in a Fort Richmond ghost hotel. On September 15th, 2019, two people were stabbed at a downtown condo ghost hotel party. On November 4th, 2019, a young man was executed at a Southpoint ghost hotel in retaliation for a fatal gang shoot out.

Madam Speaker: We're just going to pause. Councillor Rollins moves extension for two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Jason Penner: Thank you. On October 21st, October 21, a man was invited to a COVID…COVID party at a Glasshouse ghost hotel. Upon arriving in the unit, he was held at gun point by a criminal organization, then abducted to another ghost hotel where he was tortured for four days. The organization used those hotels as an important component of their plan so they could remain anonymous and undisturbed. Councillors, enough was enough a long time ago. Primary residence for short-term rentals is the solution and the only solution. Let's get this done. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation. Next delegation is Melanie Mitchell, who will appear before Council in opposition to the same item. She's here in person. Welcome. Ten minutes on the clock.

Melanie Mitchell: Good morning, Council. As responsible business owners and professionals, our position as short-term rental owners is to continue to work with Council to come up with a solution that works for everyone. The success of the programs put in place by Regina and Calgary proves that can be done. However, we feel that overreaching policies like the Toronto model are merely knee-jerk reactions to a set of perceived problems that did not yield the intended results. Their intent…I believe their intent in the east was to make housing more affordable and accessible. It did not do that. The average rents in Toronto have…actually increased 6.7% in the time since the by-laws came into effect in January of 2021. Winnipeg hosts are in favour of incorporating fire and safety regulations, so long as they don't exceed what would be expected in an average residential home. We have an issue with just two of the items mentioned in the report: the primary residence only requirement and capping the number of days a home can be rented. These not only knock out nearly all of the people who really depend on this income, but they decrease the available housing supply, working contrary to any affordability or accessibility goals. Short-term rentals are an integral part of the overall tourism and housing solution in Winnipeg. They have been used as temporary accommodation for families displaced by home insurance claims or those who have planned major home renovations. They are used for newcomers until they find permanent housing, as well. I am currently staying in one of my own short-term rentals while my primary residence is being prepped for sale. It will be our temporary address until we find another permanent home to purchase. This in-between houses short stay is a common

request right now as there's a lot of real estate changing hands in Winnipeg. There are only a few hundred short-term rental listings in Winnipeg, but please note, each listing employs, on average, two cleaning staff to run it. If each of the 700 some odd listings are multiplied by at least two employees, that equates to 1,400 to 1,500 people. I have not yet added in the building property maintenance staff, and of course, there's property managers, owners, cohosts, so that could be over 2,000 Winnipeggers currently employed by this industry. These two contentious items, if implemented, would not only cause the loss of a substantial amount of local employment, it would takeaway a fantastic cultural learning experience for Winnipeg communities and omit a much needed tax and revenue sales…sales…retail sales revenue generator. Does the City have the financial means to manage any new by-laws on this topic without including the licensing income from the non-primary residence listings and the accommodation taxes from these higher dollar rentals? I have said before, guests consumer spending goes directly into our economy. They average $200 per guest per day. My own three suites bring approximately $960,000 of guest spending per annum into Winnipeg businesses. If that sounds like a hefty number, imagine what the visitors to all of the other listings are bringing in as a grand total. You would just add some zeroes to the figure I gave. To illustrate this for just a moment, recently, six of my guests walked over to 529 Wellington and told me they ran up a four-digit bill over there. Earlier that day, they took their three grandchildren who live here locally out to our Assiniboine Park Zoo. They came…they all came back with t-shirts and stuffed animal souvenirs. They stopped for lunch and ice cream on the way back, so cha-ching right there. This family was so grateful to be able to gather from different areas in Canada all together in one of my houses. They barbecued on my deck a few times. They played in the yard with toddler grandchildren, whom they had not had a chance to meet before due to the pandemic. They told me they will be…will be back often and thanked me profusely for providing this style of service. A submission from one of the last planning committee meetings suggested that pushing a longer stay requirement in short-term rentals forces people to stay in a hotel. I have to reiterate; sales and marketing is never about forcing clients to do what you want, it's about offering the right selections to meet their needs. So, a rigid stance of this is how we've always done it won't work in this constantly evolving retail climate. Not including secondary residence STRs in the regulations going forward would mean that all we've accomplished here after so much debate is possibly to gain 5% of some $50 to $100 stays in somebody's spare bedroom. I know that slight alteration in the report language to say, "Shall include primary residence only", or the direct reference to the Toronto model does not actually indicate anything at all in the eventual outcome of this debate, however, this did create a false illusion for the people watching from both sides. As well, it confused the local media. For that reason, I felt this tactic was unprofessional at this juncture and undermines the public engagement process. I still firmly believe that most of Council and the Planning Department will look objectively at both sides of this equation regardless of how negatively this survey was worded. Worst case scenario, can you not just grandfather in the existing short-term rentals so the people who have already made heavy investments into Winnipeg are safe? This is one of my own suggestions, not necessarily the opinion of the local short-term rental owners. Please understand that many of the negative stories swirling around this enterprise are anecdotal in nature. They don't happen to match up at all with the hard data available from the Winnipeg Fire/Paramedic Service. I caution Council to obtain real emergency call data before letting the emotions and agenda of a few citizens concentrated primarily in only one building carry this much weight in your decisions that impact so many. It is my own belief that the concerns of a few residents have put forward on items like noise, density, trash, parking, are actually dog whistle items aimed at keeping specific groups out of their communities. I have listened to presenters say short-term rental's responsible for housing depreciation, responsible for housing not being affordable enough, responsible for homelessness, responsible for the crime rate in Winnipeg. I feel like STR has become a convenient scapegoat to blame for nearly anything. Short-term rentals do not remove affordable housing options, there's a 13.7% vacancy rate in suites from $1,800 to $2,000 a month and up when used in long-term, unfurnished. The majority of the Airbnb listings in Winnipeg fall under this category. Please take a look at the listings on the site. I would like to remind everyone involved in this process, it is supposed to be a merger, not a hostile take over. You have heard from local groups who place new immigrants in temporary housing and rely on short-term rentals. You have heard from the cleaning and maintenance staff, the real backbone of this industry. You have seen several submissions from neighbours who have no issues with short-term rental next door, and you have seen glowing reviews from guests. We submitted an e-mail from Regina City Council indicating that over a year into their regulation program, things are going well, no changes to it are planned. Regina is confident in its fair and common-sense regulations. Winnipeg should take direction from Regina rather than try to cut a swath right through an entire industry. Council, if you vote for the primary residence only aspect of this report, what you're basically doing is voting for a backdoor expropriation of these businesses without compensation. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you for your presentation. First question, Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. I am going to offer my perspective on what was just concluded that it is a business, Madam Speaker. And considering the Hotel Association and even in the Vehicles for Hire two-tier different regulated system, is unfair competition, Madam Speaker. And from what I'm understanding, and I have a disagreement with the people who handle zoning here in Winnipeg, in that, to live is to zone residential. To stay is actually a commercial enterprise that has an ability to make a lot of money, Madam Speaker. More money than simply renting somebody this facility for the longer...

Madam Speaker: The question, Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: And so, no, I just want to put this through because I'm hearing a lot of misnomers. And I just want to ask the question. It's not in a merely a 5% tax on a hotel room we're talking about here, the properties that are zoned residential are assessed differently. Do you see that your business as fair competition with the hotel industry in the city of Winnipeg, given that you get special tax breaks because you have a residential property, as one example?

Melanie Mitchell: I'm not trying to compete with the hotel industry. It's an entirely different entity. But to correct the living-staying, staying-living issue that I've addressed a couple of times already, whenever you have a structure and you have a human inside, they are living there, whether it's three weeks, two weeks, six months, that's where they are living currently. It's a human inside a structure that's living. So, we're planning to pay the 5% accommodation tax. And wasn't it said right here in this room that a house is a house?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And second question, Councillor Eadie, coming through the Chair.

Councillor Eadie: So, Madam Speaker, I guess she doesn't want to see taxed...her properties taxed appropriately. Apartment blocks are taxed based on their ability to make money. So, you're saying your ability to make more money now shouldn't be taxed the same way as an apartment block?

Melanie Mitchell: How do I keep a suite full at a 13.7% vacancy rate?

Councillor Chambers: Point of order, Madam Chair. She should be…direct her responses through the Chair.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. She didn't name anyone, but please bring your comments through the Chair.

Melanie Mitchell: I just said it out loud. My suites have a 13.7% vacancy rate. So, I don't…I don't think making money is a negative issue, but I can…it's going to be hard to find a long-term tenant to pay $2,000 a month is what they were renting for. They weren't easy to keep full because they don't suit a lot of budgets. So, of course, they're not part of the affordable housing initiative, either.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none, thank you, Melanie Mitchell, for your presentation today. That concludes delegations...oh, no, we do have the additional delegations. Madam Clerk, five minutes, no questions. There's two delegations. The first one is?

Clerk: Josh Brandon from the Social Planning Council.

Madam Speaker: And he is in?

Clerk: Sorry, he is in…with respect to the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated June 9th, 2022 regarding the Regent Avenue Bus Shelters.

Madam Speaker: And he is in?

Clerk: Opposition.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Welcome.

Josh Brandon: Thank you so much for hearing me as an additional delegation. My colleague Kate Kehler was called away on a family health issue. So…so, my name's Josh Brandon, I'm with the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. And I think you all know the work that we have done fighting poverty and working on issues around homelessness over the years and our collaboration with community partners and groups like Right to Housing and Make Poverty History who have been collaborating with you on the poverty reduction strategy that you're developing. And most recently, we were partnering with End Homelessness Winnipeg on the Winnipeg street census. And I know I look forward to presenting the results of that with you in the near future when those are ready. But in all this work, we've been guided by a principle that housing is a human right, but here in Winnipeg, we face an enormous housing crisis, and I think that's at the root of the issues that we're dealing with in bus shelters and other unsheltered locations across Winnipeg. Over 30,000 households in the city are in core housing need, and that's based on your own data through the housing report that was recently done. Housing costs have sky rocketed in recent years, and in 2018 in our previous street census, we surveyed over 1,500 people experiencing homelessness. And we know that since the pandemic has struck, those conditions have even worsened. There are fewer services that people are able to access at times. More people are feeling not safe or not

comfortable in the existing shelter spaces, or feeling that those are inadequate. And so, more people are forced to find alternative housing, alternatives to traditional housing, and some of that is including bus shelters. But we will not solve these problems by tearing down the few remaining spaces that are available for the most vulnerable Winnipeggers. Those who have already had their rights to housing abrogated. We'll resolve this only by building up the resources and services for people who are experiencing housing need. Things like more affordable housing. Housing cannot be a right when there are thousands of people in line for access to it. And I note that over 9,000 people are currently waiting on Manitoba Housing waiting lists. More services like outreach and 24-hour safe spaces, safe consumption sites. I also want to applaud Councillors Rollins and Nason for putting forward their intention to forward a motion next month to consider budget options for achieving some these goals, and so, thank you so much for that. And thank you for listening to the community groups who have been calling for these actions. Listening is going to be key going forward. We need to listen to Indigenous communities who are calling for reconciliation because we know that Indigenous communities are vastly over represented in homelessness in Winnipeg. We need to list especially to the people living in homelessness and have consultations with them to consider what they are putting forward as solutions to these problems. I know no one that I'm speaking to is calling for bus shelters as an adequate or safe alternative to housing, but what people are saying is that everybody deserves dignity, everybody deserves access to public spaces, including people who are unsheltered, people deserve access to services. And people, also…everybody deserves to be remembered that they are…that they have a common human dignity, they are your constituents, and people are asking to be treated fairly. And so, I hope you consider these requests in your deliberations today, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you for your presentation today, Josh Brandon. Next speaker, Madam Clerk?

Clerk: Next speaker is Jason Whitford, also in opposition to Item 1 the report from the standing policy committee dated June 9th, 2022, regarding Regent Avenue Bus Shelters.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And this is our final delegation for today. Five minutes on the clock, no questions. Welcome.

Jason Whitford: Bonjour. (Speaking Indigenous language) My English name is Jason Whitford. I'm…I'm honoured to be here in your circle. I'm a Treaty One member, and it's an honour to listen and to call these professionals and these community members my colleagues. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here. Last week, I sat in the...I did listen…listen on the...to the different presentations that were presented by the community groups that were here. There was over 30-plus delegations, as you'll recall, that presented to the Executive Policy Committee in opposition to the motion to dismantle the bus shacks. The delegations presented an informed and unified voice. I don't need to repeat what they had stated. I believe the message was received loud and clear. I think many of us have a lot to learn from one another. None of us is an expert on a particular topic. We...we sometimes make decisions in haste, I think, without stepping back and analysing or engaging the experts that are needed. And myself, I'm not an expert on homelessness. I rely upon experts such as Jacob and Josh and End Homeless Winnipeg staff and elders and community members. The teaching of truth…truth and reconciliation comes out strongly. Finding the truth of that individual residing in that shelter or in that bus shack or in that encampment or that has made it through, someone quite like Jacob himself, finding the truth. Person-centred supports. The solutions are within the community, and that's a teaching that I think about everyday. That teaching comes from a ceremony. It was the…there's the teaching of a little…little boy and the…the little boy and the water drum. If you ever have a chance to try to learn of that teaching, I would encourage you to do so, or to offer tobacco to an elder, to say if they hold that teaching, to ask for that teaching. That teaching talks about the struggle for answers, the pain that the community faces, and the…that there is hope. That there is hope and that there is significance in ceremony. Some of you might…might, I think, wonder why some Indigenous led initiatives have names attached to them, and I can share a little bit about you, and I believe I might have shared this previously. There's a connection to spirit and then the individuals that have moved on to the spirit world; our elders and community, through those ceremonies, those names are gifted and the (inaudible) themselves become…an identity is created. I can share with you the N'Dinawemak which is…you had a delegation from N'Dinawemak last week here. N'Dinawemak means our relatives. That name was gifted from the elder for that space. And the spirit of our ancestors lives in that space. We honour…we honour that spiritual aspect of that space, and I think it's…it gives us guidance, and it creates, I think, a sense of energy in that space and a sense of healing that we so greatly need in our community. I want to try to respond to some of the questions that came up this morning. Low-barrier housing is housing without conditions. An individual does not have to partake…participate in a treatment or does not have to be...does not have to abstain from usage of alcohol or drug to have occupancy. Essentially, it's a no judgment and housing…housing as a right. In terms of the number of housing, I can share with you that 120 units have been created since last spring, probably through the combination of rapid housing initiative funding and End Homeless Winnipeg funding. So, there's small amounts of fundings…and some provincial funding, small amounts of funding coming from different streams, but I believe what End Homeless Winnipeg's message is that these strategies need to be aligned.

