COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, December 15, 2022

The Council met at 9:43 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 Browaty.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, we have a leave of absence motion for Councillor Gilroy. Moved by Rollins, seconded by Councillor Orlikow. Would you read it into the record, please?

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Orlikow,

THAT Councillor Gilroy be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to a personal family matter.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. At this time, it is my pleasure to announce that for the first time since the pandemic we now have council page back in our chamber with us. Joining us today is Abigail Rojo, who attends school at the University of Winnipeg Collegiate and she resides in the Daniel McIntyre Ward. Thank you for being here and for serving Council today. We'll move into morning announcements. Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I'm just wondering if…if you called the question related to the motion for Councillor Gilroy?

Madam Speaker: That is correct. Mr. Mayor, I did not yet. All in favour of that motion? Contrary? That is carried. Back to you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you again, Madam Speaker. And I am pleased to rise today to give announcements…some announcements. And first of all, I want to say, once again, that, really, this is the first full Council meeting that we're really doing city business since being elected together as the new Council. And I look forward to working with everyone. Madam Speaker, it's been a very difficult past two weeks for our city, particularly for Winnipeg's Indigenous community. Four young Indigenous women; Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran and Buffalo Woman, were taken from us far too soon. Very understandably, their families, Indigenous people from across the province, all Winnipeggers are filled with sorrow and anger. I know many in this chamber have been in touch with Indigenous leaders. I have been in constant communication over the last several days with Indigenous leaders of the city and from the Province, as well. Also, in touch with Federal Governments and the Provincial Governments to…Provincial Government, pardon me, to determine what next steps should be. I'm pleased to report that late yesterday afternoon I heard from Federal Minister of Crown and Indigenous Relations, Minister Mark Miller, that the Federal Government will fund a feasibility study for a landfill recovery search. And I know that the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Police Service will participate in that process. My office has also been invited to participate on that group and will be doing so in support. And I hope that this news will bring some measure of relief to the families and to the people of Winnipeg as well. And I want to commend Grand Chief Cathy Merrick of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Chief Kyra Wilson, Chief of Long Plain First Nation, for their leadership in getting us to this place. I know many, many people are involved and I want to just offer my appreciation for the work that has been done in this very, very difficult time. Madam Speaker, we also – excuse me – had the loss of a…tragic loss of a young man, Kyree…pardon me, Tyrine…Tyree Cayer, in an incident on Sunday at the Millennium Library. And this is a tragic…a tragic incident and I think I share the concern that all of us have for the safety of our library staff and patrons. We must ensure that our public spaces are safe for everyone and City of Winnipeg workplaces are safe for everybody. The decision was made to close the library for the entire week, at a minimum, to allow time to provide counseling to staff and to review the safety procedures. And I think I…on behalf of all of us, express, certainly, condolences to the family of Mr. Cayer, but

also want to recognize our staff and the traumatic experience that they have had. I know I spoke to Mr. Jack on that day and Cindy Fernandez, our director, in the hours following. I know that our staff leadership is working very hard to support the staff members that were affected. I also had conversation with Mr. Gord Delbridge of CUPE, and I think collectively we all want to work together to make sure that our staff get the support that they need at this time and that we are working to make sure that the library is safe and safety measures are put in place before it will re-open and working a lot, also, with Councillor Orlikow as the Chair of the Community Services Committee in this regard. And so, I've been very clear that we cannot reopen without additional safety procedures being put in place. And I know that the administration has been doing that review and that work is ongoing right now. Last week, I attended my first meeting of Big City Mayor's Caucus in Ottawa and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. And I appreciate the opportunity to meet with counterparts from across the country, mayors of other cities to discuss shared priorities. And I know you know this, Madam Speaker, and my councillor colleagues know this, but I'll just state it; that the challenges and opportunities, but specifically the challenges that we face as the City of Winnipeg are very similar to most other cities, if not all other cities, across Canada. From the largest cities represented there to the smallest populations represented around that table, every city is looking at issues of transit, transit use, ridership, safety, housing, homelessness, addiction, infrastructure funding. We all are facing the same challenges. And we had good meetings…good meetings and then meetings with respective ministers to discuss the needs of cities. I appreciate hearing from the ministers of the Federal Government, their recognition of the needs that we have as a City of Winnipeg and cities across this country. I also had the chance to meet with several of the ministers and we had a meeting with Prime Minister, as well, to just (inaudible) express our need for ongoing federal support. And did have a chance to meet with…just briefly with Minister Leblanc, and I raised the issue of the ISIP funding for the North End plant. The Federal Government, of course, and the Provincial Governments have announced their funding. Some of the funding agreements have been signed, there was one outstanding one. I asked Minister Leblanc if he could look into it. He looked into it and within 24 hours, had texted me back that it was on their…on treasury board to approve and that the agreement will be signed in short order. So, movement there and I am glad for that. I also want to recognize today, Madam Speaker, that we have seen the loss of two long-time public servants: former City Councillor Al Golden and member of Parliament, Jim Carr. Al Golden was a passionate voice for the residents of St. Vital. In addition to his 12 years on City Council, Mr. Golden ran for mayor on three occasions. He played a key role in the development of Old Market Square and operated several local businesses within Winnipeg, including the Golden Retriever's Senior Transportation Service. Jim Carr was a passionate politician. A true renaissance man whose career spanned from being a professional musician, to an arts advocate, to journalist to the founding CEO of the Business Council of Manitoba, a provincial MLA and, of course, most recently, a federal member of Parliament and cabinet minister. I think all of us who have known Jim know that he loved Winnipeg, he loved this province and he was dedicated to this nation. And his life's work has had a profound impact on our community and that impact will carry on in the coming years. Both of these men, these public servants, will be missed and their contributions to our city will be long remembered. I believe all of us which…around this chamber would join me in expressing our sincere condolences to their respective families and loved ones at this time. And finally, Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity as our last Council meeting before the holiday, Christmas break and before the new year, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of my councillor colleagues, their families, all of the City of Winnipeg Public Service and all the people of Winnipeg, Merry Christmas, happy holidays and all the best in 2023. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Our next speaker, Councillor Wyatt, followed by Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, are we…are we going to do the motion of condolence for Councillor Golden?

Madam Speaker: That will come momentarily.

Councillor Wyatt: Okay, very good. I just wanted to thank you, rise and recognize Elder Kevin Korocil, who was kind enough this morning to come and do smudging. Thank those who participated. I understand if those who could not participate. Elder Korocil indicated to me that he has prayed to all of our ancestors today to assist us in the meeting to make wise and just decisions for the future of the city. So, I would just like to thank him for coming. He lives in Winnipeg Beach and he made the trip here today to conduct the smudging. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Next, is Councillor Rollins, followed by our final speaker, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you to the elder for the prayers and, Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Browaty for his prayer today and to His Worship Mayor Gillingham for the heavy load he carried in memorializing so many. It is a heavy day. But Madam Speaker, I am here to provide comments on the record to my friend and colleague in Winnipeg south centre, the Honourable Jim Carr. And I will do this retro gesture that he used to make when talking about the provincial nominee program that he was a booster, where he would hold up his hand and say, "What is this?" And you know, every time he got me because what he meant for this is that this was a simple chart. You know, an X and Y axis. And he would talk about the benefits of immigration with his hand. The Honorable Jim Carr's last bill in the House of Commons was the Building Green Prairie Economy Act. And Madam Speaker, this is a testament to,

I think, not only who he was as a Winnipeg booster, a prairies booster, but also as a father and a grandfather, Madam Speaker. He was our special representative of this prairies. In the end, the former Minister of Natural Resources. And he did…he had many roles, including chairing a difficult committee; the Public Safety and National Security Committee. He was an MLA from 1988 to '92. But what many folks know, in his peer groups and more across Winnipeg, is he was a booster of the arts. The former Executive Director of the Arts Council. The…a board member of Canada West Foundation, the Performing Arts Consortium, the Manitoba Arts Stabilization Fund, and he was very active, Madam Speaker, in Canadian Jewish Congress. The Honourable Jim Carr worked closely with Catherine McKenna on climate change, Madam Speaker. And Catherine McKenna, you know, this means that Catherine McKenna, he worked very closely with ISD executive director, Jane McDonald, for the pan-Canadian framework on climate change. Madam Speaker, he was a Winnipeg booster. We need more like him, Madam Speaker. And so, with his debt…with the debt of service that we have to the Honourable Jim Carr, indeed, that we have to…all folks, regardless of political strife that step up to officer and take time away from their families, let's all be boosters like the former Honourable Jim Carr, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you. I just wanted to put on the record a few remarks about Al Golden who, since the amalgamation of council wards in '91, St. Vital's had only three councillors. Eadie would want me to point out that Mynarski's only had two, but so the various wards wars. But Al Golden and Gord Steeves and I have been the three councillors, so I want to speak a bit, perhaps, on behalf of former Councillor Steeves, as well. Councillor Golden…former Councillor Golden was unique. He was one of a kind. He was a…he was a force of nature in many ways. There were…there were complexities, there were certainly controversies. I had mentioned to somebody at the memorial, I remember flying back from Ontario to help my friend in 1989 who was running against Al Golden. If you'd asked me then would I ever be standing here talking about him, I would have said no. But if we…if we look at the whole record, though, I think he was a man who did a lot for St. Vital who I have had many people say to me, a version over the years; you know, you've done a lot for the neighbourhood, if only you could have answered the phone the way Al Golden did and a version of that conversation with people. He was somebody who really did care about his constituents and that certainly came through at the memorial for him. We were lucky enough to have one event where Gord Steeves, Al Golden and I were together and I invited them when we reopened the St. Vital outdoor pool. Some off-colour comments that I won't get into. I was laughing so hard I almost fell in the pool. Matt was there with me, Councillor Allard. But you know, I said at the time, between Steeves and Golden and I, we'd all either run against each other, voted against each other, volunteered against each other, endorsed each other's opponents in I think every possible mathematical combination. But you do get…once you've done this job, you get an appreciation of how difficult it can be physically, psychologically, on your marriage, on your family in a lot of different ways and you get some respect for those who went before you. And Gord Steeves talked about that as well. Golden is the man credited with blocking that pool from being sold off in the early…in the late 1990s which is why I invited them when we reopened after a very large investment that Steeves fought for. I was looking for this photo I was told existed of Al Golden when they were threatening to close the pool and he was standing outside the padlocked fence, arms crossed staring defiantly into the camera saying, you are not coming for my pool. We couldn't find the photo. I called up his son Michael and said, we're trying to find this particular photo, it's your dad, arms crossed, staring defiantly into the camera. And he said, Brian, all of the photos of my dad are arms crossed, staring defiantly into the camera, which I thought was probably as good a summary of the man as I could come up with. So, certainly, there were some controversies, but I think if you look at the record of Mr. Golden, he certainly…he worked very hard for the people of St. Vital and we benefit for some of that work today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. We will now move on to the condolence motion moved by Councillor Mayes, seconded by Councillor Allard for the former Councillor Allan Golden. Everyone in the chamber please rise in a moment, first, we'll read it into the record.

Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

THAT Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of former Councillor Allan Golden, which occurred on November 20, 2022.

Mr. Golden served as Councillor for the Glenlawn Ward from 1988 to 1992 and the St. Vital Ward from 1992 to 2000.

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you. And now, a moment of silence. We have heard from Mayor Gillingham and Councillor Rollins who spoke regarding the passing of Rebecca Contois, Mercedes Myran, Morgan Harris, Buffalo Woman and the Honourable Jim Carr. Again, please rise in the gallery and on the floor for a moment of silence. Moving on in the agenda,

Councillor Allard, will you move that the minutes of the meetings from September 20th, 22nd, and November 1st and 9th be taken as read and confirmed.

MINUTES

Councillor Allard moves that the Minutes of the meetings held on September 20, September 22, November 1 and November 9, 2022, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. We'll now move into delegations. Councillor Orlikow?

DELEGATIONS

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker, with the indulgence of the Council, I would like to move to add Gord Delbridge to be able to speak to Item No. 17.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Orlikow is asking for suspension of the rules to hear from Mr. Gord Delbridge with respect to Item 17: Negotiations – City of Winnipeg and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Our first delegation is David Grant. He is appearing remotely before Council on a few different items. He's in opposition to the following items: report of the Executive Policy Committee dated December 7th, 2022; Item 4 – 2022 Open Data Annual Report. Item 11 – 2023 Local Improvement Interest Rates. Item 12 – Amendment to the Elected Officials Compensation By-law. Item 23 – Procurement and Contracting Activities of the Traffic Signals Branch – Performance Audit Estimate. He is in opposition to Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development dated December 1st, 2022 regarding Over-Expenditure Authorization for Winnipeg Transit 2022 Operating Budget. He is in opposition to Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services dated November 28th, 2022 regarding Winnipeg Police Service 2021 Statement of Revenues and Expenses. Welcome, Mr. Grant. You may begin.