Madam Speaker: If you can just wrap up your presentation. Yeah, I think you're…you've completed, have you?

Jason Whitford: Very close.

Madam Speaker: Okay.

Jason Whitford: 200 more housing units are coming in the next…in the next year. Rent geared to income. No affordable housing. That's…that's kind of a taboo, I think. And we're…our housing strategies are very closely aligned. We talked about the number of housing units. I believe the city's own comprehensive needs assessment estimated 300 housing units per year over the next ten years. So, that's 3,000 housing units that are needed.

Madam Speaker: Jason, thank you for your presentation today. The time is out on the clock, but we appreciate you being here. Thank you.

Jason Whitford: Megwich.

Madam Speaker: That concludes our delegations. We are taking a recess at 11:45. Shall we get into the reports now or…we'll take a recess now.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, Councillor Gillingham raised a very important point of protocol. And I, Madam Speaker, would…would really do my part good to hear, and we've heard from N'Dinawemak, which means our relatives. And it would really do, I think, our Council and our city good if we moved, at least, the first item on EPC so that we can move into visibility.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins, you probably got a communication from me earlier today. There are several commitments similar over the noon hour today, so I think we need to take a recess.

Mayor Bowman: I move consent agenda, I would at least, hopefully, vote on those quickly.

Madam Speaker: There's a few items that are of importance.

Mayor Bowman: Quick.

Madam Speaker: But let's try to proceed then.

Mayor Bowman: I'm going to…I'm going to be…

Madam Speaker: I think there's a number of speakers, as well. Six minutes, okay.

Councillor Allard: What happens if we're mid-debate?

Madam Speaker: Then we'll take a recess. Let's being.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED JUNE 15, 2022

Mayor Bowman: I would support the recess at 11:45 and do appreciate the Speaker and my Council colleagues' indulgence with that. I will be a model of efficiency here. I move that...I introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 through 24.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Pulling any items? The question's been called on 1 through 24. Okay. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried unanimously. Never heard you so loud. Thank you. With that, we'll take...

Councillor Allard: Those reports are in the way of lunch.

Madam Speaker: We'll take a recess now and reconvene at 1:15 sharp, please. Thank you.

**Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
June 26, 2022, at 1:25 p.m.**

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of June 23rd, 2022. We're on the Executive Policy Committee, motions section. Next is the notice of motion under…under this committee from the May 26th, 2022 Council meeting. It…there was a motion moved from Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Nason urging the Federal Government to make changes to the Criminal Code regarding…regarding the defence of extreme intoxication for violent crime. This motion is on your online agenda rather than paper copy today. Councillor Klein, your opportunity to introduce your motion.

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I appreciate the fact that it's on the agenda today. More appreciative of the fact that the Federal Government has acted. They are introducing a bill to address the issues that came of the two recent decisions at the Supreme Court of Canada. And in a brief discussion with His Worship Mayor Bowman, I don't know if it would be him as the authority or myself, I would…I'm happy to move this as information…to be voted on…receive it as information.

Madam Speaker: Is it information or rescinding? Mr. Clerk, which one would be more appropriate? Receive it as…okay. Any other speakers on this item? Councillor Klein, do you wish to close? Or I can call the question?

Councillor Klein: Nope, call the question.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Call the question to receive this notice of motion as information. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We have Motion 3 that's been circulated. It is moved by Councillor Rollins, seconded by Councillor Nason. It's regarding housing. It will appear on our agenda for next Council meeting. Motion 4 has been circulated. Moved by Councillor Gillingham and seconded by myself, Councillor Sharma. And it's regarding government leaders appearing in delegation. This would be a referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Now, we'll move into by laws under this committee for first reading. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

**Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,**

WHEREAS to address street-level homelessness and substance use, the City of Winnipeg must invest in safe, supportive, culturally appropriate housing, and mobile outreach services;

AND WHEREAS research indicates more than two-thirds of those experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg are Indigenous: survivors of legacies of colonization and cultural genocide including Residential Schools and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people;

AND WHEREAS more than half of people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg have been in the care of Child and Family Services, meaning they are also survivors of family separation, abuse and neglect:

AND WHEREAS more than half of people experiencing homelessness have traumatic brain injuries, while nearly half are living with physical and/or mental health disabilities;

AND WHEREAS a consensus position of voices of lived experience, Indigenous community leadership, non-governmental housing and shelter organizations have come together to outline for Council what could enhance security, peace, dignity in transitioning people from encampments, bus shelters or sleeping rough.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the appropriate Committee of Council within 90 days with options to:

A. Create housing by partnering with community organizations to run low-barrier transitional housing specifically to transition people from encampments, bus shelters or sleeping rough; including directing the Winnipeg Public Service to develop options and alternatives to include:

i. a Minimum commitment of 150 new low barrier transitional housing;
ii. assistance of a facility, such as a city owned building;

iii. creation of safe consumption site(s) and additional mobile services connected to housing and treatment options;

iv. creation of additional community-based crises stabilization spaces and services;

B. Budget options to enhance outreach grants to cover costs of 24-hour services within the City of Winnipeg, with casework supports;

C. Funding options and alternatives for implementation of the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult the Province of Manitoba on the intent of Recommendation 1 above, as well as:

A. Increasing income supports and rental benefits to address the Housing Crises in Winnipeg.

B. The creation of a working group to increase joint-work on poverty and related community grants, funding mechanisms on poverty reduction and 24/7 safe spaces.

3. That pending the report back within 90 days, that all matters having a budgetary impact, as contained in Recommendations 1-2 above, be referred to the 2023 budget process.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg recognizes and respects the leaders of Government organizations and the contributions they make to our citizens;

AND WHEREAS one way to show this respect is to ensure Government leaders are listed first when appearing in delegation before Council;

AND WHEREAS the Procedure By-law and current practice call for delegations to be listed in the order in which the agenda item they are speaking to is listed on the agenda;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Executive Policy Committee request that the Public Service bring forward a report within 90 days to the Governance Committee of Council to amend the Procedure By-law to have Government Leaders be listed first when appearing as a delegation before Council and its Committees.

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

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 74/2022, By-law 75/2022, By-law No. 76/2022, By-law 77/2022, By-law 78/2022, and By-law 79/2022.

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

Clerk: By-law No. 74/2022, By-law No. 75/2022, By-law No. 76/2022, By-law No. 77/2022, By-law No. 78/2022, and By-law No. 79/2022.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor, for the second and third reading.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law No. 62/2022 be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-law No. 66…62/2022.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the By-law No. 62/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now move into by-laws for all three readings. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Bowman: Thank you. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 47/2022, By-law 48/2022 and By-law 92/2022.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 47/2022, By-law No. 48/2022 and By-law No. 92/2022.

Mayor Bowman: And the move…I move that By-law Nos. 47/2022, By-law 48/2022 and 92/2022 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law Nos. 47/2022, 48/2022 and 92/2022.

Mayor Bowman: I move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 47/2022, 48/2022 and 92/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now have question period for the Mayor. Any questions for Mayor Bowman? Okay. Next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks. Councillor Rollins, on the report dated June 10th, 2022.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS DATED JUNE 10, 2022

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, thank you. With thanks to Protection, Community Services and Parks Standing Policy Committee, I'd like to move consent agenda Items 1 through 6.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins moves 1 through 6. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Next up is by-laws.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Rollins: I move that By-law No. 90/2022 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Rollins, there's another there, as well.

Councillor Rollins: I move that…

Madam Speaker: 91.

Councillor Rollins: By-law Nos. 90/2022 and...sorry, by-law…well, we'll have to do that again, then. I move that By-law No. 91/2022 also be read a first time.
Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 90/2022, By-law No. 91/2022.

Councillor Rollins: I more that By-law Nos. 90/2022 and 91/2022 be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-law Nos. 90/2022 and 91/2022.

Councillor Rollins: I move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 90/2022 and 91/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Question period under this committee. First up, Councillor Nason.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you; we've gone through the most difficult winter, now a very wet spring. My office has been inundated with complaints about our community parks not being mowed. I believe this is the…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason, continue.

Councillor Nason: Madam…Madam Speaker, our parks are being inundated and, you know, crews, I know, are working hard and diligent trying to get caught up. I'm just wondering if the Chair has been briefed on this and understands where we're at today as far as getting these parks back into condition that support soccer, baseball, other physical activities, including just family gatherings.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well, Madam Speaker, it has been characterized as the most difficult year for mowing in some public servants' 30-year odd career. The snowfall, rain, and now the heat, have really provided the best opportunity for grass to grow. So, the first rounds of mowing and now, really, the second cycle of mowing, with some exceptions, are happening. I want to acknowledge some volunteers who've been frustrated and have gone out, Madam Speaker, and in some cases took matters in their own hand. You know, forgive the pun, Madam Speaker, but taking the lawn into their own hands. Sorry, Madam Speaker. So, after the rounds of mowing, some areas really do appear like they've been more messily cut and that is the outcome of when you're mowing really long grass, for those of us who've been out in the fields and that sort of thing. Trimming, weed whackers, well, we saw them out in the rain. If those of you who were out in the rain with…like myself and Mayor Bowman and Councillor Chambers the other day on National Aboriginal…Indigenous Day…Peoples Day, you know, that weed whackers were out, and people...we just haven't been able to keep up. The grass really has grown significantly, Madam Speaker, and addressing long grass is really the priority for many sites, and there are many complaints through offices, Madam Speaker, with people not even thinking they got to it. And in some places, they have, and in some areas, as you know, it has been genuinely missed. So, 311 requests are still sort of the advisement, Madam Speaker, for long grass, and then, continuing to be in radio contact with councillors' offices, and we know that we've all had these complaints and concerns for our residents. So, I hope that answers the question.

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

Councillor Nason: That was a very comprehensive response and I appreciate that, Madam Speaker. Second question; with regards to permits that are issued, considering the majority of these fields weren't being kept in a condition that's playable, I know several recreational sports were cancelled through organizations. I'm wondering if there's any talk of a rebate or prorate the costs that organizations may have borne by the fact that the fields weren't in playable condition.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Of course, having had Timbit soccer players myself, Madam Speaker, you know that if the grass isn't effectively mowed, they can't actually effectively play given their tiny, tiny statures. It's hard enough to get around a ball, let alone the obstacles of tall grass. But no, Madam Speaker, compensation for community groups haven't been considered. And like I said, in some cases, I know of community groups that have gone out to trim the fields themselves, given the stature of their little, little players. So, I want to really express gratitude for that. That isn't what we think of when we want to be doing recreation services, especially the people-powered recreation, Madam Speaker, like the Timbits soccer players and more. So, I will take that back, Madam Speaker, and ask the Public Service if that's something that they've ever considered and endeavor to get back to Councillor Nason, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: I just want to maybe…I know she can. So, if the Chairperson can. Do you have any idea when the Brenda Leipsic Dog Park will be opening on Friday?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, you know, if Councillor Orlikow, Madam Speaker, had have asked specifically about mowing and fertilizing of Brenda Leipsic Dog Park, I probably would be absolutely prepared to answer that, but I really feel that it's going to Friday, Madam Speaker. This very Friday. And I will confirm that and be celebrating with all those that really have been waiting with patience for Brenda Leipsic Dog Park that I know my contiguous colleague, Councillor Orlikow, is such a good champion of.

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

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to know how much water and/or fertilizer – I would like to know both, is used in the maintenance of our parks? I understand the answer may not be available, but I would like to know that if it's not already contained in public documents.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I have not gotten my hearing aids from Costco yet, but I think the question was how much water and how much fertilizer are used, and I'll need to know within the season, one-year cycle from the speaker, if he can clarify. Five-year period, for instance, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, Councillor Allard, if you wish?

Councillor Allard: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not believe the councillor needs hearing aids because the question was…was received, I think. Over the last five years would be great, and up-to-date information would be great, as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Do you wish to respond, Councillor Rollins?

Councillor Rollins: What was the time period? I do really need hearing aids. What was the time period, Madam Speaker? Sorry, just loud.

Madam Speaker: If you could restate the question, Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: If, Madam Speaker, through you to the Chair; If we could have the five last years to-date; water, fertilizer, I think that would be of interest to people who care about the environment.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you; absolutely noted the clover related item that Councillor Allard put forward in terms of sustainability for the city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, let's move to the next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. It's the report dated April 6th, 2022. I will note, we have amending Motion 1 that goes with Item 4. Councillor Allard.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
DATED APRIL 4, 2022**

Councillor Allard: I would like to refer this item and the motion back to standing policy committee. Yeah, it's the one on the TA.

Madam Speaker: So, that's Item 4 – Warranted Projects within the Traffic Engineering Improvement Program. There's amending Motion 1 and the main item.

Councillor Allard: I can explain, for my colleagues.

Councillor Eadie: Can I just have the 'be it resolved' or whatever it is in the amendment?

Councillor Allard: Yes, and to be clear, my intention is not to have Council vote on anything today.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Madam Clerk, if you could read that into the record. And I don't believe there's any speaking with the referral. Madam Clerk.

Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS on June 15, 2022 the Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council that $1,503,570 be allocated to approve the installation of low-mounted flashing lights at lighted pedestrian crosswalks at locations identified in the warranted but unfunded Traffic Engineering Improvement program projects outlined in Appendix B, by reallocating the funds identified from some local street renewal projects scheduled in the St. Boniface Ward;

AND WHEREAS it has been known to the public service since 2013 that low level lights at mounted pedestrian crossings are a low cost and effective way to better safety at lighted pedestrian crosswalks;

AND WHEREAS on June 16th, 2022, the Public Service invited Council for an update on the Road Safety Strategy, to which $2.5M in federal gas tax money was assigned in November 2019 which has yet to be spent;

AND WHEREAS the May monthly open capital report identifies $3,119,347 in budgeted Transportation Engineering Improvement Program (TEIP) funds not yet expended in addition to the $2.5 million in 2019 federal gas tax money (2019) earmarked for the Road Safety Strategy, including (reference is here: https://winnipeg.ca/finance/CapitalExpenditures/2022/202204CapitalExpendituresMonthlyReport.pdf;

1. *$225,000 in 2018 (20.47% of budget unspent)*
2. *$1,191,745 in 2020 (62.72% of budget unspent)*
3. *$1,702,602 in 2021 (75.74% of budget unspent)*

AND WHEREAS in three of the last four years, less than 50% of budgeted funds in the TEIP program were expended;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Item 4 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works dated April 6, 2022 be amended by deleting Recommendations 2 and 3 and replacing them with the following:

2. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, on the status of all capital projects funded through the Transportation Enhancement Improvement Program since 2018, which according to the May open capital project list total more than $3,119,347.*

3. *That where capital projects in the Traffic Engineering Improvement program which have not yet started or that can be reassigned, the Public Service expedite the reallocation of the use of these funds to create a new budget authorization, to fund the $1,508,700 for the installation of low-mounted flashing lights at lighted pedestrian crosswalks at locations identified in the warranted but unfunded Traffic Engineering Improvement program projects outlined in Appendix B, that some members of the Public Service have recommended as a low cost and effective way to better safety at pedestrian crossings since 2013.*

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, your opportunity. Yes, you may speak, but there will be no rebuttal. Three minutes, if you wish.

Councillor Allard: Sure, I don't think it will take three minutes. So, to my colleagues, and thank you to my colleagues who supported the motion at EPC. Thanks to my colleagues who reached out to me to say that they would be supporting the motion today at Council. In the meantime, through some research, I did find out that there's at least $3 million from the May update on open capital projects in the TEIP program that have yet to be expended, and that's not including the $2.5 million that…and kudos, Madam Speaker, through to Councillor Rollins, we secured $2.5 million on the Road Safety Strategy. So, over and above that, we have $3 million sitting there, not yet expended, and we all know that construction inflation is eating away at our ability to spend and we should be spending this money as soon as possible. So, hoping that there's some opportunities to explore with Public Service on projects that may have been cancelled, delayed, may not have been started that may be reassigned. And I spoke to the CFO yesterday who indicated that the full list of projects would not be available. I understand that the full list of projects is now available because of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works now requesting the unfunded and funded lists, but that is a practice that has started rather…well, in the last couple years, and so, we don't know what happened before that. So, there's unexpended funds that go back to 2018, some of which I hope would be available for incremental funding for eye level lights at lighted pedestrian crossings.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Allard. With that, I'll call the question on the referral of both the amending motion and the item back to committee. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Okay, Councillor Allard, next…next report dated June 9th, 2022.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED JUNE 9, 2022

Councillor Allard: I'd like to move consent agenda, but I understand that I can't. Okay. So, Item 1 is pulled. So otherwise, I'd like to move consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: 10 has been pulled – Condition Improvement Measures for Cordite Road. Okay. So, I'll call the question on 2 through 9. 2 through 9. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 1 – Regent Avenue Bus Shelters

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Madam Speaker, I'd like to first say that I am opposed to this motion and then say that I would like to move this report as information. And for those who may be watching, that means that there is no action on this issue, and that we are essentially recognizing that there has been a debate at Council but that there will be no action directed from Council to the Public Service.

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

Councillor Nason: Madam Speaker, you know, I appreciate the Chair receiving it as information, but I'm wondering if we might hear from the CAO on this matter?

Madam Speaker: You have a question of clarification?

Councillor Nason: Yes, seeking…seeking solace that he may be able to provide some further insight as to this crisis that we have on our streets.

Madam Speaker: I'll allow the question. Mr. Jack, if you could come to the podium, please. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for allowing us opportunity. Mr. Jack, as you're most profoundly aware, we've had many exchanges on e-mail with regards to this matter going back to prior to March of 2021. Can you advise Council, because I know it's not just Transcona that's experiencing this, what the Public Service can do in order to support the sector and our many varied emergency services personnel that are attending to these sites regularly?

Michael Jack: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through to Councillor Nason; I'll start really quickly with a bit of a summary of what the Public Service is already doing, and then…but I…but I know the councillor's question is directed more so to what more could we be doing and what different initiatives could we be rolling out. So, the underlying…the fundamental truth that I think that everyone in the room knows is that whether...whether by design or not, the Public Service, through the Fire/Paramedic Service, through the Police Service, through a number of other departments, is, by default, supporting and/or, you know, working in areas that touch and intersect with people experiencing homelessness. And I'm not going to limit it just to people that may be in transit shelters. Obviously, we have encampments, we have people experiencing homelessness and collecting in any number of locations in our city. And so, it's...there are very complicated interacted issues that don't sort of begin or end at transit shelters. And I know you've heard people far more articulate than I speak in delegation on this. So, we…you as Council have chosen to support some agencies, particularly the outreach agencies, and that is, I think, one key piece of any solution that the city at the municipal level is going to be able to provide. That outreach is key. We as a city decided long ago that...that we were going to adopt and then follow and...and follow, clearly, a human rights-based approach. And I'm glad some delegations have clarified, that simply means we are acknowledging that people we encounter are humans, and they have rights as humans. So, by virtue of following that approach, we do lead with outreach. We don't lead with police, which might have happened 20 years ago. We don't lead with a front-end loader to clear out encampments, as might have happened 20 years ago, we lead with outreach. So, the support that you've demonstrated to some outreach agencies, I think, is probably key. And probably…again, you all…you'll all have to make tough budget decisions, but that is likely always going to remain as a pretty seminal component of what the City can do. We do…in terms of what more we can be doing with the sector, we have a lot of good engagement and discussions and ongoing, we have representatives from the City on, you know, on strategy for unsheltered Winnipeggers. That needs to continue. We need to continue, as I know you all do, but we need to continue to listen to those who are providing the frontline service to determine what they need from the City to better coordinate how we are doing things. In an attempt to better support all Winnipeggers, we are going to continue that dialogue, and primarily our colleagues in Community Development Division in Community Services who participate in that regard. And so, I...another plank that you already do and that I think makes a great deal of sense is continuing to support and liaise with End Homelessness Winnipeg. Long ago, this Council decided that they would be viewed as the hub, that they would be viewed as the brain trust of our collective thinking on how best to support those experiencing homelessness. I continue to think that makes sense. It was great to see Jason earlier today. And they really are who we look to for information, to provide insight, to provide suggestions on how we might be doing better. To try and get it a little more granular for you, if you didn't ask how do we…how do we get the bus shelters empty next week, I know you all know that if I had that silver bullet, I would have offered it to you. You and I have had a lot of good...Councillor Nason and I and others have had a lot of good, I think constructive discussion about trying to find solutions, and none of them are easy and none of them have come easily. Weather always plays a part. The availability of other options for people to gather always plays a part. The pandemic, it didn't create homelessness, what the pandemic likely did, though, and I think we all acknowledge it, once we had to lockdown and shutdown libraries, once other public gathering spaces were shutdown, and there were fewer and fewer options for those experiencing homelessness to simply gather. And any type of gathering, in some instances, it's gathering to use substances. In other instances, it's simply gathering. As those options diminished, we did see an increase in the presence of people in transit shelters, so one might expect that the more options, not just housing options, but the more options that exist out there for people to drop in, to gather, to be, to access resources, we would expect less of a demand for that at transit shelters, so that's an area of discussion that the Public Service could continue to engage with the agency sector on how best to provide other options for where people can be other than within transit shelters. Perhaps I'll leave it there. I feel like I've gone on for a number of minutes.

Councillor Nason: I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Jack, second question.

Councillor Nason: Yeah, thank you. Just to clarify where people can call, I as councillor am confused, as well. If they see persons occupying a space not for transit in the Regent sector, who does 311 dispatch these calls to?

Michael Jack: And through you, Madam Speaker, to Councillor Nason; I will assume…I think you said the Regent sector, so talking, you know, Regent, Stapon, or somewhere in Transcona...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. This is all under Councillor Nason's speaking time. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Thank you. 311 remains an appropriate resource to call. And under our process is, particularly out in Transcona, 311…the process map would have the call then rerouted to St. Boniface Street Links. There's a general understanding in terms of east and west of the Red at this point. Main Street Project has...from the beginning was our primary 311 resource, but I see by a reaction that the councillor may disagree with me. But my understanding is it would be routed to St. Boniface Street Links if it were in that location. And perhaps, if I should finish, I think part of your question,

part of the question was, who should someone call? Again, if we're seeing criminal activity, if we're seeing violence, if you're seeing anything that very clearly falls…you know, even comes close to the criminal code and actively occurring, then it would always be my suggestion that 911 be the resource, not 311.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, are you looking to ask a question or your speaking time? Okay. If it's something different, again, I think the CAO has provided a fulsome response, but go ahead.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. Since we're talking about the different organizations we're involved with, we mentioned the city…

Madam Speaker: Yes, Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, while I was in the Chair...

Madam Speaker: Recently.

Councillor Eadie: A couple of months ago, I discovered that I kind of went outside what I think were the procedural rules, and that if Councillor Schreyer is asking a question, this is taking time off of his speaking schedule now, right?

Madam Speaker: That's right.

Councillor Eadie: Okay, just want to make sure that's clear.

Madam Speaker: And you are also in the queue. I assume you're just speaking to the item?

Councillor Eadie: No, I'm going to…I'm going to speak…I just wanted to make a point…I made an error last time and that I let everybody ask questions, and then I let them speak after, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: That won't happen today. Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, your question.

Councillor Schreyer: Yeah, thank you. And our CAO has been mentioning the different agencies we're working with. Could he itemize those that are provincial services that should be helping with the City on these issues?

Michael Jack: Through you, Madam Speaker, to the councillor; I think the notion of what provincial resources should be directed to this overall question are likely…likely more for you as elected officials probably more of a political discussion, but I don't mind sort of offering what we would like to see. If we're talking about the...most of the municipal resources we end up having to dispatch are really kind of the frontline and last resort resources: paramedics, police officers. So if we're talking the overall situation, if we're talking about people experiencing homelessness, if we're talking about people who use substances, if we're talking about people committing crimes, if we're talking about people who are in some level of distress, you know, these services that the Province is better poised to provide the services…the services that the Province is better resourced to provide in health, in mental health, in detox, in, you know, psychiatric treatment, all of those services, of course, those aren't…those aren't services that the City is resourced to provide or is properly positioned to provide and in most cases doesn't even have the jurisdiction to provide. So, those would be the general types of further upstream resources that obviously, and I think you all know that, so I'm not saying anything terribly profound there. Those are the services that will…that we all know collectively will work on the root cause issues as opposed to the symptoms that the City continues to be required to resource.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jack. Councillor Klein, question for the CAO.

Councillor Klein: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And on this topic, through you to the CAO; I appreciate all the dialogue we're having about the status and those that are seeking refuge. I guess my question is, what is the City doing to address the safety of transit users in the city of Winnipeg that cannot access these shelters or that, you know, we have heard of issues even waiting for buses. So, we have two parallel issues, I think, or two items happening here that are parallel; we have the living arrangements, and then, we have the, you know, vulnerability of transit riders and their concern. So, what is the City doing to address those people?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Yeah, thank you, Madam Speaker, through to Councillor Klein. The City is doing a number of things that I'll outline, but I'm not going to suggest or pretend for a moment that it's…that it's resulting in the situation being completely remedied. I've committed to you, I think I want as much as anyone in this room to return transit infrastructure to its intended

use of being there solely for those who intend to take the bus and for a relatively short period of time until their bus arrives. What the City is doing is a number of things. So, to ensure the safety, that's a difficult question. The City can provide services that are geared towards the safety of its residents. If there is, like I said, something criminal occurring, we have the Police Service as a resource, whether they're dispatched, whether they happen to be noticing something. So, that alone…and that is our…is probably our strongest resource, if you will, if there's something truly...truly illegal, truly harmful, truly violent occurring. We do, of course, have Transit inspectors and supervisors who are part of our process and who will attend to shelters where they are being fully occupied by those that are believed not to be using the transit system. They will make attempts to secure the vacancy of that shelter. Short of dragging people out and that type of conduct, they will use all of the tools at their disposal to try and get the thing vacant. If and when that occurs, of course, we try to immediately do any necessary cleaning and sanitizing, but Transit does have its own division of employees that are specifically geared towards attempting to get...not only attempting to get those vacant, but they also have the ability to deal with things under the Transit By-law that are undesirable, as well. But you're…I don't want to pretend that we are…we've got 100% success rate when we're dispatching those resources because we obviously don't, and those inspectors are not always able to get vacancy, despite the discussion, despite how they're trying to be persuasive, despite what other language is being used, they will frequently leave a scene where someone has refused to leave. And then, it's escalated if necessary, but we clearly have situations where…where the unfortunate situation remains.