David Grant: Thank you. And congratulations to Your Worship and to all who won election in October. These are certainly trying times for you. On SPC Finance No. 1 – we've been asked to hand over many millions more to Transit. It is vexing to many in Winnipeggers that Transit was not asked to take action to reduce the rate at which bad luck and bad decisions burn through our money. Actually collecting fares from all who ride was an election issue. It could be a start, but city hall seems silent on mitigation. On SPC Service Item No. 1 – note that this report offers you data that is up to two years old. It's taken a long time to get to Council. This report suggests that auditor KPMG look for misstatements and error. They are silent on the failure of WPS and its photo enforced contractor to meet the reporting conditions required by provincial legislation. If the auditor missed the elephant in the enforcement room, what else did they ignore? It is routine for an auditor to object strongly when a financial statement includes large amounts of money in poorly described single lines. On page 5, 98% of income is cryptically described with only nine words. Nowhere on page 5 is PE mentioned in any way. The millions of dollars in PE income does not match any of the five-line sources of income in this report. The most obvious reasons for this anomaly are either substantial error with reporting or an attempt to mislead. KPMG was hired to seek out and report on any error and on any misleading statements. Clearly, they did not. If KPMG put an experienced team on this job, and we expect that they did, how can the report be silent on this alarming situation? This seems to be a failed audit. On EPC No. 11 – I am opposed to the Council action, but I agree with the interest rate schedules. With respect, I would like your help in dispelling some of the myths involving local improvements. In Item 11, the text says that this interest will be charged to those paying…choosing to pay for the improvement work. (inaudible) And in paying for the work when it was done or making annual payments. Now, we should probably draw a line…the City should probably draw a line between capital work that provides a net and material improvement in the residential property and this…those which only fix what is broken. If a hidden sewer or water main breaks and is repaired or a section of it is replaced. No improvement in functionality can be measured. Can that really be called a local improvement? Moving on, if the City decides to perform a TBO, and this is the process where they put a thin layer of asphalt over the existing pavement, it smooths the pavement and it protects it from water damage and freezing damage. The homeowner input in these TBO cases is neither invited nor allowed. In two specific TBO projects in 2021, the adjoining streets of identical age had failed more dramatically than the ones that got the TBO. This suggests that the decision is not based on the will of residents who were not asked, nor on an objective analysis of the roadway. It's what we expect with engineers matters like fixing our roads, that there will be standards. The exact wording of No. 11 says, in part, "When a property owner chooses to have a local improvement financed over time, as opposed to paying it outright, the property owner is charged interest on the local improvement at the established rates over the financing period chosen." That sounds good, unless it's not true. If there is no evidence of the homeowner making this choice, then the City would seem to not have the moral authority to charge substantial interest

if they weren't given a choice of just paying for it at the beginning. With respect, may I suggest that Council ask staff to look into the degree of free will suggested in this motion before you involved in the decisions to perform TBO work versus full reconstruction and the decisions in making payments versus paying in full. I have noticed the fact that the City office (inaudible) FIPPA inquiries into this matter. Why does the City force every homeowner on an LIP street to make annual payments? Is this because showing the real total cost would shock the public? Paying a few hundred a year forever isn't a big shock, but if you suddenly got hit with a bill for X thousands, it might. Anyway, moving on, I would really like to see something investigated there because I have tried and can't get anywhere. That fact that No. 23 is on your agenda is a sad testimony to dysfunction. I have hope that this new Council will be more responsive than past Councils. Concerned citizens often raise important matters, that is why we appear in delegation. Too often no perceptible action results. On the other hand, when media turn the problem into a story, the City either acts or pretends to act. Some of us suspect that No. 23 is a step in sweeping this age-old problem under the proverbial rug. There are folks responsible for this traffic lights problem and the timing bungles that costs residents millions of dollars every year. Have they ever been identified? Has there ever been a consequence for those who did this? Too bad those media folks who have told this tale in past years are silent on this nonresponse, delayed response, from city hall. On EPC No. 4 – every year staff present a report that says Winnipeg is the most open and transparent government in the land…land. Those who care know that this is not true. You may publish some stuff but if your staff actively resists efforts to learn about city hall, your admin is not truly transparent. Everyone is in denial of the degree to which city hall hides information. A disastrously slow 311 system is the first wall of defense against inquiries. No longer can we access an info booklet like we did in the '90s. I make reference to that a lot. I enjoyed having that book and we had a White Pages in our books of phone numbers and we could find the people who knew the information. Now, when I ask FIPPA, many find the City using loopholes, (inaudible) fee demands, and claims that the info "does not exist". This is not what open looks like. On EPC No. 12 – I ask that you read my comments on pay escalation. In many real word situations promotions can be welcomed without a big pay raise. I was once a low…a lowly sewage worker in Public Works. I knew that a friend who loaded garbage trucks would take a supervisor job in his area with zero increase in pay. The nicer working conditions would be enough. This applies to most corporate ladders. And I've spent my career in corporate ladders. It is a wasteful fallacy…fallacy that promotions must mean big a raise in pay. I would suggest the same for those at city hall. Having slightly different tasks to do and apparently more power should not necessarily mean more pay. Just because you have the power to increase your pay and that of your peers does not mean that it is the right thing to do, with respect. Anyway, want to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: What are you talking about on No. 11? I just can't understand it. Like, the…the…you can either pay upfront or you can pay over time and a TBO is not a local improvement. Like, you seem to be suggesting that the TBO is a local improvement. It's not. Like, you can vote to asphalt your back lane, that is a local improvement. You can vote to bring in storm sewer, that's a local improvement. But our road repaving program isn't a local improvement.

David Grant: Okay. Long ago, we had water main problem here when the street was about 10 or 15 years old and the City tore it up and put in a nice piece of blue plastic pipe and it carried our water for us just like the old one had. And doesn't seem to be as leaky. But we paid for years, we paid a little bit of local improvement tax on that replacement of our water line. And that's why I'm referring to that, maybe policy is different now because that was quite a few years ago. But I understood it that the current LIP fee that we're paying is based on the TBO that our street got. But the main question I have there is not on interest rates, but related that if there are some streets in a neighborhood that are 30 or 40-years old and concrete and broken up badly, why does the TBO…in a case where the TBO covers the busier street, the collector street, that is fine. But if they're just residential backwaters, why are they worst broken up, not the ones that get the TBO? That's the one question. The other is – if you are going to be paying an LIP, and the wording of this motion says that this is people who chose to pay on time. People who like paying upfront were never given a choice of paying upfront. And that's…that's my objection.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions for our delegation? Seeing none, Mr. Grant, thank you for your presentation.

David Grant: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, we have Michael Hutchison who is appearing before Council in opposition to Item 1 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated November 29th, 2022. It's regarding Winnipeg Transit On-Request Pilot Program. Our delegation is participating via Zoom…Zoom. Welcome.

Michael Hutchison: Thank you very much. Hi everyone, my name is Michael Hutchison and I'm lead partner success for Canadian Employments with Via Transportations Inc., the software provider for the on-request program through Winnipeg Transit. Via is a transit tech platform that works with cities like Winnipeg to deliver innovative transit solutions through on-demand transit, specialized transit, planning and scheduling. I myself work with Canadian cities from coast to coast, from

a city-wide on-demand project in Edmonton averaging north of 2000 rides a day, or managing the complexities of an operator turnover with the para-transit service in the city of St. John's in Newfoundland. Though I must say, it is always a pleasure to be before Council with the fine folks that keep our cities running, especially at this first meeting of the session. So, thank you for having me. I have worked with Winnipeg Transit since the on-request program launched in August of 2021 and have seen the pilot grow into a regional and national success story. Since launch, we have completed 37,678 trips, we have 96.8% of all demand. Not only that, but we have seen month over month growth from August 2021 until today. In November alone, we had 5,812 requests. And now, might I remind you, that is only over three bus routes. That's a small area generating quite a lot of requests. It is a testament to how quickly the ridership has adopted the new freedoms that on-request has delivered to them and there is no real sign of stopping. The on-request service operates in a small, but dedicated area. Now, for those who aren't aware, those routes include the zone 101: St. Amant – Plaza Drive, zone 102: Southdale – Island Lakes, and zone 110: St. Boniface. Since launch, we have had 1,022 unique individuals complete at least two rides. That alone is impressive, again, for the region that we're covering, but of those riders, 71% have completed over five rides. Those are users who have wholly adopted this service, that's always the metric we look at when I'm looking at other jurisdictions and it is really great to see. And not only that, they appreciate the service. They deliver on-request an average rating 4.8 on five with 89.4% of those delivering five-star ratings. I'm here today speaking in opposition to the Executive Policy Committee's recommendation to refer Item 1 – The Winnipeg Transit OR Pilot, to the budget review process. Now, to be clear, I am in favour of the report, it is the recommendation to refer it out that I am opposed to. I am in opposition to this recommendation because it will effectively cancel or suspend service altogether in these on-request zones effective January 1st, 2023, only two weeks from now. That is because the contract that Via has with Winnipeg Transit comes to an end on December 31st, 2022. Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 of the report in question would allow Winnipeg Transit to extend the on-request pilot with Via Transportation until September 30th, 2023. However, by referring those recommendations to the budget review process, the City of Winnipeg will not be able to reach a decision on those until late March, early April or whatever that final date might be, which would leave the City of Winnipeg and Via without a contract in January. Now, we at Via have been thrilled to work with the City of Winnipeg throughout the on-request pilot. It is a relationship we are proud of. I'm championing it across Canada, globally, everywhere. And so, we are keen to continue this well beyond 2023 should the Council choose to do so. But without a contract, we have no choice but to suspend the on-request service at the start of the new year. I don't believe the Executive Policy Committee had the intention to cancel on-request in these service zones. Marking recommendations 1, 2 and 3 to the budget community…committee is totally within reason. It is just recommendations 4, 5 and 6 that concern me. And I am here today to request that you allow the City of Winnipeg to extend its contract with Via Transportation from January 1st, 2023 up until September 30th, 2023 as laid out in that report to ensure that the riders in these three communities can continue to count on on-request to get them where they need to in the new year. Thank you very much for having me and I am happy to answer any questions on the matter.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much for your presentation. I am not sure if you're familiar, I am the Chair of the Public Works Committee which oversees Transit. So, yes, this did come to Executive Policy Committee and one of my colleagues did refer it. There was some clarity, further clarity, that was required and it is our intent today. We are crafting a motion now to continue proceeding but taking one, two and three out for the budget review. We wanted to look at the FTEs, we wanted to look at what was involved with that but it is our intent, our full…I am hoping the majority of Council's fully…will fully support moving forward not to end this service. Because exactly to the statistics you've pointed out, it's a really valuable service, it's a pilot, it's part of our pilot in the larger transportation…in the Transit Plan and I know that there's other areas in the city that we want to pilot this too going forward. So, thank you for your presentation. very much. And I want to reassure you that the intent through a motion today that Council will support this so we don't end the on-demand service.

Michael Hutchison: Hear, hear. Thank you very much.

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

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker, I wasn't able to listen in to the IRPW or Executive Policy Committee's discussion around the on-request pilot. So, I'm going to ask, Madam Speaker, just a couple of questions for clarification. The call centre that's being utilized is the Transit Plus call centre, and that's where they're asking for some FTEs to handle, not only the on-request service here, but Transit Plus is an on-request service as well. And that is why I think they put it through this call centre. But help me understand, Transit Plus invested some million or some hundreds of thousands or even million dollars for new Transit Plus software that was supposed to schedule and provide the contracted-out service, their schedules and I don't know if they provided routes. But can you explain to me the difference between your Via software and Transit Plus's software?

Micheal Hutchison: Thank you, councillor. Now, speaking to the difference between ourselves and the software that you use currently for your Transit Plus, I think I may leave that to…mostly to the Public Service and even our competitors, who I believe you currently use with Transit Plus. It is my understanding that Winnipeg Transit will be going out for a new bidder for said service. And so, you know, the difference between Via and that new service might very well be nonexistent if, you know, we are successful in the future bid. But so, I think I will leave it at that for now.

Councillor Eadie: Alright, Madam Speaker, the presenter did say they operate a para service in another city. But so, my other question is, so Via is not the one who are supplying the vehicles being utilized under this pilot program and is Via also the…hiring the drivers and so on?

Micheal Hutchison: In this environment, no, we do not. So, we only provide the software for Winnipeg Transit. It is entirely Winnipeg Transit vehicles and drivers that operate the service. In other jurisdictions that is different, we do supply vehicles upon request, we do supply drivers upon request, but we see that more of a turn-key service versus the software service that we deliver here in Winnipeg.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question. I was going to ask the question I asked at EPC and I didn't get an answer from staff and I haven't had an answer since. Maybe you can answer it, maybe not. This report calls for the addition of 2.65 full-time employees to the City of Winnipeg compliment. They have costed it an annual rate of $52,000 and change. I got that from the very excellent Adam Budowski who's our staff person on this. So, at $52,000 and a bit, it's full-time salary and benefits. When some of us have been looking to add…to bring work in from Transit Plus in-house, those jobs are costed at almost $90,000…$88,000 for salary and benefits even though the hourly rates for these two positions of clerked versus driver are not nearly that far apart. One's maxes out at 22, one at 30. There's a 50% markup for drivers and seemingly something along the lines of 10% for salary and benefits, maybe a little more for clerks. I can't understand that. Seems odd that if we want to add positions there is a 50% markup for benefits and pension, but if the staff advocate for adding more staff, there is a fraction of that amount for benefits and pensions. This is maybe outside your purview entirely, I don't know. But I didn't of didn't get an answer when I asked at Executive, so any idea why these staff doing this would have such a much smaller cost per FTE than it would if we were bringing them in for Transit Plus?

Michael Hutchison: Though I do empathize with your quest for answers on this one, I would have to defer, again, to the Public Service and the decisions internally operationally of Winnipeg…City of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Transit.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further questions, Michael, we appreciate your presentation today.

Michael Hutchison: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, we have Marcy Richard, MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee, who is appearing before Council in opposition to Item 3 of the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated November 29th, 2022 regarding Vehicle for Hire Industry Annual Report. Welcome.