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

Councillor Klein: I appreciate that, through you, Madam Speaker, to Mr. Jack. And so, I just heard, though, that we do dispatch a city group, if you will, to tend to matters, and if it's illegal, I heard that we are to call 911, call the police. During an IRPW meeting where I was speaking to transit safety, I was told by the Chair of IRPW that, in fact, there…it's not a policy, but there is a protocol or a practice, if you will, that the City of Winnipeg is not to respond to people in bus shelters or encampments. So, I'm confused as to which is the practice of the City of Winnipeg; do we respond or is the practice not to respond?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Yeah. Through you, Madam Chair; I probably lack some context on that comment about the City, there's a practice that the City doesn't respond. And so, perhaps I need to go back and review the video just to determine the context. The best I can answer that is that, no, the City does respond. Again, we will start with outreach. We do have a process map up on Winnipeg.ca, and I can certainly send it to all of you and just to refresh memories. It is a process that we attempt to follow in all cases. And while the first step is outreach, where…where the situation persists, we have Transit inspectors and supervisors that attend to those sites and attempt to get the properties vacant. So, anyone to suggest our practice is to not respond, I believe is misinformed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes, did you have your hand up?

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I'm wondering if Mr. Jack, we…through the Speaker; the…Minister Squires had invited many of us…and the Mayor even, to a meeting to discuss their homeless strategy. Could you update us, please, is the Public Service engaged in conversations with the Province of Manitoba on their provincial homelessness strategy? And if so, elaborate a bit.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Through you, Madam Speaker; yes, we are, thankfully, engaged for…for quite sometime. I can say that we have had a number of provincial counterparts who have been actively engaging with us to try to find solutions; solutions to a variety of the subset of problems that…that are involved in people experiencing homelessness and most particularly in housing. And so, we have not only had that good open line of dialogue with them, but they reached out to us early as they…as the Province was preparing its group. I don't believe…I don't know if they refer to them as a taskforce or not, but we've got…we have members from our Community Development Division of Community Services as designated members on that group and actively involved in that discussion. So, I think we'll benefit from being there and I think that group will obviously benefit from the insight and information we have as a city.

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

Councillor Lukes: Do you have any timeframe or idea when this report will be released from your interaction with the Province? I know that's a difficult question, but you know, we did start on this in January and…or February. We were invited, so I'm assuming it's moving along, do you have any…any idea of when this strategy will come out because a lot of issues here are definitely, you know, attributed to support from the Province.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Through you, Madam Speaker; I don't immediately, councillor, and...but I can, in very short order, I'm sure, determine whether our representatives on the group have some estimate from the Province or I can simply reach out to the…to my provincial counterparts. So, I could very quickly get that likely by the time we're adjourned today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers. Oh, final question, Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I'll ask this of the Chair of IRPW, he may know. I may have missed it at the committee meeting, but maybe you know. Does the City of Winnipeg, looking across Canada and into the States at best practices on this issue, because the issue of bus shelters and homelessness is a challenge across the country; what is the City doing looking at other cities?

Madam Speaker: Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Yeah. Through you, Madam Speaker; yes, we have, councillor, for a number of years been looking to that. And Transit, in particular, has been doing that research. We're…we're not unique in having closed shelters, but obviously, in a lot of cities, particularly American cities with less extreme climates, one doesn't find enclosed transit shelters at all, particularly none with courtesy heat being produced, you know, electric heat. That is some...I'm not going to say completely unique, but it's somewhat rare across North America and transit markets. And they all operate differently. Obviously, all the ones that have train stations, etcetera, operate in a completely different manner. So, Transit has, in fact, looked across…because we're not completely unique, we obviously…every city has its own demographic, every city has its own challenges that may be, you know, localized. And so, I can't…I can't give you the reason why…why the city is experiencing this, nor do I have the data in terms of how frequently other cities enclosed bus shelters may be experiencing people staying for prolonged periods of time, but I can confirm Transit has absolutely looked across to try and glean any wisdom and have us to deal with this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers, question for the CAO?

Councillor Chambers: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And again, through you to the CAO; just picking up on what Councillor Lukes had mentioned earlier with regards to meetings with the Manitoba Families Minister and Housing Minister regarding the issue of homelessness, but has…to your knowledge, has there also been any discussion on behalf of the City of Winnipeg with the Provincial Government to discuss the root cause of homelessness? So, speaking with the Minister of Mental Health and Wellness, speaking with the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and having a collaborative approach and strategy in dealing with the root causes of homelessness?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Yeah. Through you, Madam Speaker; we have had some, I'm going to call it limited, but some recent discussion with the Province actually in connection with a disposition coming out of PCSP. And so, we were recently provided with a road map document from the Province primarily dealing with mental health, wellness, but as you would expect, it's a pretty…it's broader in terms of the document. It's a bit of a road map. It's not a strategy document. It shows where they are going to be focusing their efforts over the next five years. And like I said, I think you'll be seeing that document on...well, it's available, first of all, publicly, but you will see it appended to a report that should be on an upcoming PCSP agenda. So, we've had some of that discussion. We, of course, aren't specifically a player in the mental health profession and/or that entire subject matter. So, we're having some level of discussion there but not specific to that subject area in terms of us reaching out and either seeking their input or vice versa.

Councillor Allard: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I'm just trying to recall the last time that the CAO was been involved in such an extensive Q and A. And I feel like policy's being made on the fly. Is there a reason that we have administrative reports or should we invite Mike Jack to make policy at the microphone?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, thank you. There was a recent Q and A session I think that was probably lengthier than this. And I don't remember it off the top of my head, but it has occurred. We're just about finished now.

Councillor Allard: Should we ask the clerks how long that was?

Madam Speaker: Probably can't get it right at the moment. I think we're wrapping up here and I'd like to continue with the meeting.

Councillor Allard: I'd be interested to know because I've taken some notes on new policy that's being created.

Madam Speaker: Let's give Councillor Chambers the floor. Councillor Chambers, if you can finish your question, please.

Councillor Chambers: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Speaker: The clock.

Councillor Chambers: Again, and thank you for that response, Mr. CAO. Again, recognizing that mental health and addictions is not is not part of our purview, per se, it does have an impact on the services that we provide in terms of fire, paramedic, police, etcetera. So, again, is there from maybe even, perhaps, the Community Services perspective, discussions along those lines that help address the root cause or is there any plans for us to get into those types of discussions to maybe whether it's advise or work collaboratively with the Provincial Government, again, addressing the root cause? Again, lot of the discussion that I heard this morning during the delegations was around that and around the supports needed to help stabilize individuals so that they can be sheltered?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Jack.

Michael Jack: Through you, Madam Speaker; I do think, to Councillor Chambers' question, I think it's sort of inevitable and, frankly, planned that those issues that were just raised are going to be probably a fairly significant part of the overall discussion of the Province's taskforce/working group regarding homelessness. They…my counterparts there that are heading up that work are doing it thoughtfully and are very well versed in all of the intersections that one finds with someone experiencing homelessness. So, it's going to be, I am certain, and we can get better confirmation for you, but I'm certain it…those issues that have been raised will absolutely be discussed at that group.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Jack. That concludes our questions, and we'll get back to speaking time. Councillor Eadie, you're next.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm rising…I'll be voting to accept this as information, but I need to get some things on the…state in publicly here, Madam Speaker. I respect every human being's human rights. I want people to understand that. I also have a very deep understanding, Madam Speaker, of human trauma in my life. It's not easy, and many traumas lead to people ending up homeless. I almost became homeless in that…didn't have the money to pay the rent after I lost my eyesight. And I couldn't get any money from EIA or the City's social assistance at the time because I wasn't eligible, apparently. So, it was okay for me to get kicked out of my suite. I lucked out, though. But trauma is a very important thing to remember. And I've been listening to our poverty strategy, and we have people who have lived experience explaining the problems. And as I said, I have a lot of lived experience being homeless as well as with trauma, and so I just want people to understand that I have a respect for everybody out there, even those people…I have great respect for any human being. As long as they're not trying to hurt me, I have respect for them, and I respect their…their rights. Madam Speaker, the residents in my ward as well as the residents all across the city all have a right to be safe, to be housed, to not be threatened, to be able to enjoy what the City of Winnipeg provides for users of various services that we provide, like our parks and our transit shelters, which in the winter are very helpful. And so, Madam Speaker, it's not any one, you know, issue, but I was quoted at CJOB, and when I said that Street Links gets better results than Main Street Project, I didn't mean about actually the right to decent housing for those people who are living homeless, of which we know some are quite happy not being…having the responsibility of paying the rent and all the responsibilities that come with having your home. And so, there is that element out there, and they live out there, and there are people who are living out there who…not just because of COVID, but for various reasons; their income, there's a loss, they have no ability to afford. And I respect Mr. Whitford and everybody who works with End Homelessness and all that. But I just want to be clear, the results that I was talking was the results, for example, Holy Family right now, I've got a…there's people who have found that they're setting up their encampment behind Holy Family right by the sisters' home and where the residents and senior citizens live. And what's happening is, garbage is collecting. There is elements of crime happening where they're jumping fences. Senior citizens are feeling threatened when people are acting out when they're high, because most human beings don't act out in an inappropriate manner unless something's affecting them that needs to be dealt with, some root cause there, yeah. But the results I'm talking about is, is that because they've moved and maybe they've moved…people living in encampments to poor housing. And I know that it's happened and I know there's conditions where I hear of an apartment block where some people who were living in encampments are now and…but the garbage continues. Where is the garbage coming from? So, the neighbours have garbage; stinking, filthy, dirty garbage, Madam Speaker. Doesn't the people who live next door to these places have a right to a clean, safe, healthy place where they don't have to worry about stepping on a needle, Madam Speaker? As in our parks, in St. John's Park? If you look at the condition now, people are afraid to use it, the residents, the other side. So, the results I was talking about was the results for the people who want to utilize that transit shelter without being threatened, their right to live safe and healthy. This is the results I'm looking for. And yeah, just getting rid of transit shelters isn't the answer. I'm just going to conclude, though, by saying, don't demonize me. I have a better understanding than a lot of people about what's going on out there. And in the past, I have spent time out there, on my own, days, talking to people. There's a lot of trauma, a lot of addiction, friends

of mine. Some have died. Some are still out there. When I walk down the street, I respect those people, they respect me. They say, hi, you're doing a great job, councillor. Alls I'm trying to do in…when I was thinking about, well, maybe we should remove the shelter, but there are better answers. Actually, I like the idea of setting up yurts on City-owned land where, you know, it's not a park, and it's not going to intrude…intrude on people using what they have a right to; the park, and feel safe and to be able to bring their kids, Madam Speaker. I say, you know what, let's find the money, let's build some yurts. They're great places to live. Like, really, if I was living homeless, instead of sleeping under a bush in St. John's Park like I did when I was 14 years old, you know, a yurt would have been a great place. Would have been warmer, because it still gets cold at night. Anyway, I just want to make sure that people understand when I'm talking to them...and, oh, I need to mention this. We, the City, are in the garbage business. You see my enough is enough. So, there's this garbage collecting on our land, and it collects on private land next door to wherever, and it seems to collect around encampments. Do I want to accuse people? Like, it's there, it shows up and it's there all the time. Rather than having...we can't do the 311 thing now, like, hat we need to do...we, the City…we can't expect the social service agency, this city is in the garbage business. And we don't treat our garbage systems appropriately. Even our street bin collection, we won't add bins, why? Oh, well, we've got enough budgeted…budget to empty them and take care of them, we don't. The city has a high need tor garbage disposal bins maybe near where people are doing encampments. Wherever. They don't always use them though either, Madam Speaker, because we have…and they don't get emptied enough, but we have a lot of garbage on Selkirk Avenue. And some goes into the bins, and some doesn't. Anyway. Nobody wants to give me an extension, I want to conclude on it.

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

Councillor Eadie: Listen, we…if we're going to utilize this methodology for people who are living homeless, then we the City need to take responsibility for some of the outcomes around this. And we need to pay some people to clean. And believe you me, it's not as simply asking somebody to pick up. There are people living homeless out there who are actually collecting garbage that other people who are homeless are dumping. There are people that care, but you know what, Madam Speaker, there's just…like, some of this stuff, like, it's serious, very…it's dangerous work. Just ask the Green Team from North End BIZ with transit shelters last year. And it's…anyway, like, we, the City, we know what's happening. It's happening all the…like, I keep having to report garbage in a certain place. We know it's there. Send, hire, or whatever…hire more employees. Get some more employees. We operate...we've got three different departments who do solid waste. Three. They've got to get together and deal with this because there's a huge garbage problem all along this river from city hall right by here, Madam Speaker, in our parks, all along the river here, all the way up to St. John's Park, and all over other places. We, the City, it's our city. Us councillors, this is our city. We have a department, three departments that deal with garbage. Let's get it off there as fast as possible because that is a health hazard, as well, to all of our residents, including the ones who are homeless.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording me some closing time to speak to this matter. You know, when this motion was at IRPW, we heard from what the CAO has clarified, the expert on the east side of the Red River for 311. That's who 311 dispatches. And at that time, the position was reluctance to remove the shelter. Dialogue had been going on for more than a year with regards to that service provider, Madam Speaker. Then, we heard delegations...sorry. We heard delegations today talking about haste, that this was done in haste. Madam Speaker, I understand the sensitivities of what was proposed. I sought advice from the expert, and that was St. Boniface Street Links. Last week, I was the subject of a media request. Begrudgingly, I attended online because this media outlet…this interviewer has done this type of thing to me before. I was on the air and was told, Councillor Nason, you said you'd listen to the experts, and over the past week at EPC, we heard from the other half of the experts that the broad majority of the sector, and there are many. Well, the expert that I had been listening to changed their position entirely. And that's why we ended up on, you know, working with Councillor Rollins to have a notice of motion for next month. But to say that it was done in haste is challenging because trying to address something that's been going on for now probably more than a year and a half, likely more than two years, we've seen reports that have come in showing the high number of calls to 911 for this area. These are people that are hurting on our streets. And understand it is super complex. But I want to, again, reassure that this was not done in haste. This was trying to do this with consulting with what I perceived as an expert, some organization that we've entrusted as being a provider of services through 311. That we've contracted and are putting taxpayer dollars towards supporting. Taxpayers, employees, marginalized people that want to use transit, they want to get their shelters back. We're sitting at, I believe, and maybe the Chair can update us, I think it was at 48% of pre-COVID levels for transit ridership. Having concerns of our safety, as Councillor Klein has raised, these are not going to instill confidence to get back on to the transit buses. We need to work together, we need to pull in the same direction to try to improve the outcomes and future for those individuals suffering in the transit shelters. We also need to support those that are marginalized trying to use transit just to get by in an ever more expensive city. So, Madam Speaker, I appreciate that this is going to be received as information, but Madam Speaker, we are by no means done working trying to effect positive change in our city.

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

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I don't think that anybody believes that the removal of a bus shack is going to eliminate or even reduce homelessness, addictions, the problems we have in our city. The reality is, we are a municipal government. We need to provide safe services to the people that elect us, and that includes Winnipeg Transit. There are a lot of people that depend on transit for their regular trips, whether it's to work, whether it's for shopping, and the Kildonan Place area is a very important retail hub in northeast Winnipeg. Young mothers work there, families have to go shopping there. We've been very fortunate that Kildonan Place is regenerating itself right now and their vacancy isn't very…very high. Regional shopping centres across North America are closing down. Kildonan Place is reinventing itself with new movie theatres, new entertainment, new food courts, it's a destination. It's a testament to, I think, former Councillor Wyatt, Councillor Nason that the northeast part of Winnipeg, the Transcona West Secondary Plan, is bringing a lot of new people into this quadrant of the city, and businesses are responding by investing in the area. That can all go the other way. We need to be very serious about making sure that neighbourhoods for families are safe. Winnipeggers deserve to be safe in their communities and in their neighbourhoods and trip to the mall shouldn't be fraught with people fighting at a bus stop. Not that they want to fight, but they're not well. I understand that. They need…they need supports, but they can't be at the bus stop, they can't be at a bus shelter, I'm sorry. I mean, we have...let me take it back a step. New York City had major problems with crime and vandalism and graffiti and fare evasion on the transit system. They brought forward the broken window theory. The idea is, when people stopped caring about some of these little issues, whether it's fare evasion or graffiti or pan handling, it…it brings up more. Now, you go to the…that intersection by Stapon Road and Regent on a regular day, there's people on all three corners…four corners panhandling. We have a by-law. Why is that not being enforced? We have an anti…you cannot panhandle from somebody who is at…in a vehicle. It's against the law. These are the small types of things. In criminology, the broken window theory states that visible signs of crime, antisocial behaviour and civil disorder create an urban environment and encourage further crime and disorder, including serious crime. The theory suggests that policing methods that target minor crimes such as vandalism, loitering, public drinking, jaywalking and fare evasion help to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness. The theory became subject of debate both within the social services…social sciences and the public's fear. Broken windows policing has been enforced with controversial practices, such as high use of stop and frisk in New York City in the decade up to 2013. In response, they have brought forward broken windows policing that should not be treated as zero tolerance zealotry, but as a method that requires careful training, guidance and supervision and positive relationship with communities, thus linking it to community policing. That's the role I think Winnipeg has to play. We're not in a position to go and start creating housing units. As I've pointed out many times on this councillor floor, Family Services and Housing Department is a $3 billion plus operation in the province of Manitoba. That's unfortunate…you know, we don't have power over that. We shouldn't pretend to have power over that or we should…you know, creating an extra 100 housing units, that's not within our…our purview, in my mind. Our entire City of Winnipeg budget, again, income, including our water, utility and everything is around $1.8 billion, just to put in perspective. Again, I really think we have to do something. Trying, you know, one location removing the glass on a bus shelter is one thing, and again, enforcing our laws like not being allowed to panhandle and moving…to people in vehicles is another one. My understanding is, somebody died doing exactly that at that intersection. We can do more and we have to do more. Our residents expect that and demand that from us. We have people who are suffering, yes, but having them start spreading out and out throughout the entire city is not the solution. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I do want to thank all the people that participated in the discussion over the last number of weeks, including this morning, in particular. I'd like to thank Jacob Kaufman and to Jason and to Josh Brandon for their insights and their expression of their concerns. This issue is bigger than any individual, it's bigger than any single vote, any era of Council. It's bigger than any level of government. We're talking about something that expresses itself in one aspect: what the bus shelter is used for. This is just one small expression of a larger issue. So, here we are voting on something that I don't think we're going to solve today. This issue doesn't solve anything today no matter how you vote. The best thing it's done is bring about yet another wake-up call. And for that, despite what we're going through today, what we've been going through for the last few weeks, I'm grateful for that, just to listen this morning and to listen earlier to those who have spoken on what is an extremely sensitive issue and can't be ignored. Now, in this case, we're talking about a few bus shelters, we're talking about very few individuals and their human rights and their frame of mind and their existence cannot be trivialized. But the city, we as a City Council, we as a city as a whole, we have an absolute obligation to account for what's going on, and how we're making use of taxpayers' money. How we're taking care of our system. What our obligations our to our infrastructure and to our fellow citizens. We have to account for that. At least today I see discussion. I feel, and I'm not the only one, I feel I've been talking about this kind of thing my entire time since I've been elected. But it shows itself in different dimensions, and here we are, talking about what's the best thing to do for a bus shelter. There's lots to talk about. I don't have enough time. This is a gigantic issue. And I first of all, I want to talk about something positive. N'Dinawemak started up just at Christmas time. And I can't say that I was excited about it...in a sense, I'm going to admit, I'm kind of…I'm excited about N'Dinawemak which is just a few blocks

outside my ward. And in fact, I was so excited, you know, I talked to my fellow councillors in the area; Councillor Santos and Councillor Eadie, because something good is happening. And then Councillor Chambers just mentioned it, you know, he talked about low-barrier shelter service, and this…that's what it is and it's really important. Unfortunately, and it is so unfortunate, I believe we need more of that. We need more of the resources and the services that N'Dinawemak is providing, and that's really a sad thing to say. Now, I'm excited about the place. I've already visited there a few…a few times. I'm ready to go back…well, I'm making plans just…I go…I'm going…I go every couple of months. Well, I've got a friends that work there, and they mean a lot to me, and they mean a lot…they even mean more…more to other people. And that's…that's what's so worthwhile about it because we're talking about something that is, well, yeah, it's tragic that by virtue of circumstances, trauma, fate of life, that these people need this place, and I don't know where else they would go because as was pointed out today, you can't just show up. As Jacob Kaufman says, you just can't show up at Siloam Mission. You can't. But basically, you can at N'Dinawemak. So, we need more places like that. We need more Shirley Franks, we need more spatches. We need more Jacob Kaufmans. At the same time, we're talking about…because I believe shelter is a human right. I'm not the only one, basically we all do. But here we have, and this is a term I'd never heard until Councillor Orlikow used it a few months ago; a clash of human rights. And this is what we have here. We've got people that are very insightful and very professional that were able to represent the homeless people in making presentations. And it's really important that they did. And I'm really grateful for it. What we didn't see proportionately, they don't have that same level of empowerment...in terms of representation. And that doesn't mean it's unfair, these things happen in politics, but it's not like it's been ignored. But I do know something about the fragility of life for those people who have to take the bus every day, who live on minimum wage, and they have to take the bus even though they fall through the cracks and they don't get a discounted pass price. They still, for whatever reasons, they still have to pay their $6 a day, (inaudible) and they can't not…they can't really afford it. They can barely pay their rent, they can barely feed their family, but they've got no choice. And do you think these people that live their lives...and they don't…they're not going to have a pension. They know they don't have a pension. They know they won't be able to provide any money to their children for post secondary education. They're just getting by. And when they can no longer work, they don't know how they're going to live the rest of their lives, and that's a fact, and we're all in the same boat because we're dealing with the fragility of life and how we help people get through it. And I don't want to ignore anybody. And I have to tell you something, in the last half year, I've spent more time at N'Dinawemak than I have riding a bus. Just saying. So, what do I say to people that they can…what kind of lives are these people having that they can…they're on minimum wage. They won't be able to provide their children with post secondary education, university funding. They don't know how they're going to live their retirement. They have no money. And they're probably…maybe their paying renting, so they don't have a house to sell at the end of things. And these peoples' lives are fragile. And I think as Ross Eadie was kind of hinting, these people have traumas, too. And these people have depression, too. And these people have trials, too. And when it's -40 6:00 in the morning, and they've got to get to their industrial job, and there's…it's dark, and all they're asking for is 20 minutes in a heated shelter to get to that job and get back home, and I can't ignore that. I just can't ignore that, either. So, I don't want to ignore anybody. And a good point was mentioned today in terms of haste. It's true, I feel that we don't really deal with issues long-term, and we end up making all sorts of decisions in haste. Thank you.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise because I support in receiving this as information. I do not support removing shelters…bus shelters. I think…I think they're key. A) not all the time as they're people in these shelters, so I want to make that known. And I just also want to talk a little bit about from I heard from previous speakers and also what...I just want to make sure that people understand that just because people are homeless does not make them violent or scary or dangerous. I think I want to make sure we understand that because sometimes that's where we're going and that's not reality. So, there are cases where, you know, we do see violence occurs, and the City's got to deal with that, and they do. So, I do want to make sure that we are understanding that just because a person is homeless, sitting in a bus shelter, that doesn't mean that they are violent. So, I think that that's really critical that we understand that. We've heard from many different community groups that came here and talked about how we have a plan. End Homelessness has a plan. The City of Winnipeg is also working on that plan, and I'm very proud of the work that we have done as a Council. And part of that work is making sure...just making sure I'm looking at my notes here, making sure that we are supporting a reduction End Homelessness' plan. They want to reduce…end homelessness and they want to add 1,340 suites by 2025. The City is trying to exceed those targets by adding 1,500 suites. We are working really diligently. We have not a TIFF program that is looking at…a TIFF program that's going to be allowing for people to do affordable housing. We are also working on having $2 million that's for that low-barrier, that housing that they were…that End Homelessness was talking about, supportive housing that we are critical need. City is putting up $2 million for that. That could be up to $250 per…per project, but that also means that they're going to be able to qualify for other CMHC hosing grants. So, that's what we're doing. We're actually working in partnership with the Federal Government and with, you know, some grants through the Province in order to create those…that housing project. So, we're just being a partner, we're not doing it all, but we're committing. So, we heard from them that this plan has just started. We've just got on the ground. We're just starting. We're becoming a partner, and there are lots of things that we need to address, and I think that we clearly, I think, all agree, maybe it's a little different on how we're going to handle it, but I think we all agree that there's more work to do.

I just don't feel that addressing the bus shelters is going to solve the overall problem. I think that we do need to make sure that we have a conversation with the community out there, because when you see a homeless person, that doesn't mean you're in danger. And I really…like, we have to be...if we're going to be 1 million...you know, get to a million of people, we're going to have homeless people in our population and that's like what you see in Toronto and in Vancouver. And you know what? They're not so scary because there's so many other people around. When you see other people around, you're not afraid of things that you're not familiar with, right? And so, I just want to kind of change that dialogue because I think I've heard that here at Council today. I also know just because I do represent a ward that has lots of homeless people, and you know, people say they're in fear of coming downtown and stuff, but that's not the reality. So, do we got to do work to make sure that people do feel safe? Absolutely. And I think those can be addressed in different ways. So, let's change the dialogue. I think we're moving…we're moving forward as a city. We have done some work on really footing the groundwork, which is talking about housing, which is critical. We're doing a poverty reduction strategy. I think there's more to come on that, and you know, we're moving in the right direction. And I do think we need to have a greater conversation, and I liked what Councillor Eadie had to say. I think he talked a lot about that. Cleanliness is an issue, and we are responsible for garbage. And so, we have to have those conversations because that isn't about homelessness, that's about us just picking up the garbage, making sure that we're going in and cleaning out our bins on a regular basis, which, you know, many of us call 311 and are struggling to get done. So, those are conversations we have…we have to have. Those are probably budgetary conversations we're going to have to have. But at the end of the day, we have moved forward on some really great stuff that we as a Council have approved. And I want to, like, thank everybody here because everyone helped support the housing program. So, we're moving forward. We do need time to get up and running. We're having aches and pains, and I don't think that's any different than any other city out there. Let's move forward in a positive way, and let's be collaborative about it. And let's work with the community that's working with people that are on the ground that are…that are homeless, and let's listen to them and understand what we're hearing from the community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Gilroy. Seeing no further speakers, Councillor Allard, do you wish to close?

Councillor Allard: Call the question, please.