Marcy Richard: Good morning. My name is Marcy Richard and I'm with the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Team. We…I'm going to…I am very nervous. This is my first time in a formal setting like this. And I usually wing it, but I made notes. So, I'm going to stick to them so I don't miss anything today. The MMIWG2S+ advisory committee has been meeting with Indigenous Relation Division of the City of Winnipeg for the past 18 months to discuss and work on many shared concerns. Paramount was the issue of personal safety for Indigenous, including First Nation, Métis and Inuit women, girls, members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community when accessing the services of Winnipeg's taxi industry. This issue is very timely in that the City is currently developing processes and policies that will govern the industry and all vehicle for hire service providers moving forward. No one has disputed that any policies and procedures must apply to all vehicle for hire providers, but the taxi industry representatives are the ones who are publicly opposed to the changes brought forward by the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee and the broader community. Their March concern was that the term 'lewd' was still somehow too vague to hold the driver to account of being just one example. We would like to acknowledge the comments from Executive Policy Committee on December 7th. It was encouraging to hear the admission that mistakes had been made, that the process had somewhat been derailed and there is a need to get back on track. Also, I want to add, it was very heartening to see the Mayor and Councillors Chamber and Rollins sit with us in the circle and give up their Saturday…on this past Saturday, that was very good. We are here with concrete recommendations based from what we hear from community. The frustration that to date the direction given to the Public Service by EPC on April 20th and passed by Council on April 28th was not adequately followed up on. To review how we have arrived at this moment, a little background; in March 24th, 2022, the Vehicle-for-Hire By-law was brought to Council but failed to pass. Concerns from

the industry over the code of conduct and fines were prioritized and it was sent back to committee and then the Infrastructure, Renewal and Public Works Committee. At the April 6th, 2022, IRPW meeting, 20 people made presentations in support of the by-law as it had been presented to Council. These presenters were Indigenous women, men, other women of colour and other allies. If you have not received these statements, we encourage you to do so. This led to motion of Council being made and passed. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to work with the following stakeholders towards engagement and safety solutions as they relate to implementing calls for justice, including but not limited to: 1) MMIWG2S+ Implementation Team, 2) Indigenous governments and territorial organizations, 3) vehicle for hire service providers. And to incorporate progress and activity into the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord annual report. August 22 saw public consultation with 44 participants. The discussion centred on mandatory training for all drivers who are licensed under the vehicle for hire program. There was unanimous support from those attendees that day. September 22; a consultation was held with industry represent…representatives. They were given the opportunity to express their concerns over driver safety and fare payment issues. October 20, '22 was a consultation on newcomer women. I believe there were 28 participants at that event. In November '22, there was a news release, a news conference, in which Grant Heather quoted, thus implying, that a different committee of five individuals was the body that would move the file forward with the Vehicle for Hire Department. Additionally, in all of our previous ongoing discussions with IRD, the announcement of an FTE ombudsperson type of role that may live within the city of Winnipeg was never mentioned or noted by anyone. This was news to us and we had not heard that messaging anywhere prior to this announcement. We are now seeking clarity on the announcement on how the announcement of the FTE role that may live within the city of Winnipeg were made and who were the stakeholders involved in those discussions. It is now December and the current by-law still does not mention mandatory training. The appearance exists of no transparency on why or how the Indigenous Relations Department and the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee was sidelined in this process. It would seem that once again, community decided to work with the City, participated in their process, only again to be ignored. Therefore, the call to this Council is: get the MMIWG2S+ implementation back on track by listening to and working through the implementation committee to prioritize mandatory training so it is in place long before June of 2023. All parties addressed in support of the training component, it is noted in several places in the vehicle for hire annual report. So, we are questioning why this hasn't been initiated yet. The industry should not oppose or even delay training given they continue to insist that language issues are the cause of much of the misunderstandings. Second: development and delivery of the training must be led by Indigenous women through the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee. Indigenous women have been marginalized and made vulnerable, but more importantly, basing their work and wisdom in matriarchal principles will work to create safety for all. Three: instruct that the Indigenous Relation Department have oversight on this file and all of those that primarily impact Winnipeg's urban Indigenous population. This statement and calls are not to be construed as an alternative action for Council in the face of community calls for the landfills to be searched for our missing relatives. However, it is another action for anyone on Council who expressed their concern over the news of another accused serial killer. This is another opportunity to put action behind your words. You can use this opportunity to elevate the voices and stature of Indigenous women through the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee. To demonstrate your commitment that this city's governance respects Indigenous experiences, expertise and wisdom. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We have another delegation on the same topic, so if I could just ask you to stand by the bench and we will take questions momentarily. Thank you. Next is Kate Kehler, Executive Director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, also appearing before Council in opposition to the same item. Welcome.

Kate Kehler: Thank you very much. Good morning everybody. Just in case there are some people who are…haven't been on Council for a while, there's a new member on Council, the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg is an organization that's 100 plus years old. We work to create a sustainable community this is just, equitable and caring. I am speaking today in partnership with the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls 2S+ Implementation Committee and with the support of long-time advocate on this issue, Rachel Sansregret, who is here in the gallery. We are also involved as we do have recent history from 2015 on this file which I spoke to back in April when this file was first yanked off the rails by the by-law amendments failing to pass March…pass the March Council meeting due to the taxi industry's objections. Our 2015 experience was short and unproductive. Happy to go into those details again if any of those…if any of you choose to ask me questions after the presentation or I can resubmit my April statement. We did submit a statement for today, much of what Marcy covered in her comments, but you should all have it and the Clerk would have received a copy, so hopefully it can be entered into the official record. In this statement, we acknowledge the encouraging words from last week's EPC meeting, but we still felt it essential to submit and speak today to be hopeful…to hopefully have our voices heard prior to any debate, discussion or vote later today. Our statement lays out the timeline that is largely in the annual report. However, two key events are missing. It only refers to an October consultation focused on newcomer and other racialized women that was to be held. So, it was…you know, and I am just assuming these are the logistics of when you have to submit reports. Those are lost on me. I don't know those. But I wanted to mention that knowing people at that consultation, mandatory training for drivers was fully supported. We are not talking about training about how to drive, obviously, but that drivers need cultural workplace training so they can adhere to the code of conduct that is expected by the community. There have been simply too many incidents between drivers and marginalized women and it needs to stop. As in my previous statement, I reject the notion that much of the misunderstandings are due to language barriers.

But even if that were the case, that simply makes more incomprehensible why the industry has resisted this training and while now they seem to be for it, they are attempting to control it. This brings me to the second piece that is not in the current report. I'm assuming that's it's because, again, it happened in November and too late for the report. However, it's going to…if it's going to affect your discussion, then I would like to address it. A great deal of concern and consternation was caused when the CTV News article we referenced in our statement appeared as it seemed to indicate by including a quote from Grant Heather, the Manager for Vehicle for Hire Department, that a committee of five voices was somehow supplanted the previous consultations would somehow supplant the previous consultations with the broader public, and more importantly, the leadership of the Murdered, Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and 2S+ Implementation Committee and the Indigenous Relations Department's roles on this file. It is not that the suggestions made in the article differ much from what, although Marcy did point out the ombudsman. Differ much from what the…came forward from community consultation, but it is that the seeming intent to bypass the larger community sanctioned committee and process that had broad community input. There is one particular difference though, Grant Heather mentioned that there was a possibility that a complaints ombudsman would be…could reside either within the city or within the taxi industry. It simply cannot reside in the taxi industry. Full stop. That is not a conversation that should go forward. It will have absolutely no confidence from the public. While the industry may very well be in full support of an ombudsman, I do need to point out, based on our previous experience with 2015, they were not, because that is why I mention the issue of control. At that time, the Southern Chief's Organization did receive funding to have an ombudsman in place and that's where our communication broke down with the taxi industry, they were simply not in favour of having any real conversation on that. So, you have our statement. And I just wanted to close on this subject by reiterating the calls to get the Murdered, Missing Indigenous Girls 2Spirit calls for justice implementation back on track by listening to and working through the implementation committee. Two) prioritize the mandatory training so it is in place long before June of 2023. The industry should be in full favour of this given, as Marcy said, that we…if language is the issue, let's fix that language problem. Ensure development and delivery of the training be led by Indigenous women through the Murdered Missing Women and Girls and 2+ Implementation Committee because they will do what is needed to create a safer place for everyone. And instruct the Indigenous Relations Department have…okay, thank you.

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

Kate Kehler: Thank you. So, instruct that the Indigenous Relations Department have direct oversight on this file and all those that primarily impact Winnipeg's urban Indigenous populations. If in doubt of this need, please review statements made back in April. Our statement does include the link and the timestamps for your ease. Please take the lessons learned from this most recent derailment to ensure we don't continue to perpetuate harm. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any questions at this time? Councillor Eadie. Yes, just one moment, if I can ask the previous speaker to come forward. Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: I'm sorry?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie, go ahead.

Councillor Eadie: Oh, okay. Madam Speaker, having presided over the meeting where things went awry, I was…anyway, I was trying to get clarification. So, when…when your coalition and people say all taxi drivers, training, are you referring as well to the people who provide under whether it's Uber or whatever company, the personal vehicles for hire drivers as well?

Kate Kehler: Yes, of course, that is why the vehicle for hire. And I think our statement does specify that. We…the reason we are focusing on the taxi industry is they have been the ones most in opposition.

Councillor Eadie: Okay. I was just trying to clarify that because most of the discussion I heard is reflective of the traditional vehicles for hire. I'm…in your consultations and interactions with Mr. Heather and the consultations and so on, and I am hearing this thing about language, but when I sat on the Manitoba Taxicab Board, we were trying to implement for someone to get their license to be able to drive a taxi in this city was better language requirements to pass a test. Do you…have you heard, is that actual language component part of a driver's requirement before they can get a taxicab license?

Marcy Richard: My understanding is, pardon me, that would be one of many components covered in the training.

Councillor Eadie: But okay.

Kate Kehler: So, what I think you said was, not…it's not a requirement to get your driver's license, but they have to take the training in order to get the driver's license.

Marcy Richard: Correct. There we are.

Councillor Eadie: So, my final question, Madam Speaker, is just, there was a requirement because there were language problems in delivering service for years and years. And we had in place provincially a training program that didn't really cover off…we did bring in at some point some issues around persons with disabilities and other stuff. But what I am trying to say is, is there is supposedly, and I don't know if the City of Winnipeg continued it when we took it over, but whether or not that there is already a base component for English language. So, I understand there is training required for consideration, especially women, but there is a lot of encounters with men as well. But so, I just wanted clarification that if somebody had already mentioned from our Vehicles for Hire to you that there is a language requirement already in place regarding getting their license.

Marcy Richard: I would seek clarification from the City manager on that. He is the one that oversees that program. If that was there now, I don't believe we would be having the issues we are seeing right now. So, I would suggest you follow-up with the Manager of the Vehicle for Hire. He would be much more familiar with the program requirements than we as external people.

Kate Kehler: And I would just add onto that, like, clearly, it is not sufficient. If it is there, it is not working. So, and in April, we all kind of underlined…those speakers underlined the idea that there is nothing within the exchange between a passenger and a driver no matter…or whatever the service is that would lead to any sort of lewd comments. It's a simple exchange. We don't hear about this happening at Superstore. We don't hear it happening at any other stores, so I don't know why it would be happening on a regular basis between drivers and passengers.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker, Councillor Lukes, followed by Councillor Santos.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much for coming down. Thank you, Marcy, for all your work on the implementation committee. And thank you, Kate. Kate and I go back a long time because we worked on sustainability issues during act of my time as coordinator for the Winnipeg Trails Association and active transportation. And I just want to thank you, Kate, for all the work you've been doing relentlessly over the years. You are a rock star. So, thank you. So, I am new to the file, the vehicle for hires file. And I spent a lot of time working with the department and groups that have called me and wanted to talk to me. I have not reached out to the implementation committee because I know there's a lot of things going on in the community right now that…I mean, all of these are important issues. I guess the question I have to either of you is, did anyone after that article come out, did anyone reach out to Grant Heather to try to clarify what was going on? Because, you know, I don't want to slam the media, but they've got a lot on their plate. I know for a fact a lot of times the story is not…and I am sure you've seen this, is not always articulated the way reality is. So, did either of you reach out to Mr. Heather after and speak to him about this?

Marcy Richard: On behalf of MMIWG2S+, no, we haven't because of the comments in the media were that he would be moving forward with this different group of stakeholders. And that is what they were doing. We were not aware of that whatsoever. That we were very taken aback by that announcement.

Kate Kehler: Right, and I would only add that I would have put that on Grant Heather to reach out to the committee as opposed to asking them to reach out. That's…you know, it's about a power imbalance sort of thing. I think it would have been…he could have got in touch with them said, wow, sorry, that was…that did not come off the way it should have.

Councillor Lukes: Okay, and that, from my understanding, I think that's where one of the big flaws lays was the delivery by the media of what was going on. I know that Mr. Heather, from my conversations with him, has been working with anyone that wants to call him, groups that want to call him, to discuss what is going on and his goal is to align with the plans the implementation committee is working on. And just to reassure you, from my conversations with the department, with Mr. Heather, that the implementation committee and the IRD is the lead on this file. It is, and I am sure you're aware of this, and I guess I'll ask this to ask the question for the process part. Independent organizations like, say, the Taxicab Association, what they do and what they want to do, it's difficult to control private organizations. If they want to hire someone, if they want to have someone come forward and advise them on training or whatever, you know, the City's hands are tied in relation to that. But please be assured that it's my intent…Councillor Sharma, who sits on the committee, a coloured woman, a female here around the table, we know there are challenges related to transportation, any kind. We see the inequities in active transportation, we see the inequities in taxis, we see the inequities in many forms of transportation. And it is our goal to be a first in Canada to have a report come forward and to implement from the report to better the safety for all females and girls and members of the G…MMIG…MIW, I've got to get all this in; MMIWG2S+ community. So, you know, I know there's a lot of feelings and challenges and…but I do know that the intent, absolutely, is for the implementation committee to lead under the direction of IDR.

Marcy Richard: I have a couple responses to that. The training component has been talked about since April of 2022. Reaffirmed in August 2022. We are today, December 2022 and it hasn't been actioned yet. I would ask why. I did have another point but it is gone now.

Kate Kehler: Did you want me to say something while you think about it?

Marcy Richard: Yes, yes.

Kate Kehler: I only wanted to say that, I mean, I certainly take your point, Councillor Lukes, that, you know, the taxi industry can hire whoever they want to hire, but I would just encourage all Mayor and Council to…you are the regulatory body. So, you need to regulate the training that you approve by the City. And so, that's what we're really asking you to put teeth behind it.

Marcy Richard: I remembered what I wanted to add now. Coming from…I just…where Council directed Vehicles to Hire to specifically communicate with MMIWG2S+, the only consultation we have had with the Manager of the Vehicle for Hire was at a public consultation where there were several other stakeholders.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Santos moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried.

Marcy Richard: He never once approached us to have a meaningful dialogue. If I was directed to do something, I would follow that up directly with the people identified in the Council motion. That has never happened from the vehicles for hire program.

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

Councillor Lukes: Second question…yes, question. Okay, so the second question is, did you know, I am confident that the department will be coming forward very soon, as laid out in the motion, to come forward with a training program. And you know, it takes time to put these reports together. Like you said, the third committee didn't even make it on to the report because they were still carrying out those dialogues and conversations. So, I guess, did you know that I…you know, very shortly in the new year, these…this report will come forward with more information?

Marcy Richard: We'll be looking forward to it.

Councillor Lukes: Alright, and I will…you know, I will reach out to you when things…I don't know if they'll ever calm down, but I will reach out to you.

Marcy Richard: You may see me back here after we read that update.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Quick question. Might be one or two questions, I'm not too sure, depending on how it's answered. Thank you for sending the hard copy. I like reading it. So, I appreciate and highlighted some notes here. You mentioned, again, mandatory training. I want to let you know that I am very supportive of that and hopefully we can get that involved. I did ask my Council colleagues beside me; currently, the taxis or the vehicle for hire industry, what's inside is only…is your understanding…I guess the question would be, is your understanding, it's video only?

Kate Kehler: Yes, at this point it's still video only. We don't…it's…yeah, there's no audible.

Councillor Santos: Okay. So, second question, follow-up. Would you be supportive…

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

Councillor Santos: Would you be supportive of adding audio, as well, to the video? Because there's no discussion about that. I might…I'm not following…I haven't followed the vehicle for hire industry reports. I am very sorry, it's just been very, very busy, it's hard. But I want to bring that topic up; if it's been brought up before, has it been brought up before? And would you be supportive of something like that being implemented in the vehicle for hire adding audio as well as video?

Marcy Richard: I am told it has been discussed before. We would more than welcome that. More than welcome that. That would be an additional layer of transparency between vendor and purchaser.

Kate Kehler: With privacy concerns, that…I would think that, you know, that is part of the conversation. I mean, if someone gets in the cab, they are giving their home address or something like that. I mean, obviously, it would only be saved in case…and used in case of a dispute. Like, that's…that would be the idea.

Marcy Richard: I should have said that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Moving on, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. And first of all, thank you for your service to the city and being here. I know your representative organizations and you've worked very hard to be representative organizations. And, you know, to Marcy Richard, through you, Madam Speaker; you have been working for weeks now and I want to acknowledge that from the bottom of my heart. Are you aware that when Executive Policy Committee held their meeting this month, that on the record, our CAO, Mr. Jack, when asked, hey, I was surprised and taken aback in reading the Vehicle for Hire Manager's comments in the paper in real time, that was to the effect, I summarize, Madam Speaker, you know, a resource to the community inside…inside government or outside, that this was not in line, I thought, with Council direction. So, when I clarified that, Mr. Jack said, and I paraphrase, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Mayor Gillingham moves two-minute extension. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Rollins, to the question, please.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, something to the effect if, you know, the question was, you know, are you aware that IRD was not as involved in the briefing and that, indeed, from now on there would be a reset. And so, my question is, are you aware of that EPC meeting where the CAO clarified that there would, indeed, be a reset because I asked specifically with respect to communications if these were all approved all the way up through the understanding Council had in that motion. Are you aware?

Marcy Richard: Yes, we are aware and I included a couple of sentences of that in my opening remarks. So, we did acknowledge that and thank you for that.

Kate Kehler: And I only wanted to say, one of our discussions prior to agreeing to come today to present, that sort of thing, was the idea that this was a new iteration of Council. EPC approval is no longer…it's no longer the majority sort of thing. So, we wanted to make sure that we were here with full Council to make sure that everybody is aware because this file is going to be ongoing for a while.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Seeing no further questions, thank you for your presentation today.

Kate Kehler: Thank you all very much. I hope you all do get a holiday.

Madam Speaker: I'd like to call forward Gord Delbridge. He is here in support of Item 17 – Negotiations with the City of Winnipeg and the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Welcome.

Gord Delbridge: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you today. First off, I just want to congratulate everyone on your election, re-election, acclimation. I know that you have tough jobs and have to make a lot of tough decisions on a day-to-day basis. But, you know, thank you for stepping up to serving the citizens of Winnipeg in your roles. Congratulations to all of you. I also did want to thank Mayor Gillingham for reaching out the other day in regards to the very unfortunate incident that took place at Millennium Library, expressing your concerns and willingness to work to, you know, address some of these challenges. And so, thank you Mayor…Mayor Gillingham for reaching out. And I want to thank our CAO, Mike Jack, as well, for reaching out, sharing the same sentiments. And you know, many of you on Council; John Orlikow, I know reached out and Councillor Rollins reached out and, you know, Councillor Gillingham, as well. So, thank all of you for, you know, your willingness to work together going forward to address those concerns. With respect to bargaining, I know that's going to be on the table, you're going to be voting on that soon. I just want to say, I want to thank the administration for, you know, working together and we…us getting to this point. It was a very tough round of negotiations. Over the course of negotiations, I can say that the administration conducted themselves with respect and dignity. You know, there was…we did get a little heated at the end, but that's, you know, typical of any tough round of bargaining. And you know, I just want to say that, you know, I think that we all share a common goal; your staff, our members with, you know, they're…they are committed to serving the citizens of Winnipeg. We are in tough, tough times right now. Tough economic time, there's labour challenges. And in order for us to be competitor in a tough labor market and competing with other sectors within the city of Winnipeg, you know, we want to ensure that we are able to recruit and retain good quality staff and our members that serve the citizens of Winnipeg. So, I just want to encourage all of you to please consider the recommendation that's before you, you know, support the decision here so that we can ratify this

agreement and we can move forward. And our members, you know, voted with the clear majority in favour. And I encourage you to do the same. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Questions? Five minutes on the clock, please. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Excuse me, Councillor Schreyer, just one moment. Because we suspended the rules, there is no questions for this delegation. We'll have to move on procedurally. Thank you.

Councillor Wyatt: I'll move suspension of the rules.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you to Madam Speaker and thank you to Council. We just had some very important decisions made regarding wages of City workers. We are constantly…continually over years and decades told that we have to strive for budgeting for tightening our belts and this is true because we keep on raising our taxes, we keep on cutting services and we keep on selling further debentures. And governments in general keep on raising taxes, reducing services and going into debt. Unfortunately, sometimes people think that it's because of certain…certain sectors when it is not true, therefore, not fair. Not fair to the public to be misinformed. Is Mr. Delbridge aware that the City workers that he represents are smaller and smaller piece of the City pie year after year, decade after decade, within our adult lifetimes?

Gord Delbridge: Thank you. No, I do realize that. And you know, we are constantly pushing for more in-house public services. We provide our services to the citizens of Winnipeg, you know, with dedication, commitment and the most accountability. We also operate in a non-profit manner as opposed to the private sector. And we also operate where we are probably some of the biggest supporters of our local economy. Our members spend almost the entirety of their paychecks here amongst local business in our local economy, it stays here. When we're privatizing work and we're…you know, the international firms and other organizations outside the (inaudible), that's money that's leaving our economy and it impacts all of us as a community. So, you know, I've encouraged, on a going forward basis, that we…you know, we take into consideration, you know, the broader impact. And sometimes when we're looking at…you know, we often see the bean counters just looking at some of the costs, we don't look at the implications that on a broader scale on how it impacts our economy. We want to see good jobs for, you know, our friends, family members and neighbours within our community. And we have the opportunity to provide them here. So, you know, I most certainly encourage, you know, on a going forward basis, that we continue to look inwards and provide non-profit public services that are done in-house with the utmost accountability.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Schreyer: Another question for Mr. Delbridge, and it has to be in a form of, is he aware that in the last 30 years, no matter how you look at it, that the cost of capital con…capital projects, construction projects, those in which we've actually privatized has gone up at 10 times higher rate of inflation than the City workers, CUPE 500 workers? 10 times higher rate of increase those costs compared to the wage increases of CUPE workers in the last 30 years?

Gord Delbridge: I am aware. And you know, that doesn't surprise me one bit. Often when you get big international organizations or national organizations come in where they can amortize their losses, you know, across the nation, they come in, often underbid. You know, a municipality sells off all of its infrastructure and resources to provide the service and then they start hiking up the costs when we're not able to provide those services on an ongoing basis. So, I mean, it doesn't surprise me one bit. I mean, we are aware that that happens. We see it happening right before our us right before our eyes on, you know, many of the contracted services to the for-profit sector. Once again, why we're going to encourage, you know, in the best interests of our community, the citizens of Winnipeg, is that we look to providing our non-profit in-house services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, thanks for the presentation, Gord. Just a quick question, in our report it refers to contracting March 1st, '21 to February 28th, 2025. And Clause No. 9, employment security, it's indicating that the privilege and extended but now scheduled to expire on February 28th, 2025. This is the exact same date as the expiry of the contract. Does that mean that come the next contract, the employment security clause is null and void? What does that exactly mean? I don't know if you have seen this in our report or not.

Gord Delbridge: Well, when the contract expires, at that point in time we've got to renegotiate the provisions within the collective agreement. That is a provision that gets negotiated in every round of bargaining. And one of the advantages we have by…by…

Madam Speaker: If you could wrap up, please.

Gord Delbridge: You know, having an employment security clause is…it gives some reassurance and commitment to…you know, to our members. And once again, that's only a small component of our members that are covered under that security clause, not the entirety workforce. So, but you know, that gives, you know, commitment to people to dedicate and commit to longevity as an employee within the city of…within the City of Winnipeg and we all benefit from that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Delbridge. That concludes our question period. Thank you for your presentation. Have a great day. We will now move on to the Executive Policy Committee. The reports dated December 7th, 2022. Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED DECEMBER 7, 2022

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would introduce the report and move adoption of consent items…consent agenda Items 1 to 26.

Councillor Wyatt: 17.

Madam Speaker: Just…I'll…just put your hand up and I'll recognize you. Item 17 – CUPE Agreement. Item 2, Councillor Lukes, Continuous Improvement Review Plan and Progress Report. Any other items? Seeing none, I will call the question on 1, 3 through 10, 11 through 20…or pardon me, 11 through 16, and 18 through 26. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 2 – 2023-2026 Continuous Improvement Review Plan and Progress Report

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

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think this is a report back from the last term of Council. And I know that myself and then Councillor Klein moved a motion regarding this, looking for our staff to report back on continuous improvement. And I'm glad the report is here and that our staff is working on that, but I will wait to hear from colleagues regarding this matter.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to speak to this report. We always have very important reports on the Council agenda, but today we have, I think, two very key reports. One is the 2023 to 2026 continuous improvement review plan and progress report and the negotiations of the City of Winnipeg and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 500. I think the timing of these two reports is somewhat significant as we look to seek maximum value for taxpayers through the continuous improvement review plan and progress report. We are also preparing to ratify an approximately $56 million agreement with wage increases over 10% and permanent employment. The 2023 2026 continuous improvement review plan and progress report today is here, as noted, because of a motion from Councillor Klein and at the time, Councillor Gillingham. The report requires each department of the Public Service to report on continuous improvements across the city. They are reporting to find efficiencies, to control expenses, to improve financial and business processes, to ensure sustainability and to improve customer service and maximize value for taxpayers. I know I campaigned on this as one of my top priorities and I am aware of others who have also. This first report is also timely as it's enabling departments to create the foundation for future reports which will soon be tied to the strategic plan and multi-year budget process that we are entering into. But even more importantly, this motion is to make the report public or the report is public. The public is now able to see what areas the Public Service is focused on to find efficiencies to control expenses, improve financial and business processes and to ultimately provide maximum value for taxpayers. This report brings a level of accountability that we have never had prior to the forefront for Council and the public to review. Now, that being said, there is a lot of information. This is the first report the Public Service is bringing forward. And the department, through dialogue at the Executive Policy Committee, acknowledged that the presentation of information in future reports will be more user friendly and will reflect a better articulated reflection of measurements. I also want to add, in addition to this increased level of accountability, Mayor Gillingham has reinstated the Performance Review Committee