Madam Speaker: Okay. I'll call the question, please, on Item 1, just to receive it as information. All in favour? Contrary? Okay. That's carried. And Councillor Browaty is recorded in opposition. Next is Item 9, Madam Clerk.

Item 10 – Condition Improvement Measures for Cordite Road

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

Councillor Allard: I'll wait to hear from my colleague.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The reason why I pulled it is I…the community that…business community that raised it, it's only businesses that are affected by the absolute abhorrent condition of this road that hasn't seen any investment, albeit that we do grader training on it. MPI, apparently, is doing class…is it Class 1 truck driver training on it. MPI isn't located in the city of Winnipeg, it's actually in the RM of Springfield, but use this road. The business community had looked to have an opportunity to see and hear and, hopefully, see, again, a motion that would tell them that something's going to be done about this road. And I know we passed as part of our motion something on this very topic: the granular roadway improvements, but it wasn't amend…I know I didn't amend it because we had our own separate motion specific to this. I didn't know this one is coming. So, I…you know, receive as information, what is being done to improve the condition of a quagmire of a roadway that is hostilely affecting business? This report is another do-nothing report. So hopefully, the Chair might have some explanation of…to receive it as information. I don't have the time to go back because I've been working as 311.

Councillor Allard: Madam Chair, I'm wondering if we can move automatic referral on this item? Like, refer back to committee.

Madam Speaker: Okay. It's Councillor Nason's time to address Council.

Councillor Allard: Okay, when do I get to do that, then?

Madam Speaker: You've already spoken. We'll continue with Councillor Nason. Yeah. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: Thank you. Again, and that's part of the challenge, Madam Speaker, with our…with the way our reports are…are manufactured. If I don't go back and watch…if I don't go back and watch the actual recording, I'm not sure what was discussed. I have one of my colleagues that thinks, because it was a huge agenda that day, well over 40 items, believes that this matter may have been something that received as information, but the director's going to talk to you. Okay, well, you know, that's not really directing action. Taxpayers are paying money, not receiving services, so they're looking for something. They're looking for action. They were disappointed when they attended that standing committee because unfortunately, again, it was a huge agenda. Lots of speakers that day. My fault, again, but we had…had to have them wait for hours and in fact, I think when it got to their time in the delegation, it was after our lunch break. So, it ended up forcing a further delay. So, they were frustrated. So, I hope their points got across, but you know, if the Chair is wanting to refer it back, if somebody is referring it back for more wholesome discussion, perhaps an amending motion to make some positive action that's documented, I think that's a better way than just simply receiving it as information. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, you raised your hand?

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, point of order. I move to refer this back to the IRPW committee. Yeah, because you introduced the…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie moves referral of Item 9 back to the standing policy committee. All in favour? Item 10. Item 10. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. That concludes reports under this committee. By-laws, Councillor Allard.

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

Councillor Allard: Boy. I had put it in a special place. I do have it. Okay, I introduce item 4...no, it's not that? Yes. I move that By-law No. 67/2022, By-law No. 68/2022 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 67/2022, By-law No. 68/2022.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yeah, so I move that By-law Nos. 67/2022 and 68/2022 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 67/2022 and 68/2022.

Councillor Allard: And then I move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 67/2022 and 68/2022 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 Allard? Councillor Eadie.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, we just referred the Cordite Road issue. Madam Speaker, I'd like to know…and I know one of the businesses who moved there some years ago, Madam Speaker. In getting a report back on Cordite Road, I'd like to know how many businesses are actually adjacent to Cordite Road, which is a local industrial road, not a regional road. So, I'd like to get an idea of that because, I mean, local improvements are how roads got paved in our other industrial areas like the Dufferin. So, if he could find that out for me.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will endeavor to get the answer from the Public Service.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you to the Chair; of course, 2022, we had the enhanced summer bike route program which will speed limits on 15 different streets reduced to 30 kilometres as a pilot from May to November, as well as a series of site-specific traffic calming measures in place throughout July and August and on weekends throughout of the months of May, June, September and October. I've received several calls from residents in my ward, especially on Kilkenny and Kings Drive, that are indicating that the reduced speed zones are not being monitored or enforced and pedestrians as a result are much more vulnerable in the senses that they have an expectation that these zones are being monitored. And if cars…if they're actively walking on the street and cars are still whizzing by at a speed of 50 or in excess of 50, that they become more vulnerable as a result. Through you to the Chair, Madam Chair…sorry, through you, Madam Speaker, to the Chair; I'm asking what measures are being undertaken to ensure that there is compliance in the area and that enforcement is being met?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to the councillor; I have hearsay that unmarked vehicles are stopping people on the streets. In order to get the confirmation about activities from the Winnipeg Police Service as the police service does not report to Council, I would encourage the Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board to endeavour to find that information. I would love to see more enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act, in general. Generally, when I go out, whether I'm walking, whether I'm taking the bike, whether I'm driving, or whether I am on the bus or a passenger, I see many, many violations of the Highway Traffic Act, whether it is in 30 kilometre an hour…30 kilometre an hour zones or, really, any other street or…or road where the police is responsible for enforcement. So, I would love to see more and I think the 30 kilometres an hour is one of many places we need to see enforcement. I would hazard a guess that the highway…the high-speed roads are actually where the risks are even greater at 80 kilometres an hour and would welcome any any further enforcement from the police service.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I receive many, many e-mails, maybe this e-mail came, I may have missed it. But recently, the Province, in theory, gave the City, I believe, $9 million of such for roads, to improve roads. I've not heard any update on where that's at, what's happening, what's going on with it, so can you enlighten us, through you, Madam Speaker, to the Chair?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Yes. I would invite the councillor to ask the interdepartmental…sorry, the intergovernmental person, who is the Mayor, to answer these types of question. Though I do know that Councillor Browaty is in receipt of some direct communication from the Province of Manitoba. I think that's my understanding. I do not have that information. I do understand that we do have money, that it is for roads, and we're looking for clarification in terms of the exactly what a road is, which can be a matter of debate at times.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That concludes question period. Next committee, standing policy...did you have a question? Okay, Councillor Nason, final…final speaker.

Councillor Nason: Thank you. I had actually thought there was more questions coming. We're just getting through the…well, we're not through the pothole season. I see them regularly, including transiting through the Chair's ward. I'm just wondering, we see the big numbers of potholes filled, I'm wondering if the Chair can articulate how many more outstanding to be filled.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Nason; I think there's been around 8,000 311 enquiries about potholes. Many more potholes were filled. In order to have an understanding of how many potholes are to be filled, we would likely need some type of actuarial projection in terms of how many potholes are out there because we don't have a complete inventory of the potholes that are currently there. If the councillor has any idea in terms of how we might quantify that or report on that, I'd be interested in hearing what the councillor has to…has to say.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm just quickly trying to bring up the e-mail that we had. Yeah so, on Friday, the 17th.

Madam Speaker: The question?

Councillor Nason: Of the 122,371 potholes that have been filled in 2022, how many of those are one time, two times, or three times?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Excellent question. I'll endeavour to find the information from the Public Service if it has not already been provided.

Madam Speaker: Final question.

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Of the 122,371 potholes, could the Chair articulate how those actually got into the system if we don't have an actuarial approach to it?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Allard.

Councillor Allard: Excellent question, Madam Speaker. I, too, had that question at one point. It was confirmed by then chair of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works that the way to quantify the number of potholes is based on the amount of material used by our Infrastructure and Public Works Committee. And so, it is, basically, I think a ballpark figure based on the amount of materials used in terms of how many times they've been filled. I'd have to…I'd have to get back to the Public Service to see how many were repeat…repeat pothole fills. As the councillor may know, at the time, if the conditions are too wet or too cold, we need cold mix. Cold mix is not as good as hot patch and in the event where we use cold mix, we may need to go back to the location. I can also confirm that there have been many more potholes fill this year as of this approximate time of the year relative to other years given that there's been so many more potholes and there's been a focus on regional and arterial roads in order to ensure that the largest number of people could be served with that service.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As Councillor Allard alluded, Councillor Nason asked my excellent questions already, and I look forward to the answers. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Moving onto the next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Finance. Councillor Browaty. On the report dated June 13th.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATED JUNE 13, 2022

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that the report…introduce the report and move adoption of consent agenda Item 1.

Councillor Nason: Point of order, do we not have by-laws as part of IRPW?

Madam Speaker: They were done.

Councillor Nason: Oh, sorry.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Nason: Drifting off. My apologies.

Madam Speaker: Call the question on Item 1. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. No motions, no by-laws. We'll have question period. Any questions for Councillor Browaty, the Chair? Councillor Klein.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Klein: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you to the Chair; in reviewing some of those financial reports that we just passed, I'll note that the inflation data just released for Manitoba is 8.7%, which is actually higher than the Canadian average, but in the financials, the City is presenting only a 4% increase in inflation. So, I'm just wondering if, through you, Madam Chair…or Madam Speaker, that the Chair could tell us, did they plan on altering the inflation in which their, I would say, predicting for the future months, or are they going to maintain it at 4% and just make up for it at the end of the year?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you. Through you to Councillor Klein; of course, inflation is a major problem this year. The forecasting numbers for the prices of fuel and a number of other items. We still have projects getting out there that are being tendered and some of them are coming back above budget amounts. One thing to remember – a very, very large percentage of the City of Winnipeg's expenses are actually salaries. And collective agreements, you know, have projected, you know, annual increases, but those are several years in advance. So, at the moment, some of those being fixed, we won't necessarily see the full effects of inflation on us immediately.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Klein, second question.

Councillor Klein: Well, still kind of waiting for an answer on the first one. Are we going to adjust it or are we not going to adjust it to the higher amount? Are we going to stick at the 4% or are we going to what the actual inflation rate is?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Again, quarterly updates will reflect changes as the year goes on. This is, again, for the first few months of the year. Again, if the last three months we've seen…experienced higher than that, we will have to make adjustments, I assume, based on those results.

Madam Speaker: Final question, Councillor Klein.

Councillor Klein: Actually, this would be question number two, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: It's question number three.

Councillor Klein: I challenge the Chair on that. Sorry.

Madam Speaker: Well, you restated your second question.

Councillor Klein: I didn't restate it, I said I was still waiting for the answer on it.

Madam Speaker: Let's proceed.

Councillor Klein: Page 90 of the 2021 Financial Annual Report under communications, reserve funds have dropped by 25% the last year. $90 million down from $413 to $325. Most coming from the environmental reserve, which I asked a question about last Council, never received an answer on. What is the plan to replenish the reserves back to the $90 million that has been siphoned out?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty?

Councillor Browaty: I will endeavour to get Councillor Klein a response to that question by e-mail the next couple of days. I do believe, though, the point of those reserves was to make the price of the water and sewer bills sort of not jump as soon as we get the bills to build the North End treatment plant, but rather…rather than, we sent those reserves up to actually build the upgrades that were needed for the North End plant. So, we started charging progressively more on the water and sewer bill to reflect that, you know, we're going to have these large capital outlays. They were not ones that needed to be replenished, but ones to be spent once the bills were coming in for those upgrades.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Klein, final question, we're not going to arm wrestle today.

Councillor Klein: I would like Councillor Santos to sub for me if we are, if that's in order. Is that possible? No? Okay. Last question is, through you, Madam Speaker – and thank you for the indulgence. Could we have assurance from the Chair that we will get that answer in writing and sent to all members of Council?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty?

Councillor Browaty: Through you to Councillor Klein; yes, in writing and in good time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, I saw some hands over here. Councillor Nason.

Councillor Nason: I just assumed it was going to be me. So, thank you, Madam Speaker. With respect to debt and borrowing; you know, we talk about inflation, Madam Speaker, but interest rates are rapidly climbing. The City, I believe, has a debt of somewhere in the range of $1.7 billion. I'm just wondering what the impact of what's perceived as a…going to be a rapidly raising interest rate will have on the City's debt borrowing?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: I thank Councillor Nason for the question. Through you to Councillor Nason; I can try to get some additional information for him. Perhaps that would be an item of discussion at the next Finance meeting.

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

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, it's just kind of follow-up to different answers. So, the first question I have is, just to be clear, the 4% inflation projection from our City people, that's internal inflation and not the external inflation we hear for Manitoba under the CPI?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, through you to Councillor Eadie. I can confirm. I will find out and confirm for you. I don't know.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question, yes.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, my second question is; aren't the interest rates on our existing debentures that were issued already set and not subject to change over the period of the debentures?

Councillor Browaty: Thank you. Through you to Councillor Eadie; that is my understanding. I can also reconfirm that. It is also my understanding that in 2022, it does not appear that, you know, for various capital and that, that we need to make any debt offerings, is my understanding. I believe we're in a position that that's not required in calendar year 2022. So, you know, I guess there are various strategies about how we take on our debt, perhaps we could do a combination of shorter term and longer term. Again, we have the professionals in the Finance Department that can determine the best way to manage those debt.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Sure, thank you, Madam Speaker. Good question and answer. Makes me ask about something Councillor Klein was…asked about inflation rates and when we're going to have the actuals. Councillor Browaty made the point that given collective agreements go on for years, we have to take that into account. Given all this, is it not safe to say, given that we know what the collective agreement increases are for four years in advance, given we also know the history of construction inflation too and the capital…the capital budget increases, is it not safe to say, at least to account for the people of Winnipeg, that the collective agreement increases are lower than the City of Winnipeg budget increases?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Well, I mean, the collective agreement increases are what were negotiated at the bargaining table by, I think, that's…is it less than the current inflationary rates in the city of Winnipeg? Yes, it would be.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Browaty: Or I shouldn't say that across the board, but I think generally speaking, the answer…generally speaking, I think the answer across the board is yes. My apologies.