who are active and working on developing performance review parameters which will be brought forward. Many of you will recall…many of you will recall from multiple presentations I made on the floor of council, but under the former mayor, for four years, no performance reviews of the four statutory officers were conducted which many councillors and the public simply could not understand how we could be assuring maximum value for taxpayers when no performance reviews were conducted at the key statutory officers. These statutory officers hold significant roles within the city, one overseeing the operation and performance of upwards of 10,000 employees. So in summary, to close on this motion, I am very pleased to see this report or to close on this report. I'm very pleased to receive this report and to look forward to a more public facing approach to delivering this information. It's a level of accountability that I am continually being grilled on and now I'm really pleased to see this and to see the direction and work going forward by the departments. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm going to vote for this once because it's a good start. The reality is, we've been asking…I've been asking questions since I got elected 8 years ago on efficiencies and accountability in terms of our investments that we've made on behalf of the taxpayers and citizens of the city of Winnipeg. And we…I have never gotten the answer to some really important questions. I am all for finding out where we can find these efficiencies and have these accountabilities. But where are biggest…where are the biggest ones? Where are the biggest inefficiencies? Now, don't blame me for the use of the word 'inefficiency', I didn't develop the lexicon, if you will, for this report. We are talking about efficiencies. So, what's inefficiency? What good is the report if we don't have a common definition of what inefficiency is? One way I think that I do, and other people will measure efficiency, is what you get for your dollar. One, is it could be a time efficiency. What do you get done in a certain amount of time? Often related to money because we pay for a certain amount of time. So, let's say inefficiency is how much do you get for how much you pay. What we do know, Madam Speaker, is that compared to the vast majority of working taxpayers in the city, that the part of the City budget that has gone up 10 times higher in the last 30 years than their ability to pay, than their increases and their income, the part of the City budget's gone up 10 times higher…10 times higher rate of inflation, 10 times higher rate of increase, than the taxpayers of the city is our construction budget. So, that is the big one. I don't know if there is anything else. If somebody can tell me there is something larger that it affected our budget and has affected our necessity to increase taxes and that, please let me know because I have been waiting 8 years. Of course, no one is denying what I am saying. We just don't get answers to this. So, in my first term, I started asking this question. I wasn't the first one to ask it. But as an example, if we're looking for efficiencies, we now know that, look, this isn't…these are…this is not my terminology. This is the terminology used here by this report. That compared to peoples…Winnipeg taxpayers' income, that we have a 10…relative to that, we've had a 10 times higher increase in inefficiency in the construction industry as it relates to city budgets and city construction projects. A 10 times higher rate of inefficiency, increase in inefficiency. And if someone can tell me that's not the case, tell me. So, I am going to say it again so I can get comments by my colleagues here in City Council, by the administration and others out there in our community. I am going to say it again. Remember, this is not in my report. I did not create these definitions. Based on this, I have got to say, if this is…if we are going to make greater sense of this in the future, we have had relative to people's income increases in the last 30 years a 10 times greater increase in inefficiency in the construction projects that the City…that the City has paid for, the City's…the City's contracted. Well, that is inefficiency, Madam Speaker, unless we have a different way of gauging inefficiency. But I think that's the reason for the report, right? Looking for inefficiencies. So, I've just mentioned something that I can't compare anything to it. Nothing. I don't think we will find anything comes within 80%. In other words, any other inefficiencies are 80% lower than the construction budget increases of the last…of the last generation. So that being said, let's be specific. As in…because this is meant to be very specific. That is good, it's excellent. So, here's one that's really specific, I never got an answer yet. The…because I am talking about the big ones. The greatest increases in efficiency in my life time for the City budget. 30 years ago, over 30 years ago, the City had, in more conservative…a more conservative era…in a more conservative era of this city when they were building the city, the City decided to own its own gravel quarry. In a more conservative time, in a more fiscally conservative time. We sold it just over 20 years ago. We've never found out the…we sold it in the name of efficiency is what we were told. We would save money. Well, that's the deficiency, to save move. That's inefficiency we're told. So, therefore…well, I think that's our common definition of efficiency, to save money for a given specific task or project. So, when we sold the gravel quarry, we were told we'd save money, we'd become more efficient. So, therefore, I need to know, we all need to know, how is it we don't need to know? Did we save money when the City sold off its gravel quarry? Did we save money? Was it an efficiency? And if we…if we did…if we did save money, if it was an efficiency, how much did we save? That is why I am going to vote for this because this is a good start. Of course, it is not really going to…I have yet to see whether this is going to help us reduce our tax increases, increase services and efficiencies to the extent that we can decrease our tax increases, lower our tax increases, stop reducing our services and reducing the number of debentures that we're obliged to sell. In other words, how much more are we going into debt? So, that is why this is important. This is why this has potential. So, I'm going to vote for it this time. I've got a lot of patience and apparently Winnipeggers do too, but Winnipeggers still deserve an answer to this if the issue of striving for efficiencies and analysis and accountability has any value and relevance to us. This is the big one. I can't think of anything more important to ask of such…of such an annual report. Of such a process, of such an analysis. We used to own our own pavement plant. We don't anymore. Did it become more efficient? And if so, how? How much money have

we saved the taxpayers of Winnipeg by no longer having our own pavement plant? That is a great project for this…for this…for this type of report. I don't expect it to be done the first year. I don't expect it to be done in the second year. But if it's not being done, why do we saying we're…this is going to help us with efficiencies and accountability? This is the biggest inefficiency in our lifetime in terms of the City budget, in terms of tax increases. I am not exaggerating. And if anybody wants to say it's an exaggeration, how is it an exaggeration? Now, I have been waiting 8 years and Winnipeggers have been waiting. A lot of people, a lot of City workers. CUPE workers have borne the brunt of budget cuts, kind of like the taxpayers and the wage earners of Winnipeg, Madam Speaker. And they deserve some answers. This just might do it. And let's work on it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Wyatt: I wasn't planning to speak on this, but Councillor Schreyer inspired me. So, I want to just say a few words. You know, yeah, a lot has been said about construction inflation, but just a couple of points very quickly. It is true, within 15 years based on inflation, our costs, our road costs, actually double 15 years or less. That is significant. It is true what he pointed out that when the City of Winnipeg decommissioned the Tecumseh plant, asphalt plant, in the name of building the virology lab, the promise was made by the council of the day and the mayor of the day, Bill Norrie, that that plant would be rebuilt. It never was. It is true that we did have our own gravel pit. And aggregate is one of the key factors that drive up the cost for us. And the sale of that pit was probably one of the worst decisions we ever made. And it's also true that we are in a small market, limited in terms of competition, isolated from major jurisdictions. The benefit of which would allow more competition in the industry. And I have had conversations with my colleagues at the Province who are just as concerned about this issue. Who are affected just like us. Who see the benefits if we could work together to both introduce new members or new elements of the industry to grow the industry, coordinate our tendering so that we could keep our costs down rather than competing against each other, getting contracts our contracts out early, doing it on a larger scale, coordinated. And these are efficiencies that I think we have a Provincial Government right now that's more than willing, actually. We have a window of opportunity to see these things done. So, I just wanted to touch base on a couple of things that my colleague to my left has made. I know he has…he has spoken about this religiously in this chamber. And is well known for it and he has been persistent. And I want to give him credit for that because, you know, his persistence, I think, is important because it reminds us of the importance of the issue. It is an important issue. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Back to you, Mr. Mayor, to close.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You can call the question, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Item 17, Mr. Clerk.

Item 17 – Negotiations – City of Winnipeg and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 500

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

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll take this opportunity to thank all of our CUPE staff across various departments in the city of Winnipeg for the work that they do for the citizens of Winnipeg in delivering critical services day in and day out. And I just want to recognize the work that they do. Some of it is seasonal work, some of it is all year round. And so, we certainly do appreciate the efforts that they put in. And many of our…many of our CUPE staff are really, in their respective roles, are frontline staff. And so, they are the ones that the public engages with on a regular basis. And so, I just want to acknowledge their work. And you know, as Mr. Delbridge mentioned, he is right on that and I think we all understand that the…in this environment, the City of Winnipeg, like other employers, has been struggling with labour shortages on many frontline positions. And the contract that is before us today, I think, you know, is an effort to provide an increase for those frontline positions in an effort to really help attract and retain staff. And so, I will be supporting this contract that is before us today. I do also want to just acknowledge, I think, and you know, state, I think we also all understand is that overall, the City of Winnipeg's finances continue to be facing challenges right now. And I know that our Finance Chair, Councillor Browaty, is working diligently with our Corporate Finance team. And I know that right now, the members of the Budget Working Group are experiencing the realities of that challenge. And will, really, in the…you know, in the coming years, this year, 2023, I should say, in the coming years, be looking to all of us, Council included, to work in partnership with CUPE, all of our other collective bargaining units to identify ongoing innovative ways to control costs and to work diligently and to provide optimal service to the citizens of Winnipeg. But I just thank our team once again of labour relations and their work in negotiating this contract. And I will be supporting this report today.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This was stood down by Councillor Wyatt. You have the floor.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, I just want to follow-up on the words of the Mayor. I think his words were well said and thank him. I, too, would like to thank CUPE and the workers for this negotiated agreement that's before us today that I will be supporting. It should be noted that the last time we had a strike in the city with our employees was the general strike of 1919, over 100 years ago. So, it's quite significant that we have been able to have labour peace, especially when we see other parts of the world; England right now with multiple strikes underway. You know, one of the key parts of this agreement, which I think are important, is the fact that we have had some difficulties in the last little while in terms of certain positions, such as lifeguards, to be able to staff. This actually…the benefit you see in terms of wage increase in some positions we have the flexibility to target and to adjust those wages accordingly so that we could attract employees, which we're having difficulty doing and that directly affects our ability to operate our facilities and operate services to the citizens of Winnipeg. I would also like to add that I believe we…in terms of looking towards the future and the future budget, as been noted by the Mayor, that I believe we do need to exercise due diligence and recognize that the matter before us today that we are voting on as a Council will probably be the single largest item that all of us will be voting for in terms of implications to our operating budget in the next four years. Ironically, it comes to us in our first meeting. But the fact of the matter is, as the report has noted, this does increase the cost to do business to the City of Winnipeg by approximately $56.7 million, $57 million, over the course of the contract. I think it's fair to say that in the past when such agreements have been made, whether it be with CUPE or other unions, the matter gets referred, ultimately that cost expenditure matter gets referred off to a future budget working group, a future Chair of Finance, a future EPC, in the past that then has to try to find the funds. And in the past, what has occurred is the funds have been found typically because we had tax freezes by and large and even now with the increases that we've had going towards largely infrastructure has been found through cuts to services that many a times we thought the citizens wouldn't see. But in time, they do and we see the result. I think we have to have, therefore, going forward, Madam Speaker, both the wisdom and the courage to act upon that wisdom that if we know this is going to cost in the future, that we should have the courage to be able to say that to the ratepayers and to accommodate it through, unfortunately, what is our only mechanism, or greatest mechanism, in terms of raising money, which is property taxes. Yes, we should be able to strive towards efficiencies. Absolutely. However, the greatest challenge will be to find those funds without affecting our services on our existing frontline services. We already know we, as a city, the labour per capita basis, one of the lowest cost service levels of any major Canadian city as it stands right now. And so, I am reluctant. I'm supporting the contract, but I want to say that I am reluctant in terms of concern, more or less, maybe that is better wording; concerned going forward in terms of how we're going to pay for this. We have to have the courage. And I think it's fair to say, as well, for the record, that many members of EPC who are there today, the Mayor as well, was not a party to this agreement when it was finally was settled. And I know there was commitments made in terms of tax increases during the election trail of how much we would limit that to, but the reality is, some things were beyond the election period, such as this. And therefore, we must have the wisdom to be able to act upon it, not to pass it through service cuts which have been the…the path of previous budgets. I would also just like to note that I've had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Delbridge and I would like to thank him again for being here today. One of the greatest areas that I see an opportunity in this contract that we could be actual trailblazers in the future with future negotiations hopefully and maybe even before that, is an area of productivity which has greatly affected our workplace like other workplaces around the country, and that is in the name of recovery and substance use abuse that I think could be addressed. We have, potentially, the ability through a contract to raise the level of care for our employees. And we don't have to reinvent the wheel. The city of Calgary has made huge strides in terms of recovery…making available recovery beds, and by doing that, making available recovery facilities and beds to others outside of City employees. I think it is a huge opportunity because of the fact if we want to talk about productivity, we know that this is one of the greatest areas negatively affecting productivity today of any organization. And it hits us, you know, in all sorts of ways. And so, it's an opportunity Mr. Delbridge was extremely excited with when I suggested this a few weeks ago and wanted to follow-up on this. And I want to thank him for that…for that…that energy and that enthusiasm. And I hope we can pursue that going forward. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. Councillor Lukes, and then we'll come to Councillor Schreyer and then Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Just going to make this a little larger here. Thank you very much. I will be supporting the contract or the report today. It's a fundamental step forward in becoming an employer of choice. I and all of Council want to see the City of Winnipeg be an employer of choice for current employees and future employees. There are many characteristics that define an employer of choice. To name just a few: strong leadership, competitive pay, meaningful work and an attractive company culture. And I know it's all of Council's desire to ensure that we are an employer of choice because it puts us in the driver's seat for recruiting, hiring and retaining the best people. And for sure, we all know this is critical in delivering services to residents. This Council is working to provide strong leadership. We have a new mayor and Council who are facing incredible challenges that require strong leadership and we will deliver. The Public Service is conducting surveys reaching out to employees to better understand what can occur to build a more attractive company culture. And this contract today is providing very competitive pay and benefits. There are very few employers in todays' market that offer such good wages and benefits. And there are very few that offer generous signing bonuses and guaranteed employment. The total cost of this agreement over four years is estimated to

be at $55.7 million. And the report clearly states there is insufficient budget to cover cost of the agreement. And to Councillor Wyatt's point, we do need to look at how we find the funds without impacting frontline services. I am on the Budget Working Group and I tell you, this will be a challenge. I want to thank Mr. Delbridge for his efforts and all CUPE members for their commitment to the citizens of Winnipeg. Thank you for the work that you do. I will be supporting the report.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, some people are unfortunately led to believe that the wage-earning workers of the City, primarily the…those CUPE workers are somehow part of the reason for our tax increases, for our reduction in services and for having to sell debentures, which is a form of debt. In fact, the opposite is true. Like the working people of Winnipeg, the wage earning CUPE workers have borne the brunt of historic inefficiencies given the report item we just dealt with. Historic inefficiencies created in the city budget over the last generation. Who's paid for this? Well, the taxpayers of Winnipeg and part of those exemplified by those good wage-earning taxpayers called City workers. Their proportion of the budget has decreased every year and every decade of my adult life, if not longer. And we should all be willing to say that at anytime. Why? Because what did they do to deserve to the extent that they do, because I have heard it, that they are the reason…somehow, they are the reason why our taxes go up, our services go down and we go into debt. The opposite is true. They receive, actually, less income in proportion to the cost of living than they…than a generation ago. And they are a smaller proportion of the city budget than they were a generation ago. And this is the way it is at city hall. Not just the City of Winnipeg. And I have never said that or implied it, but we are City Council of Winnipeg. I'm a city councillor here. I am accountable for here. And there is no excuse for being able to acknowledge that at any time, anywhere, anyplace, in any interview, any speech for any of us to make that acknowledgment, otherwise we're encouraging misinformation. I am not going to say disinformation. I can't say we are all doing that on purpose. But because we…people have that impression. It's their…it's their taxes, it's their city, it's their budget, it's their future, they have a right to know where the money is going. And the money didn't go to CUPE workers. It didn't go to the wage earning workers of the City. That's not where the increases have been. People should know that, otherwise, how can we have legitimate annual budget consultations while people maintain assumptions? And here's one, it's related: the idea that the police budget is a quarter of the budget. It is not. It's a fifth of the budget, and a quarter of the budget is construction budget. That being the capital budget and the street repair budget, that's a quarter of a million. So, we want to use the term quarter of the budget, there's their quarter of the budget. The police budget is a fifth of the budget, so let's get it straight. It's okay to say it. We have to correct ourselves because we have heard it too often around, a police budget is a quarter of the budget. Now, the police budget has gone up at a higher rate than the CUPE workers, but if we're going to be realistic and accountable to make proper, realistic decisions, we need to have the real information. You have the wrong information, you're going to make wrong decisions, right? It doesn't matter what your political values are or your political opinions are. You're not going to make the right decisions without the right information. And it's really…and it's unfair. It's unfair to the citizens of Winnipeg to have the wrong information. It's unfair to these good people, no matter who they are, to be misinformed about…about accusations and gouging the budget. You are allowed your opinions in terms of…we're all allowed our opinions and our values as they apply to the information. How we feel about it, what we think our predictions in terms of what we should be doing, but basing it on wrong information? That's unfortunate. The City workers, the wage earning workers of the City of Winnipeg have borne the brunt of all of those things that have cropped up in our economy when it comes to the city budget. Those inefficiencies that we have not accounted for, we have not admitted to, we have not dealt with. So, yeah, we've increased taxes quite a bit over the last generation. We reduced services and we've even gone into debt, all levels of government. The last people of all to blame when it comes to the city budget are the CUPE workers. They have borne the brunt with all of the other wage earning taxpayers of the city. Thank you.

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

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just rise. I will be voting to…to support the agreement that was put together through negotiating teams on both sides. As we heard, it was a difficult negotiation, but I don't want to go there. I think that there can be improvements in our collective bargaining ways of doing that. But Madam Speaker, I wanted to speak to this particular agreement in the context of my campaign in the last election. I grew up the North End, Madam Speaker, where decades before, we had families, parents who were…ended up getting good paying important jobs with the City of Winnipeg and right at the ground floor where at many points in that kind of employment you don't need that university master's degree or whatever to do work such as driving equipment and plowing snow or whatever. There is a lot of different jobs within CUPE that, you know, new immigrants, for example, you know, with good understanding and some training, they raised their families in the North End, Madam Speaker. And Madam Speaker, back then, and maybe it's a result of the 1919 strike, I don't know, but as you move in to the '60s, '70s, '80s…or, well, definitely the '60s and '70s, Madam Speaker, this city wasn't operated like it was some private for-profit business. There was an understanding of the people who worked and the managers and everybody that had an understanding that a city – a public city – that is governed by elected officials and then who…who then appoint senior management as in the Charter; back in those days, the City of Winnipeg Act, and it is a social enterprise. We can help people out of that poverty. And that is what happened

in the North End, Madam Speaker. There was also a lot of private business, a lot of people who were able to take care of their families and do that there, as well. And you know, those good paying…good paid jobs, City workers, they would actually have the money to buy the products from these private companies. They could actually…they had the money to do it, but they also had the money to raise their family. In the last, since I've gotten involved at the City level, I've seen a constant attack on privatizing everything and getting rid of, especially, CUPE workers over the decades. CUPE workers where these are positions with some training, not a university degree, but with training, entry-level, people could earn a living at a decent wage. That's what I mean better City jobs. Let's look at it from that perspective. We have a motion that talks about a living wage, but a living wage is important. But essentially, I know it is hard for us to find the money, Madam Speaker. We heard from others already about money and how much it costs. But remember, all of this money that we are increasing, those workers are spending their money in this city. So, you know, there is a…well, it's actually probably more of a kickback to the Province of Manitoba, but you know…and the Government of Canada, but ultimately, the money is spent here in Winnipeg, Madam Speaker. And with the concept if we consider that we are a social enterprise and that we can, instead of privatizing jobs, we could bring in Public Service, as we heard from Mr. Delbridge. This has been my belief all along. We expect City workers to work. And you know, in a very large part, they do work hard. I'm not going to get into details, every entity, whether it's a private entity or a public entity, there's always, you know, labour issues that you have to work with. So, but that's a give in. That's human…that's humanity. That's who we are. But ultimately, if you want to see improvement for people who are living in our older neighbourhoods where the rent is more affordable or the mortgage is more affordable because of that. And we have an affordability problem. But I just want to note publicly, Madam Speaker, when we brought in this four-year budget, it was just before COVID hit, but we kind of knew it was coming. And you know, this city's budget was managed inappropriately not only by previous councils and their leader, the mayor, not just Mayor Bowman's, but previous mayors to that. There are tough decisions, Madam Speaker. But we are here where we are today talking about using one-time money to cover off the cost for this bargaining agreement, Madam Speaker. You know, you can try to blame it on COVID, but it was the mis-budget management of this Council voting the way it did and recruit…asking our Public Service, in times of great prosperity in this city. We seen cuts, service cuts, they call them savings, Madam Speaker. Ain't savings. They aren't. For the most part, since a…well, quite a number of years, it's service cuts. As I have always said. You can call it savings, but it's service cuts. There were some finding…you know, there were some surpluses and different things and maybe you could run different operations and it would cost less, Madam Speaker. But ultimately, you know, we never planned for internal inflation which has always been higher than CPI inflation. So, you know, as we move forward, Madam Speaker, in supporting this collective agreement, we need in our next vote on a budget, we need to consider how we can provide appropriately. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll try to be relatively brief. I will be supporting the report. I think…actually, think it's a good settlement for both parties. Pleased that we were ahead of the Province in raising the minimum raise for all of our employees to $15 an hour effective Jan 1, 2023, that's nine months before the provincial move to $15 an hour. That was a vote some years ago here now that will be reflected in this collective agreement. I am just struck by the number of comments about wage rates and living wage and money staying in the city and being an employer of choice. There is a vote coming. There is a vote coming where we are going to be talking about Transit Plus and the Transit Plus workers 100% of whom are contracted out right now. That wasn't always the case. We used to have a mixed model of 30% in-house, 70% contracted out. There is a vote coming on that. How we want to do that, if we want to do that. So, I am pleased to see people talking about the City being an employer of choice and concerned about having living wages. There is a provision in OurWinnipeg 2020…2045, provision 3-13 that talks about having a living wage, even for those employees who work for our subcontractors. I asked the staff about the most recent Transit Plus contracts – the wages. They said the wages will be going up. I said, what are they now? What are they going to? Can't tell you. That is commercially confidential. Seems odd in a single-source contract that you would invoke commercial confidentiality. Who are the competitors? We're going to find out it's a sole source. Regardless, that vote's come and gone. But I have some concern that, at present, I asked Michael Jack about this. How am I to implement 3-13 of OurWinnipeg if you won't tell me the wages of those who work for our subcontractors? Or even if they're employees at all or if they're independent contractors, at least notionally. And the answer was, well, you'll need to get more granular in your questions and I will come to that in due course next year. But for today, just, let's vote for this today. I'm in favour of it. But there's a vote coming where we're going to have to talk about whether we care about the wages of those who work for our subcontractors. Whether we want to bring some of that work in-house and how much disclosure would we really expect. If our words about a living wage for those who work for subcontractors are hollow rhetoric, let's be honest about that and say that that's all that 3-13 of OurWinnipeg really is. It's just notional. But if it's more than that…if it's more than that, then let's ask some questions and get some actual answers about what it is that people who work for our subcontractors are getting paid and what it is we expect for them to go to. So, more debate to come on those wages, but for today, I'm supportive and want to thank our staff and Gord and his team for coming to a mutual agreement. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. With that, it is the end of our speakers. I can call the question, unless you'd like to close, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Gillingham: Yes, please call the question, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour of Item 17? Contrary? That is carried. That concludes our items under this committee. We will now deal with motions. We have Motion No. 2. It's a notice of motion by councillor...

Councillor Wyatt: Suspension of on the rules on Item No. 2, Madam Speaker. This is something which we are all working to deal with right now as new members of Council, including myself, hire staff, get our office organized and (inaudible).

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. I will call out what the issue is. It is moved by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Santos and it's regarding the councillor's ward allowance. It's a notice of motion, but there's been a request to suspend the rules to hear the item today. All in favour of suspension? Contrary? Call for a recorded vote. All in favour of suspending the rules, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Chambers, Dobson, Eadie, Santos, Schreyer, Wyatt, Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Duncan, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 8, Nays 7. The motion fails not having achieved two-thirds.

Madam Speaker: This will be heard at the next meeting of Council in January. Next is Motion 3: moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Schreyer. It's regarding French language services. It is an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Next, Motion 4: moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Santos. It's regarding the evaluation of the statutory officers. This is also an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Motion 5: moved by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Eadie on Ukraine. It's an automatic referral to the…oh, it's a notice of motion, pardon me, and it's on Ukraine. It will be placed on our January Council agenda. Motion 6: moved by Councillor Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Schreyer regarding trade policies. Again, on…move…it's an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Motion 7: moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Santos. It's regarding the Audit Committee. It's an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Motion 7: moved by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Dobson, regarding sister city. It will be an automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee. Motion 8, the last one, thank you. We will now move in to by-laws, Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS City Councillors are provided with an annual office budget of $84,924 known as the Councillors Ward Allowance (CWA), which is used for staff salaries and benefits, the purchase of items required to operate their offices including supplies, equipment and furnishings as well as and other business expenses that are incurred in order to execute their duties, communicate with their constituents, and represent their wards;

AND WHEREAS a Winnipeg Public Service report submitted to the Governance Committee of Council on October 21, 2020 revealed that in comparison to other major Canadian cities, City of Winnipeg Councillors receive amongst the lowest levels of funding to perform their duties and is the only City that does not provide a pension for Councillor's office staff (see Attachment A with 2020 statistics);

AND WHEREAS an independent Governance Review of the City of Winnipeg conducted by MNP LLB, submitted to Council on January 27, 2022, further confirmed that "individual Councillor ward allowances are quite low compared to other Cities, at less than half of the lowest comparable amount", and further recommended "increases in individual budgets to enable Councillors to hire additional capacity";

AND WHEREAS the current level of CWA funding makes it difficulty to attract and retain qualified candidates as Councillors assistants, with over a 50% turnover rate for the 2018 - 2022 Council term, resulting in loss of institutional knowledge and a lessened ability to respond to citizen concerns;

AND WHEREAS on average, approximately 62% of funds from the CWA are used to pay the salaries and benefits of executive assistants, leaving Councillors with limited resources to adequately support and represent their wards, including establishing constituency offices which would allow Councillors to provide direct easily accessible ward based service to constituents;

AND WHEREAS funding was included in the 2022 budget for the purpose of instituting a pension plan for Councillor's office staff, but to date has not been implemented;

AND WHEREAS although increasing funding for the CWA by an additional $74,000 would still leave City of Winnipeg amongst the lowest funded Councillors in Canada at $3.10 per capita, it would allow Councillors to offer better remuneration packages to staff, which would reduce the turnover rate, and would also allow Councillors to set up constituency offices, both of which would greatly increase the level of service Councillors provide to constituents;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that transparency be at the forefront of how taxpayers funds are incurred, with the ideal being that all spending for Councillors Offices occur through submissions of invoices that can be verified and approved by staff in the Corporate Finance and City Clerk's Departments who are currently required to approve CWA expenditures, prior to any funds being paid out;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to find the necessary funds to accommodate the following restructuring of the Councillor's Ward Allowance (CWA), to take effect February 1, 2023, on a prorated basis:*

   A. $89,000 for staffing costs including but not limited to salary, benefits and vacation pay;
   B. $30,000 for the setup, and maintenance of a constituency office, including renovations, furnishings, equipment purchase, services, maintenance, rent and other expenses directly related to operation of the constituency office;
   C. $40,000 for all other expenditures as currently permitted under the Councillors Ward Allowance Policy;

   with funding in each of the 3 categories above restricted to expenses in that funding area.

2. *That the City of Winnipeg provide pension (including employee contributions) and benefits to Councillor's office staff, similar to Mayor's Office employees, within 120 days, with funding provided corporately.*

3. *That funding for the CWA be increased annually at the rate of the Consumer Price Index of the previous year, as determined by Statistics Canada, to a maximum of 2% per year.*

4. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council with amendments to the Councillor's Ward Allowance Fund Policy which reflect the intent of the foregoing.*

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

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la fonction publique soit chargée de mettre en œuvre ce qui suit:

Que l'engagement de la Ville de Winnipeg envers le développement d'un plan quinquennal sur les services en français soit maintenu et que sa mise en œuvre soit priorisée.

Que la direction des services en français de la Ville de Winnipeg relève directement de la direction municipale afin de favoriser une approche intégrée à l'amélioration des services en français. À l'heure actuelle, chaque département agit de façon indépendante, sans être tenu de prendre au sérieux les droits linguistiques de la minorité de langue officielle. Un engagement afin que toutes les directions de la Ville de Winnipeg rencontrent la Société de la francophonie manitobaine

une fois par année, et ce, afin de discuter des progrès en matière des services en français et que la mairesse ou le maire préside ces rencontres.