Madam Speaker: Next question.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, and I can't…I'm not allowed to thank Councillor Browaty for his answer, I don't think. Nonetheless, in…Councillor Browaty, since he is the Dean of Council, in his time here, has he ever known the collective agreements to be higher…the increase in collective agreements to be higher than the general increase in the City budget?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you. Through you to Councillor Schreyer; I'd have to get back to him with that information.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next committee, our Chair is getting some water and he's back. Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment. Councillor Mayes on the report dated June 7th, 2022.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE, RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATED JUNE 7, 2022

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. I'll introduce the report dated June 7th, 2022 and move consent agenda Items 3 and 4.

Madam Speaker: Okay, you're pulling 1 and 2?

Councillor Mayes: Yes.

Madam Speaker: Yes. Okay, 1 and 2 has been pulled. I'll call the question on 3 and 4. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Item 1.

Item 1 – Award of Contract for Front Load Collection of Solid Waste in the North West Area of Winnipeg – Tender No. 813-2021

Madam Speaker: Councillor Mayes to introduce Item 1.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. Of the two items, this probably deserves a bit less time than the other, so I'll try and be relatively brief on this one. It's relatively straightforward, paragraph one; the award of a contract for multi-family garbage collection that's actually going to go all the way into the year 2030. So, long contract. Why pull it? Paragraph number two; because by awarding this contract we…means we will have no ability to do a pilot project with in-house workers for either garbage or recycle collection prior to the award of the big garbage recycle city-wide contracts coming in…that debate will be in 2024. You may remember, Madam Speaker, a lot of to-ing and froing back in 2016 when we moved forward to do the award for two zones for garbage and recycle pick-up. Lots of debate with CUPE, Labour Council about the RFP, provisions in the RFP, grievances filed. Many years have gone by, many different solutions, then a new set of grievances. There has been a settlement to the grievance, that's about all I can say and according to our legal counsel. But the result is, we will not be able to do a pilot project with in-house workers, which was the device to try and see if this would save money or not. So, this is, of course, separate from the pilot project on compost, organics, that's rolling along. We'll conclude fairly soon and then we'll get the results. This is the other thing, the pilot project on garbage and recycle that isn't going to take place. What then to do to avoid a repeat in 2024 of what we went through a little bit in 2012, I remember, and certainly we went through in 2016? So, paragraph number two; we're asking the Public Service to come back with a report by the end of '23 looking at jurisdictions such as Ottawa and Calgary where there's a mixed model and it's not all contracted out, it's not all done in-house. I certainly visited Ottawa, met with management, the mayor, the union, whole bunch of different folks several years ago to look at that Ottawa model. Two of the five zones in Ottawa are done in-house. However, the local CUPE bargaining agent did agree to a series of concession in order to make that cheaper, basically, more affordable, though using in-house workers. That's a debate to be had, but Council of the day, the next Council, will need some of that information before the RFP goes out instead of the way we did it last time, which was having this long battle here on the floor of council and at committee after the staff came back with their recommendations. So, there will be a debate. It will be armed with some data, hopefully, some provisions on what things cost, how it's going in Ottawa and other cities. Then, the Council can say, okay, let's have three zones instead of two, and the centre of the city will be done with CUPE workers, and you've got a year to get ready. Or they may say something completely different; all one zone or two zones. But at least this time, the elected officials will be armed with some data to make that decision about how we're going to go forward before we go forward instead of like last time when we had me arguing with Councillor Allard and Councillor Schreyer and

others and Councillor Gerbasi was with me and round and around it went. Very unfortunate debate. Hopefully, we will avoid that the next time for those of us who are here. So, that's paragraph two. Let's get some research, get it in by '23 because the great debate will take place in '24 because the current contracts expires, you remember, in January of '25. So, that's why this one is pulled is to explain paragraph two.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. I, too, look forward to the debate. In Ottawa, there was a good debate between the zones, as Councillor Mayes says, Madam Speaker. And there was actual good math discussed at Council. I'm concerned about levels of service. I'm concerned when private providers don't pick up garbage for weeks as happened…as has happened in some back lanes due to, you know, the inherent conflicts of their trucks not wanting to go down and perhaps, the City charging them if they further damage fences and potholes, etcetera. And so, I'm concerned with the basic level of service when residents are not getting their garbage picked up because there is this inherent conflict of us and them. And so, I'd like to see the debate, and this motion allows us to do exactly that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Councillor Mayes to close, if you wish.

Councillor Mayes: That's good. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: I'll call the question on Item 1. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 2 – Annual Report on the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Master Plan

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: I will have a close on this one. This is a bigger ticket item. This is sometimes confused with…understandably, this is a…potentially a $2 billion item. It is to be distinguished from the $2 billion now in budgeted work for the North End…North Winnipeg, Councillor Eadie would want me to say, North Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Plant. So, this is a separate thing, this is the CSO work, combined sewer. Roughly 30% of the city of Winnipeg utilizes combined sewer. It's the older parts of the city. It occasionally frustrates me when I read these articles saying, all the costs to the city's base are all due to newer development. Well, no, even if you had stopped developing in 1971, you'd still have all these problems because you've got an older set of pipes that have to be replaced. So, combined sewer system is roughly 30% of the city, roughly the pre-1960 parts of the city. So, the report that you see in front of you is an annual report. It talks about the work that's being done today. It's interesting, in a sense, in that it isn't always we get a certain amount of money and we spend that in a year. There's a bunching and spreading effect. You sometimes save it up to do a certain amount of work. A couple of things worth highlighting there. This used to be in the budget. If you go back ten years, it's confusing because it used to be a basement flooding line item. And Councillor Rollins has talked about basement flooding in her area. It used to be a basement flooding item and a combined sewer item. They were combined. We've been spending roughly $30 million a year for sometime. Councillor Gillingham has been almost insanely generous in giving me credit for the coming increase in the budget that's going to go from $30 to $45 million per year. That is something that was in this most recent budget. Proud of that. 2024, '25, '26, '27, we're going up by 50% in each of those years to $45 million. So, a major increase, a major commitment in my favourite of the many combined sewer districts, the Armstrong combined sewer district up in Councillor Eadie's ward. So, that…the work tends to be done in certain districts where you get the most bang for the buck. The most increase in our capture rate, that's where we're going first. So, there's no politicization of it. We've been in Cockburn-Calrossie, we've been doing quite a bit of stuff in Councillor Gillingham's ward, we're on to Armstrong, I think, next year. There's some green infrastructure work as part of that. So, big projects coming. I was driving my son to tennis, and we drove past Rutland, and I began saying with great excitement that Rutland (inaudible)…the big Rutland project that is coming, and he feigned interest in that for a moment or two. But yeah, there are these big projects that are coming, tens of millions of dollars in different parts of the city for combined sewer work. So, that's…that's what's going on the year-to-year side, what…and I'll…when my close I'll talk some more about the second part of this, but really, what the amendment that was made at committee was to say, let us not target 2095 as the completion date, let us target 2045 as the completion date. Now, where do those numbers come from? Roughly five years ago, the Province gave us four options and said, you've got to do something, here are four options. We presented four options back in 2017, the then minister, Rochelle Squires, I think to her credit, said, you can do the least expensive of those options, it's not going to separate everything, it's going to get 85% capture, but you're going to do it in 20 something years, not 30 as the City proposed. Actually, we criticize the Province a lot, I've praised the then minister for this before and I will again. It's a pretty good decision, I thought. So, Province says be done by 2045. My friend Rob Altemeyer (inaudible) the critic said, you've got to be quicker than that. Unfortunately, the City staff came back with a report that we did not vote in 2019. It is a hefty 1,322 pages, it's big. It was filed on time. It laid out three scenarios, one of which was we would be done on time but only if we got $30 million a year from each of the province and the feds. I won't get into option two. The unfortunate scenario three was, well, if we just keep chugging along at $30 million a year, we'll be done by 2095.

There's like a whole chart that lays out which years will be done. And it is Councillor Allard's ward that's done last, ending dramatically in 2095. I don't want that on my conscience, on my resume, when I leave this term of office. So, I moved at committee to rescind that. Tim Shanks is terrific, who's our new Director said, you're essentially rescinding math, councillor. If we keep spending $30 million a year, and you've got to spend $2 billion, it's 70 years…72 years. So, you can't really rescind that. It's not what I really want to do, says the Director, it's just math. Fair enough. But what we don't have is any report from the staff saying, if we have to go it alone – if we have to go it alone – what does that mean to get done by 2045? We need that sort of research. We need to have a serious discussion, or the new Council does, about what the implications are for the water rates, the sewer rates. If we have to go it alone, this is how we're going to put less raw sewage into the rivers. This is the program. I think most people want that. At what cost do they want it? At what speed do they want it? That's a good debate for the coming Council and to see what priority it is. So, hence the amendment made at the committee. Very good work by the Clerks to come up with something that we could all agree with. My thanks to Clerk Cowan on that. So, the idea was, we're not rescinding anything, we're just going to say, let's aim for 2045, which is the provincial deadline. How we're going to pay for that, well, the next Council is going to have to have that debate, but we do need to, I think, accord with what the Province is saying, and there is merit in aiming for 2045. To date, I've been told things like, well, it's going to take…we've had meetings with certain staff saying, well, it's going to take so long because it's going to cost so much, and then a few minutes later, it's going to cost so much because it's going to take so long. It's like, well wait a minute, A can't cause B and in turn, be the cause of A. Like, this is circular. So, I think we need to break down what it will actually cost and how quickly we can pay for it. I'll come back to that in my close what it will actually cost. But frankly, to have a target date of 2095, as I said at committee, there are things that take that long to build. You know, 13th century cathedrals, maybe. Councillor Schreyer liked that. And actually, Chartres Cathedral actually took only 58 years to build, now it's 70, so even 13th century cathedrals didn't take 70 years. We can't take 70 years plus to do this program. I can't imagine anything else we're doing that would take that long. In fact, there's one report that suggests the first pipes will wear out by the time you get around. It'll never get done in that sequence. So, let's aim for what the Province has mandated. It is reasonable, 2045. It will take more...it's math. You've got to spend more and more quickly. That's not hard. I'll come back to that in my close, but I do think for our consciences, for the environment, for our children, for our children's children, we should not be aiming for 2095, we should be aiming for 2045. Thank you.

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

Councillor Eadie: I just wanted to rise, Madam Speaker. We did hear in committee that that is the Public Service's goal, is 2045 when we were talking about the projects of the numbers and so on and so forth, Madam Speaker. And it is and will be about the water bill payers. And the thing is about the CSO and then we talk about the North End sewage plant…North Winnipeg's sewage plant. But anyway, we're talking huge pressure on the water bill payers who pay both water and sewer on there. Pay for lots of capital, taking on the debt…well, debt related to the sewage plant or any debt. I don't think we're…we're not using debt for CSO, I don't think. So, in those terms, there's not going to be the payback, but, you know, like getting a loan means it will be more than just the cash cost at the time to undertake the work. And it's interesting in how you project how much money has to be spent, Madam Speaker, and we learned a lot at the committee meeting about what it means when they're estimating and it's all kind of classified and everything sort of changes. You really don't get what the real cost is. But in this plan, I believe the estimate required for Jefferson east, Madam Speaker, what they're…they're coming in under what the projected cost was when they were just guesstimating it some years ago. And so, that's important progress, but who knows what…hopefully, we're not going to go through the late '70s early '80s inflationary period where everything went way up in cost, including debt. So, anyway, I'll just…and that's the problem with going…projecting to 2045 or 2095, Madam Speaker, is how do we deal with that? I know that the Public Utilities Board, if we were subject to that when we went for our water bills, they would put great inspection over those various different expenditures that make up the water rates that we pay here in Winnipeg. So, anyway, I just wanted to mention that. And I, too, stand and applaud Councillor Mayes for him pushing this because it is really important. And one of the things I would point out that, we did have a program in the past where we subsidized sump pumps and back up valves because these combined sewer systems do back up, as well. And that is still…was a condition in Jefferson east, Madam Speaker, for many houses because there was still a lot of people who didn't take up getting those credits to install those kind of devices that protect you from that…from the sewer back up. So, the CSO is solving that problem in Jefferson east, as well. It's solving the problem of raw sewage flowing into the Red River.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm also on the standing committee. And our Chair, Councillor Mayes, has been talking about this for a while. And his frustration with the time, he really explained a chronology today. No one explains a chronology better than Councillor Mayes when it comes to what we do at city hall. Comparing all the way down to 13th century cathedrals, that is an extraordinary chronology, but it did make a point, and that…and that is the idea that this would take till 2095 really does make you sort of question logistics and question the timeline. So, I am in support of this, but I do so with trepidation. It's been said around this council chamber, not just here, but because of the difference between construction costs and essentially…in the rest of society, in the rest of government budgets, it change at the such