Que la Partie 9 de la Charte de la Ville de Winnipeg soit modernisée, selon les principes suivants :

a. L'élargissement des limites géographiques définies dans la Partie 9 pour que tous les résidents de la Ville de Winnipeg aient un droit égal aux services en français ;

b. L'établissement de mécanismes plus rapides et efficaces pour assurer le plein respect de la Partie IX. Cela pourrait comprendre des sanctions pour les départements qui ignorent leurs obligations;

c. L'adoption de mesures positives pour améliorer l'offre de services en français. Les communautés francophones de Winnipeg doivent activement être consultées et participer à la mise en œuvre des services qui leur sont destinés.

Que la Ville de Winnipeg, par l'adoption de cette proposition, demande à la Province du Manitoba et au Gouvernement du Canada, un nouvel engagement financier permanent pour appuyer l'amélioration, la prestation et la mise en oeuvre de services en français pour la Ville de Winnipeg et les autres municipalités bilingues du Manitoba et du Canada.

Que la Ville de Winnipeg, par l'adoption de cette proposition, demande à l'Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba, et la Fédération canadienne des municipalités, d'appuyer par tous les moyens à leur disposition les objectifs énoncés dans cette résolution.

Translation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the City of Winnipeg's commitment to the development of a five-year plan for French language services be maintained and its implementation prioritized.*

THAT *the City of Winnipeg's French Language Services Division report directly to the CAO in order to foster an integrated approach to improving French language services. Currently, each department acts independently, without being required to take the language rights of the official language minority seriously. A commitment that all departments of the City of Winnipeg will meet with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine once a year to discuss progress on French language services and that the mayor will chair these meetings.*

THAT *the legal (as per the Charter) and administrative (as per the City of Winnipeg's French Language Services By-law) obligations with respect to the provision of emergency services - including 911, the Winnipeg Police Department and the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service - be immediately assessed and that all measures be taken to ensure that these entities provide emergency service in both official languages.*

THAT *the City of Winnipeg, through the adoption of this proposal to Council, formally request the Province of Manitoba that Part IX of the City of Winnipeg Charter be modernized along the following lines:*

a. Expanding the geographic boundaries defined in Part IX to ensure that all residents of the City of Winnipeg have an equal right to French language services (as adopted by Council on January 30, 2020);

b. Establishing more timely and effective mechanisms to ensure full compliance with Part IX, including penalties for departments that ignore their obligations;

c. The adoption of positive measures to improve the City of Winnipeg's offer of French language services and that Winnipeg's Francophone communities must be actively consulted and involved in the implementation of services intended for them.

THAT *the City of Winnipeg, through the adoption of this motion, request from the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, a new permanent financial commitment to support the improvement, delivery and implementation of French language services for the City of Winnipeg and other bilingual municipalities in Manitoba and Canada.*

THAT *the City of Winnipeg, through the adoption of this motion, call upon the Association of Bilingual Municipalities of Manitoba and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to support the objectives set out in this resolution by all means available to them.*

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS in a 2014-2018 term, Council agreed that the four Statutory Officers should have an annual performance evaluations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 180 days with an evaluation of the performance of the 4 statutory officers of the City of Winnipeg

Motion No. 5
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation initiated an invasion of Ukraine, a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014 with the unlawful Russian annexation of the Crimea;

AND WHEREAS Russia has, among other things:

1. *attempted to overthrow the democratically elected federal government of Ukraine;*

2. *used its combined arms, including its army, naval, and air forces, to attack military and civilian targets, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths, including innocent civilians, in attempt to unjustifiably encroach on Ukraine's sovereign territory;*

3. *damaged or destroyed over 500 Ukrainian heritage and/or cultural sites; and*

4. *has been found, by the United Nation's Human Rights Council's Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, to have committed war crimes in Ukraine;*

AND WHEREAS it is incumbent on all levels of Canadian government, including municipalities, to mobilize in a national effort to aid Ukrainian's suffering from the unprovoked invasion by Russia on the sovereign state of Ukraine;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg has among the largest Ukrainian populations in Canada on an absolute and per capita basis and it is a moral necessity for the City of Winnipeg to support its Ukrainian population;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the City of Winnipeg create a Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund for the purpose of aiding those suffering from the unprovoked invasion by Russia on the sovereign state of Ukraine;*

2. *That all donations be matched by the City of Winnipeg on a 1:1 basis;*

3. *That all funds be transferred to non-profit organizations operating in Ukraine, for humanitarian purposes, on a monthly-basis, upon identification of beneficiary organizations and the establishment of a secure transfer process;*

4. *That the federal government of Ukraine be requested to assist in facilitating the transfer and direction of funds;*

5. *That the City of Winnipeg structure the Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund to allow for income tax receipting for any private charitable donation made, be it individual or corporate;*

6. *That the Winnipeg-Ukraine Humanitarian Fund shall operate for a one year period, and at such time it will be reviewed by City Council to determine the continuation of said program, or upon the termination of all hostilities between Ukraine and Russia, whichever should come first;*

7. *That the relevant by-laws or policies of the City of Winnipeg and Council be amended accordingly; and*

8. *That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Motion No. 6
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is a major urban centre in Canada that participates in complex international supply chains and the procurement of goods and services thereof;

AND WHEREAS on 23 February 2021, Canada's House of Commons adopted a motion recognizing that China's actions against the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region of China meet the definition of genocide as set out in the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention;

AND WHEREAS on 31 August 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner released a report assessing human rights concerns in the Xinjiang region of China and found that serious human rights violations have been committed;

AND WHEREAS on 31 October 2022, 50 states represented at the United Nations, including Canada, issued a joint statement expressing grave concern with respect to ongoing human rights violations against the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region and possible crimes against humanity;

AND WHEREAS in addition to other human rights abuses, China perpetrated the unlawful and retaliatory detention of Canadian citizens Michael Solvig and Michael Spavor in China for nearly three years;

AND WHEREAS among other recent and ongoing national sovereignty, espionage, and security concerns involving China, Canadian law enforcement and intelligence services are aware of and investigating allegations of China's interference in the 2019 federal election;

AND WHEREAS China maintains an official state policy of "unification" with Taiwan, increasing the prospect of international military conflict;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 and the recent vulnerability of international supply chains has highlighted the urgent need for building and prioritizing integrated, domestic economic capacity;

AND WHEREAS there is a growing recognition in western liberal democracies that existing foreign policy focused on engagement with China has largely failed and that the time has come to pursue a policy of "decoupling";

AND WHEREAS continuing to procure goods and services from China, in light of its human rights abuses, is morally untenable for the City of Winnipeg or other Canadian municipalities and is no longer reflective of modern foreign policy realities or domestic economic demands;

AND WHEREAS continuing to procure goods and services from China risks the City of Winnipeg and other Canadian municipalities implicit endorsement or ignorance of China's human rights abuses and reflects an improper prioritization of domestic interests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the City of Winnipeg develop an "ethical trade policy" and "approved country list" for any procurement of goods and services;*

2. *That the City of Winnipeg mandate that all sourcing and procurement of goods and services give priority to Canadian based, or controlled, entities;*

3. *That in the event that no available domestic sources of goods or services exist, that procurement from international sources must comply with the City of Winnipeg's ethical trade policy and approved country list;*

4. *That the City of Winnipeg request the federal government's assistance, in coordination with the Provincial Government, in developing said procurement standard;*

5. *That the relevant by-laws or policies of the City of Winnipeg and Council be amended accordingly; and*

6. *That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.*

Motion No. 7
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS the City Organization By-law No. 71/1997 (the By-law) provides jurisdiction to the Executive Policy Committee to act as the Audit Committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Organization By-law No. 71/1997 be amended as follows:

A. To remove the requirement for the Executive Policy Committee to act as the Audit Committee.
B. To create an Audit Committee, appointed annually by City Council at the Organizational Meeting of Council, which would have jurisdiction over all audit matters currently delegated to the Executive Policy Committee.
C. To allow the Audit Committee to report directly to Council.
D. To establish the composition of the Audit Committee as five (5) members of Council with a maximum of two members being from the following: Executive Policy Committee, the Deputy Mayor or Acting Deputy Mayor.

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

Motion No. 8
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg, since 1988, has had an existing "Sister City" relationship with Chengdu, People's Republic of China;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of forming a Sister City relationship is to promote cultural and commercial ties between cities;

AND WHEREAS forming and maintaining a Sister City relationship is an important symbolic union, signifies a marriage of cultural and economic interests, and endorses a shared mission of reciprocal support between municipalities;

AND WHEREAS on 23 February 2021, Canada's House of Commons adopted a motion recognizing that China's actions against the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region of China meet the definition of genocide as set out in the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention;

AND WHEREAS on 31 August 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner released a report assessing human rights concerns in the Xinjiang region of China and found that serious human rights violations have been committed;

AND WHEREAS on 31 October 2022, 50 states represented at the United Nations, including Canada, issued a joint statement expressing grave concern with respect to ongoing human rights violations against the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region and possible crimes against humanity;

AND WHEREAS in addition to other human rights abuses, China perpetrated the unlawful and retaliatory detention of Canadian citizens Michael Solvig and Michael Spavor in China for nearly three years;

AND WHEREAS among other recent and ongoing national sovereignty, espionage, and security concerns involving China, Canadian law enforcement and intelligence services are aware of and investigating allegations of China's interference in the 2019 federal election;

AND WHEREAS China maintains an official state policy of "unification" with Taiwan, posing a direct threat to Winnipeg's Sister City of Taichung;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 and the recent vulnerability of international supply chains has highlighted the urgent need for building and prioritizing integrated, domestic economic capacity;

AND WHEREAS there is a growing recognition in western liberal democracies that existing foreign policy focused on engagement with China has largely failed and that the time has come to pursue a policy of "decoupling";

AND WHEREAS continuing a Sister City relationship with Chengdu, in light of China's human rights abuses, is morally untenable for the City of Winnipeg and is no longer reflective of modern foreign policy realities or domestic economic demands;

AND WHEREAS continuing a Sister City relationship with Chengdu risks the City of Winnipeg's implicit endorsement or ignorance of China's human rights abuses and reflects an improper prioritization of domestic interests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

7. That the City of Winnipeg immediately terminate its Sister City status with Chengdu, China;

8. That the City of Winnipeg affirm its ongoing commitment to its Sister City, Taichung, Taiwan;

9. That the relevant by-laws or policies of the City of Winnipeg and Council be amended accordingly; and

10. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 147/2022, 148/2022, 149/2022, 150/2022, 151/2022, and 152/2022.

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

Clerk: By-law No. 147/2022, By-law No. 148/2022, By-law No. 149/2022, By-law No. 150/2022, By-law No. 151/2022, and By-law No. 152/2022.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I move that the following by-laws be read a second time: By-law 74/2022, 77/2022, 79/2022.

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

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

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I move that the By-law Nos. 74/2022, 77/2022, and 79/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Mayor, by-laws under all three readings.

Mayor Gillingham: I move that the by-law…the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 141/2022, 142/2022, 143/2022, 144/2022, 145/2022.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 141/2022, By-law No. 142/2022, By-law No. 143/2022, By-law No. 144/2022, and By-law No. 145/2022.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I move that the By-law Nos. 141/2022 to 145/2022, both inclusive, be read a second time.

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

Clerk: By-law Nos. 141/2022 to 145/2022, both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Madam Speaker, excuse me, I move that the rule be suspended and that By-law Nos. 141/2022 to 145/2022, both inclusive, be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now have question period for the Mayor. Councillor Wyatt, followed by Councillor Santos.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Mayor, we are facing what, in short, could best be described as a moral crisis in our city with regards to the state of the homelessness, with the state of mental health conditions, with the state of addictions and it's…and it's showing up in terms of safety, in terms of our streets, and to our citizens. It's affecting citizens more and more, but more importantly, also, the individuals who are out there suffering with conditions that once you hear their trauma, you understand partially what they have gone through in their lives. In light of this crisis that we're facing and the need to act upon it as soon as possible in terms of having a comprehensive strategy, both in terms of short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions that we as a city lead on and combined that with the failure of the higher levels of governments to act, what steps are you taking in your office to move forward to address this growing crisis right now in our city? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Just before we get to the answer, Councillor Eadie, will you move a motion that we work past 12:00 noon?

Councillor Eadie: I move that we go past for 12:00 noon and adjourn for lunch after question period for the Mayor.

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

Mayor Gillingham: Through you, Madam Speaker; I certainly want to thank Councillor Wyatt for his timely question. It…we are facing a crisis within our city right now regarding individuals who are struggling with homelessness, living unsheltered. And right now, too often, in too many instances, homelessness and addiction and then at times crime are kind of feeding off one another. I can just let this Council know that in this…since November 1st since being sworn into office, as we all were, I am very confident to say that there has not one day where we haven't been speaking about homelessness through our conversation as a staff or certainly, on calls or in meetings with individuals. A couple of actions that I am taking right now, I am working towards fulfilling my campaign commitment to hire an individual within the Mayor's staff to be a lead advisor on homelessness and addiction. Part of the role of that individual will be to work with agencies on the establishing or insuring that there is a coordinative plan. I think Councillor Lukes, or pardon me, Councillor Wyatt talked about comprehensive plan, and he's right, we have plans, but what I really…what this city needs is one coordinated plan with…and it's going to take a lot of work to do that. But conversations I've had so far, I've had conversations with the Provincial Government as well about the need for their assistance in assisting the city with a coordinated plan and helping to fund the agencies that are key to this. We have a lot of agencies doing excellent work in our community. Sometimes they are working in silos. Not always, but sometimes they're working in silos. We need to pull all of those agencies, certainly, together in a more comprehensive way. Early in the new year, I will be meeting with several of the agencies that are providing services to Winnipeg's unsheltered population and those struggling with addiction. And those meetings are being set up right now to have that discussion with those entities. One of the things I was pleased to see that we could do on very short notice is have our City staff work, and I want to give Mr. Jack credit to work with his city…with his staff to…on very short notice, in fact, within I think five hours from start to finish, open a temporary City of Winnipeg facility in extreme cold weather. We opened it on St. Mary's Road working with a partner, St. Boniface Street Links, to provide services to individuals to get them out of the cold. I have said this repeatedly, I will say it again, I want to ensure that every Winnipegger who is living unsheltered right now or homeless has a warm space on a cold night. And so, if that means using City of Winnipeg facilities as spaces where people can find shelter in working in concert with partners in the community, then that is what we are going to do and will continue to do that. But I can tell this Council that the goal I have, we have, is to move towards a coordinated comprehensive plan where all entities and agencies, the City of Winnipeg, our departments, non-profit organizations that work in our community, levels of government, including Indigenous governments, are working in concert on a plan to address the needs of individuals in our community who are struggling right now with homelessness or unsheltered, those struggling with addiction as well. So many of the…so much of the work that is needed and assistance that is needed for individuals really falls outside the purview of the City of Winnipeg, but we cannot just stand back as a

city and say it's another level of government's job do deal with it because that doesn't work. So, we need to take, in many ways, the lead on making sure that we're coming together to coordinate, to…a comprehensive plan where we're working together and that is really the goal that we are moving towards. So, several meetings upcoming now and in the new year, ultimately looking to establish, as I said, a member of my staff, hired within existing budget, within my existing budget as mayor, within my staff to help lead on this file.