a rate, unlike our collective agreements of City workers, that when you forecast into the future, if we were to forecast the inflation rate, we can't right now because we're in flux. But generally, we do know that for the…for 30 years and more, I always go 30 years because that's what our previous CAO used as a benchmark. 1987, as an example. That until COVID, for 30 years, we had a rather reliable era in which you could count on the cost of construction to be notably higher than that of the other costs of the city budget. Other levels of government, as well. So primarily the city budgets because of the nature of a city budget dealing with infrastructure and certain limited city services. However, when you have over a period of 30 years and more, when it looks like it's just a little bit higher, let's say collective agreements have been at 3% but construction's been at 6%, well, it sounds like only 3%, but when you add that up, it's actually not an addition, it is a geometric progression. And so, when you have 3% increase higher than the increases of your city budget...of your city workers' budget, which is a greater indication, as a matter of fact, of most workers. Also, of the consumer price index. Also, the minimum wage. Those increases aren't much larger. Construction costs are. The city budget surely increases. But when it's a difference of 3…2%, 3% every year for 30 years, after 30 years, an increase of 5% for construction would be like a 50% increase in one year for city workers. We've never seen an increase of 50% for city workers, but after 30 years of that relative larger increase for construction budget relative to our collective agreement budget, that's what it comes to. That's just math. That's just the reality of it. So, bear that in mind. So why am I saying this now when we're talking about moving something from 2095 to 2045? Something, actually, related to what Councillor Allard said earlier today. He made the point, and it's one way to look at it, and I understand this, but it's not that simple for me. But he does make the point, because we know that construction costs are only going to get higher relative to our ability to pay for it, relative to the cost of the increase of income of taxpayers. Therefore, there is an argument; get it done while you can because the more you wait, the longer…the more it's going to cost relative to people's income, relative to the ability to pay tax by the people that pay for us to be here, that pay for our government, pay for everything. And so, we're in a dilemma, and I've got to admit...look, I'm supporting the motion. I'm voting for the motion, I'm just saying that we still have to be vigilant in terms of…we haven't dealt in the seven and a half years, almost eight years I've been here, I haven't…I haven't been able to vote for a budget because I can't say that the budget gives true indication that we're trying to solve the problem because I know you can't solve the problem unless you understand it. But we don't really talk about it. We talk about the word inflation like that's the reason, that's the answer. No, that's the question: what's caused the inflation? And until that time, until we ask that question and get answers, we're not dealing. And I understand this is bigger than the city of Winnipeg. I've never implied otherwise. Never…this is bigger than any one politician, one…one level government. It's bigger than any one country, quite frankly. But I'm still a city councillor, and it's still my job to account to people, to account to the taxpayer why their taxes are going up but the services are going down and why their taxes are going up higher than their incomes and their salaries and wages for decades, before COVID. So, the problem is, this is just an economic reality, I'm not blaming the motion, I'm supporting the motion, but in so doing, I have to accept the fact that when you actually speed up construction contracts, that unto itself creates inflation. And there are certain things we need to deal with, and we can't escape certain environmental realities. So, we have a conflict, in a sense, between environmental sustainability and economic sustainability. And quite frankly, in our industrial age, you can't deal with one without the other. Or if we are, if that's what we're doing here, what are we saying about it? We have to deal...it's our obligation. I have 1:10 left. I won't ask for an extension, but there's more to talk about another time. And so, on that basis, as we move forward on putting more resources into…into…into a certain infrastructure effort, construction effort, and that is the combined sewer overflow, which I…which I agree with. We should speed this up. It will cause unto itself a certain amount of inflation compounded on that which already exists and which is already happening most recently. We are in flux right now. We don't know to what extent these inflation rates are going to maintain. One would make an argument that once these fluxes are over in terms of supply chain and in terms of recovering from the COVID economy that there should be some deflation in certain industries. Why not? In a logical economy, wouldn't there be deflation sometimes? I'll leave it at that. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Councillor Mayes, back to you for close.

Councillor Mayes: Alright. In the pre-radio era, people used to, after dinner, have their party piece that they present to sort of entertain the crowd. So, I kind of feel this is my party piece on CSO. There's no singing. Thanks, John. What will it cost? What will it cost? Why do we use $2.3 billion instead of $1.15 billion? The answer, interestingly, is not construction inflation, that's not in the 1,322 pages. It's a good report, but it says, all of this is costed 2019 dollars. So, it's projected to go from the original estimate of 1.15 to 2.3, not due to construction inflation. That will be a separate debate. Why then? Why 1.15 to 2.3? If you go through that report, you will see numerous references to that's what the City demands. It's a Class 5. The AACE guidelines mandate that we double it. 100% contingency. Okay. My problem two-fold: number one; other big hundreds of millions of dollar plans we've approved. Notably, rec strategy. Notably, Transit Master Plan. Haven't done that. We've had people standing right there saying, we built-in a 30% contingency on transit because that's what the consultants were comfortable with. So, we have to have some standardization between these programs worth hundreds of millions of dollars and what the contingency is, otherwise, it just becomes…it seems much cheaper to do the transit plan, when in reality, a lot of this is just contingency being built in. So, the plan says 100% contingency, but then, in ploughing through it, and I was so excited when I saw this I ran down the hallway to show Councillor Gillingham, who feigned interest or may actually have been interested. Page 301…page 301 of the 1,322 will be my favourite page because it says, well, we had a number and we added 30% in design contingency. Then we added the additional 100%. So, you've

got this sewer program here, the combined sewer program, building in 30%, then another 100%, unlike say, transit where there's just a 30% contingency. So, we really need to standardize. What does it mean? Well, what it means is, maybe it isn't a $2 billion program. Maybe it's a $1.5 billion program because we've built in this mess of contingency. Maybe you can use my math and say $60 million a little over 20 years, we could be home. We could be home if it's $1.15 billion with $60 million a year, not 2095, but much closer to 2045. Councillor Eadie has pre-empted my argument, which is, what is the experience to date? He's right, at Jefferson east, we voted on it here at Council, April of 2020. The bid on Jefferson east work, 20.8% below the estimate. Not 30%, not 100%, not 130% higher, 20.8% below the pre-work estimate. So, our experience to date is fortunately pretty good. The bids are coming in under what we estimated. So, we can sit here and throw our hands up and be defeatists and talk about, well, it's going to be $2 billion, we need 70 years. A) I don't think we need 70 years. B) I think that the math would suggest, maybe it's not going to be $2 billion. We've built in a massive contingency and this isn't easy work. This isn't building a concrete box, this is some complicated stuff, I acknowledge that. I'm no engineer, but then when the next Council comes to weigh up and measure this program versus that program, let's at least be comparing apples to apples here. We can't be building in 130% contingency on one big capital program and 30% on something else. It completely biases the argument. So, it's a…it's a huge project, it's a huge undertaking, it's a generational undertaking. It will help the lake, it will certainly help the rivers. We owe it to our…the environment and the generations to aim for '45, not '95. But if I can leave here leaving some impression, we're calling it a $2.3 billion program because we've built in this huge contingency because the consultants say over and over again, yeah, well, that's what the City mandates, that's what we have to do is build in that huge contingency. Well, in reality, if that's the case, and it's a good report, then we should be building that on transit, on rec, and on other strategies. And again, the experience to date is not that we're over, but that we're under. So, we have…we have an opportunity here, I think, to send a message, really, to the future and to our…to the next Council to say this...this needs to be seriously debated. We can't just throw our hands up in the air and say it's going to take 70 years. So, I hope to have everyone's support for this, and I hope…I hope to have left some impression that maybe it's $2 billion, maybe, but I think to date, the experience would suggest, no, it isn't and that we can…we can measure it up against other programs with some confidence. So, thank you and hopefully we can all agree that 2045's the target and not 2095.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. I'll call the question on Item 2. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now have question period under this committee. And questions for Councillor Mayes? Thank you. Next committee, Standing Policy Committee on Innovation and Economic Development. We'll go right into question period. Questions for Councillor Chambers? Councillor Nason up first.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And it's…I always joke with the...trying to remember if it's the prior Chair or prior, prior Chair about the lack of reports that come to Council for this committee. But on the economic development front as we, you know, slowly start to see people coming back to downtown, I'm wondering if the Chair can articulate if he's heard from Economic Development Winnipeg or the business community, anything with regards to the concerns over safety in the downtown core?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you…thank you, Madam Chair. And through you to the councillor; yes, I have been briefed by Economic Development Winnipeg with respect to downtown safety. I've also spoken with entities like the Winnipeg Downtown BIZ, Kate Fenske, not only in my role as Chair of Innovation and Economic Development, but also, in role as Chair of Winnipeg Police Board, I do listen the concerns of whether it's businesses or residents that are living in the downtown area and the safety concerns that prevail. From the perspective of my role as Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board, there is a strategy to deal with downtown safety with the increase of foot patrols that was initiated in 2020, especially along the transit corridor on...on Graham Avenue. And it's an ongoing discussion in terms of how we support the downtown area in terms of safety strategies and welcoming workers back to their offices in the downtown area, in my role as Chair of Innovation and Economic Development.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm just wondering if, you know, if the Chair might be able to provide me with what the current vacancy rate is for downtown?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Chair. And through you to the councillor; I don't have that information on hand, happy to ask our staff if they have information on those numbers.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing 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 JUNE 6, 2022

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move the Items 1 through 9, please. Inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll move on to motions. We have Motion 2; moved by Councillor Klein and seconded by Councillor Nason. It's regarding costs of fires related to vacant buildings. It will be an automatic referral to the standing policy committee. By-laws, Councillor Gilroy.

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

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

WHEREAS there has been a noticeable increase in fires at vacant buildings in the City;

AND WHEREAS the fire response to vacant buildings is not always reported by the media;

AND WHEREAS the City has limited financial resources to meet desired objectives and strategic plans such as for infrastructure, roads, sewer overflow, recreation, parks, forestry, policing, and fire;

AND WHEREAS vacant buildings are more susceptible to large out of control fires due to lack of people present to identify, report, and take early steps to extinguish the fire;

AND WHEREAS the owners of vacant buildings must take greater responsibility for fire prevention and reporting, so as to reduce the risk of large fires dangerous to fire crews and costly to the City to extinguish;

AND WHEREAS fires in vacant buildings often damage in full neighbouring buildings, which is a devastating event for the adjacent property owners;

AND WHEREAS an effective method to compel owners to achieve the prevention of large fires at their vacant buildings, is to require the owners to absorb the cost of fire response;

AND WHEREAS Section 5(1)(d) of the Winnipeg Charter states that the City is responsible to "promote and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants", which includes residents of properties next to vacant buildings and responding fire fighter crews;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation lists the active duty deaths of over 1,700 firefighters, including many from Manitoba and Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS on June 14, 2022, there were three Winnipeg firefighters taken to hospital, including one in unstable condition, after battling a fire at a vacant home which subsequently spread to a neighbouring house;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back within 90 days on the following:

1. *Amendments to the Vacant Buildings By-law No. 79/2010 to require owners of vacant buildings be solely responsible for paying the total cost for fire response services to any vacant building in the event of a fire, with exemptions for the following situations:*

   A. *Fires originating from unrelated arson*

   B. *Natural disasters*

   C. *Collisions/accidents from vehicles*

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

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

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 80/2022, By-law No. 81/2022, By-law No. 82/2022, By-law No. 83/2022, and By-law No. 84/2022.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 80/2022, By-law No. 81/2022, By-law No. 82/2022, By-law No. 83/2022, and By-law No. 84/2022.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that the By-law No. 38/2022 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 38/2022.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that By-law No. 38/2022 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. Councillor Gilroy, there's more, I believe.

Councillor Gilroy: Oh, is there more? Sorry. Okay. Right, sorry. I'd like to move that following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 86/2022, By-law No. 87/2022, By-law No. 88/2022, and By-law No. 89/2022.

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

Clerk: By-law No. 86/2022, By-law No. 87/2022, By-law No. 88/2022, and By-law No. 89/2022.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that By-law No. 86/2022 to 89/2022, both inclusive be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-law Nos. 86/2022 to 89/2022, both inclusive.

Councillor Gilroy: I'd like to move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 86/2022 to 89/2022, both inclusive, be read a third a time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Questions for the Chair? Councillor Nason.

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

Councillor Nason: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you; again, on the matter of grass cutting. The City of Winnipeg has three City cemeteries: Transcona, St. Vital and Brookside. I receive multiple concerning phone calls from family members of those that are interned at our cemeteries over the lack of proper maintenance that's being done on the grass and lawns. Understanding we've had some terrible weather, but we've done mowing but not trimming. I'm wondering if the Chair was made aware of these challenges and if so, what actions she may have undertaken?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Nason; it has been a challenge this year with…due to the amount of precipitation we've had, the winter weather conditions. We've had a lot of overland flooding, and so it has been very, very difficult. Most of our cemeteries were, you know, flooded out due to overland flooding, and it's been...even though a lot of that has subsided, sorry, it has still been very difficult for us to get all of our equipment out there. They're heavy, and we don't really want to wreck the ground, especially near cemeteries, that's kind of critical. So, they are working overtime to try to mitigate what they can with it…this issue, but a lot of it is due to the weather that we are…we are seeing right now and the overland flooding that, you know, a lot of Manitobans are having to deal with, Madam Speaker. But I want to thank the councillor for his question and maybe we can keep connected on it because I think it is critical. A lot of families do want to go see their loved ones. I know this was…you know, this past Sunday was Father's Day and it's, you know, it's sad when you can't kind of go out and see your loved…your loved ones. That's usually a place where people gather. So, I want to thank the councillor for his question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Nason: A simple follow-up question. Have there been summer staff or other shortages that may have also contributed to the delays?

Councillor Gilroy: Through you Madam Speaker; yes, we are seeing a shortage of staff. It's been very difficult, I think, in all of our departments to get the staffing that is required to do a lot of the work, but I have heard that we are working overtime, a lot of our staff is working overtime, in order to deal with the issue around our cemeteries.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none, next committee, Governance Committee of Council. Councillor Eadie, will you move the report?

REPORT OF THE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
DATED MAY 13, 2022

Councillor Eadie: Move consent agenda of report number one.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Councillor Klein, will you move adjournment?

Councillor Eadie: No, he said.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Meeting adjourned. Thank you. Oh, let's do roll call, as well, Madam Clerk. Let's not forget that.

ROLL CALL

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

Council adjourned at 3:48 p.m.