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

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, you know, and to the point of the Mayor that the other levels of government have completely let us down in terms of the revenues that they've been collecting and doing nothing about this, yet it's been affecting us directly and the services we provide, can the Mayor give us an idea in terms of a timeframe of when we'll have an idea of when a comprehensive plan or strategy, knowing that we don't have all of the answers immediately full well? But in an attempt to throw the biggest net out there possible to gather expertise and know that we don't have to reinvent the wheel but other jurisdictions, especially in northern Europe, in western Europe, have dealt with this successfully. When could we foresee that coming forward? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Through you, Madam Speaker; I wish I had a specific date that the plan will be in place. I don't know that, but I can tell we're working…I'm working quickly. This is a priority for me as mayor. It's a priority for my office to work on this and establish this and bring the, you know, the right entities and players to the table to make this happen. So, I will…I'll certainly…not only will I keep Council apprised of this, I am leaning on councillors, as well, to assist with this. I know Councillor Orlikow has worked, you know, a lot on this file and…already. And he and I know the…his standing committee, as well; Councillor Duncan and others have been talking about this. So, don't have a date for Council at this point as far as when a plan will be in place, but we are moving toward and making this a priority.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Final question, no preamble.

Councillor Wyatt: I just wanted to…are you aware question, Mr. Mayor, that I had an opportunity to…there's members of Council…are you are that who are more than happy, and I want to thank you for your diligence and recognition of the issue and the importance of it. Are you aware that there's members of Council who will be more than willing to assist you and your office, and indeed, I myself had the opportunity recently to reach out to your staff. And in terms of this effort, that you don't have to do this alone.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I want to thank Councillor Wyatt and indeed, you know, we'll be taking councillors up on their offer because, certainly, the Mayor's Office, they cannot do it on their own and nor would…so, we'll be taking advantage of the offers being made. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Question for the Mayor through you. I want to firstly thank the Mayor for coming out in front of the issues that are occurring at Brady Landfill and the other landfill. My question is, in his discussions with Minister Miller, he made comment to it during his morning speech, I would like to know what the timelines are of this feasibility study? I don't see anything in CBC, I don't see anybody reporting it. So, I would like to know if he is aware of the timeline of the feasibility study? And does he…is he…I'll ask my second question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I want to thank the councillor for her question and for offering them one at a time so I can keep things straight. I don't have a timeline…I'm not aware of a timeline at this point, Madam Speaker, regarding a feasibility study, but I do know that the…kind of the ball is in motion on that. And so, my goal is to continue as mayor to work in concert with and stand to assist the Indigenous community that is really leading this. I want to give credit to Grand Chief Cathy Merrick and Chief Kyra Wilson for their leadership on this file. I know that Ms. Diane Redsky, Sandra Delaronde and others are also working on this. So, don't have a timeline specific yet but I do know this is very active and this conversation is ongoing.

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

Councillor Santos: Thank you for that. Will the Mayor commit to vocalizing to the minister's office or whoever he is going to be working with to expedite the feasibility study as soon as possible and not wait much longer? We want more action, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yes, to Councillor Santos, my desire, personally, as well, is that this not be delayed where it is possible to move ahead that moves ahead as quickly as possible.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, let's recess now, adjourn and come back at 1:30 p.m., thank you.

Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
December 15, 2022, at 1:44 p.m.

Madam Speaker: Good afternoon. Reconvening our Council meeting of December 15th. We are on the report of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development dated December 1st, 2022. Councillor Browaty to introduce the items.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DATED DECEMBER 1, 2022

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce the…introduce the report and move Items 1 and 2 as consent.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie? Both 1 and 2 have been stood down. Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – Over-Expenditure Authorization for Winnipeg Transit 2022 Operating Budget

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty to introduce Item 1.

Councillor Browaty: I will speak after Councillor Eadie (inaudible).

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Not to be too long on this. I just simply wanted to state, of course, I am going to support the recommendation from…through the Finance Committee for the over-expenditure. But I was listening to some of the discussion from some delegations, Madam Speaker, regarding Transit and how it's faring in terms of collecting fares and so on. And Madam Speaker, I just wanted to say, like going into the future, Madam Speaker, with Winnipeg Transit, we do have big some changes coming over the next four or five years, but…within the master plan, but I just wanted to speak just quickly to whether or not we are going to see ridership to be 100% pre-COVID. And I think ridership was already starting to go down somewhat as a result of many issues that we were dealing with regarding the transit system. And not just safety of drivers, but safety of passengers and people's perceptions and then we moved into COVID and nobody…and we came out. Nobody wanted to ride the bus because they were afraid to get disease. Now, that's not…to some degree, that's still an issue for some of the people who use the transit, but I can tell you, I know a lot of people who use transit. Lots who don't have any options but to use our transit system. But as well, Madam Speaker, those who have options would prefer to use the bus, but until we resolve…and you know, to a large degree, it's going to cost us some money. But somehow, you know, every day we're hearing in the news about all the violence and all the troubles that are out there and issues of people not having anywhere to stay if they are homeless and so on. We have to resolve those issues because there's a lot of people who would take transit, but they have this perception and I think maybe to a large degree, a solid one in that they are not willing to come back on the transit until they will be able to feel safe using the system both off the street and on the bus itself. And so, you know, we get back and we are trying to recover as we move along here, but again, and we can improve the system with fast…more speedier buses. We have on our agenda the issue of the on-request service which would serve areas where we don't…aren't really able to provide bus…fixed bus routes into in an efficient and effective manner. And so, Madam Speaker, I just…I'm going to support this,

but I just had to get this on the table about some commentaries I have heard from people in the public. And the reality is, if you want to get back to 100% at 2019 and continue to see growth of people taking transit, which is a very good option to prevent more carbons going into our environment and causing problems. So, I will leave it at that. Thank you.

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

Councillor Browaty: I just want to thank Councillor Eadie for those comments. Again, very challenging times for Winnipeg Transit in 2022. Ridership, again, partially due to COVID and as well as partially the safety issues, which we have definitely discuss a lot and will be discussing a lot more in the coming weeks and months. I know Council has a strategic planning session and safety overall, I think, is going to be a key theme throughout that process. The other piece is the cost of diesel. I mean, we really don't control the cost of fuel. As of this report, I think the number it's using is $8 million in additional costs based on forecast. I always remember being on Budget Working Groups in the past, I always saw the number thinking, gee, this is pessimistic. Geez, this is pessimistic. You are setting yourself up for a big surplus. And you know, big…you know…and up until this year, that was always the case. So, no, it's…I don't think it has…it's gotten…has not gotten better since this report. In fact, we asked Finance staff recently, like, what if we were to try and recuperate just the fuel shortage out of fares. It would be about 35 cents, I believe, a ride that they'd have to increase fares just to recoup…just to make ourselves whole on the extra cost of fuel for 2022. So, it's not a good…good scenario, but I agree with Councillor Eadie, certainly, on some of those safety concerns that we do have to address. Thank you. I'll call for the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Mr. Clerk, Item 2.

Item 2 – Entertainment Funding Tax Annual Report

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

Councillor Browaty: I'll wait for Councillor Eadie or any member's comments on this item.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Again, I will try to be brief, Madam Speaker, in that…in that this is a report on all…all of the tax related to the entertain…all the sources of entertainment tax in the report, Madam Speaker. I have spoken out in the past in regards to some of this issue. And I've supported the entertainment tax when it came to the Goldeyes Baseball stadium. And which is almost…I mean, they…Madam Speaker, they can utilize and have different events that you would call related to entertainment tax, Madam Speaker. But I just wanted to point out that I think there is an agreement with True North eventually that is going to have to be renegotiated. I don't know what True North is going to do. I have to give kudos, though, to True North. I have to say that our arena here in Winnipeg has done very, very well with the management and the people dealing with that centre, with the arena. And ultimately, in the beginning, nobody really knew what to expect and there was a lot of costs. But now we hear, Madam Speaker, we are getting a basketball team. There's all kinds of events happening at the arena. Yeah, COVID caused a bit of a…somewhat of a problem, but it caused a problem for all of us; all business, all of the public, it caused big problems for us. So, Madam Speaker, I just wanted to point out that when True North's agreement, I am hoping that our Public Service who negotiates these things, we realize that, Madam Speaker, the arena is doing really well – really, really well. And so, do they need us to refund back the entertainment tax? I say no. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. No further speakers. Oh, one more. Councillor Mayes. Sorry.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have to prove that I can talk about something other than Transit Plus. So, this is the matter. A) Councillor Browaty has spoken in the past, I think, correctly about revisiting this whole concept of a tax because so much of it is granted back, the numbers start to look unreal with the tax…how much of the revenue is actually granted back. But that is enough for today's debate. The one point, and Councillor Eadie touched on this, there is an arrangement in place with the Goldeyes that pertains to entertainment tax. It appears an error was made when we approved that in that we are told we had an old version of the amateur access agreement appended. It's very much detail and in the weeds. I just raise that because we'll probably have to clean that up hopefully…hopefully before baseball season starts and we get…get the Goldeyes operating again. But yeah, it's…the debate about True North, whether Councillor Eadie's right or wrong, it appears that agreement expires in 2029, but the baseball one is…it goes further out. I believe it's for the full duration of the new lease. But we do have to, I think, clean up that one issue around the entertainment tax, but that's not for today. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, back to you, Councillor Browaty, for close.

Councillor Browaty: Again, this is the first time we have actually seen this report. Back in Council in 2006, I think this was even before I was on Council, last amended the entertainment tax was a requirement that there be an annual report. Apparently, it was in some footnote in the back of the budget, but it's the first time, I think, it properly captures Council's intention of the day to report this separately. It has basically become a cinema tax. I want to go back and look at 2006, I thought that other sort of travelling entertainment shows, like you know, if Jesus Christ Superstar the, you know, travelling musical came to town, I thought they were still paying entertainment tax, but if it was like a local company, you know, MTC or Prairie Theatre Exchange, I thought they didn't pay the entertainment tax. But this…even the report only refers to cinema tax. And the point being is, I mean, if you're…if you could afford a family night out at a Jets game, you know, the cheapest tickets even now with, you know, some of the Tuesday discounts, 50 bucks, but easily 200 bucks for lower bowl tickets, the least expensive entertainment option in the city, in many respects, is movies. And we've got a fancy new Cineplex Junction at Kildonan Place cinema…theatre…mall. I just wanted to compliment them for making that investment in our northeast quadrant. But again, that is one of the most affordable matters and there's a 10% tax on there from the City. And that revenue does actually come to the City. We just got our Bomber ticket renewal, with City of Winnipeg entertainment tax, that all goes back to our good folks at…out at IG Field. But anyways, thank you for the comments. And I will call for the question.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We'll now get right into question period under this committee. Any questions for our Chair? Councillor Mayes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Mayes: Try as I might to come up with a Jesus Christ Superstar link to entertain Councillor Browaty, I cannot. So, onto the question then, debate at the most recent Public Works Committee around a sole-source Transit Plus extension for a couple years. A number of questions were raised. Thanks to Councillor Lukes for asking them on my behalf about some of the statements made in the document. Basically, there have been eight of these contracts over the last 12 years. Seven of them came to Council, one only to IRPW. I've now been told, yes, that one should have come to Council, but that wasn't the answer given by staff at the committee. And the answer given by staff at the committee, well, if it is over five years and over $5 million, it comes to committee and it only ever goes to Council if there hasn't been budget approved already. Which is, I think, a dangerous misstatement of how things actually work or if it isn't, then I guess I get to decide on the garbage and recycling contracts at my committee with me…the other people on the committee because it would never come forward. I mean, the statement made in the report, as if to get around the statement that Council has approved funds, was that the funding for Transit Plus contracts are included in Transit's annual operating budget. We haven't approved the operating budgets for '23 and '24, which are the two years in that report. So, can you just clarify…we haven't approved operating budgets for any part of this operation. I didn't vote on it. I'd like…you know…so, I think I'd have remembered that. So, the assertion that this is included in our operating budget for '23 and '24. We haven't voted on operating '23 and '24.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Through you to Councillor Mayes; you are correct. Operating budgets are typically one year at a time. We do have multi-year budgets, but that's not considered to be a passed budget until the annual update is approved by Council. In terms of multi-year contracts, I will have to get back to Councillor Mayes about the specific procurement rules that he is referring to and if there was some difference or just a mistake…or, in fact, a mistake made on that particular one.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the question Item 2. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Browaty: No, no, that was actually question period.

Madam Speaker: Question period. Yes, thank you. Yes, not just me. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Councillor Browaty: I appreciate your support.

Madam Speaker: Any further…any further questions?

Councillor Allard: Recorded vote.

Madam Speaker: Don't you get out of hand. Okay, no further questions, let's move on. Next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste and the Environment dated November 25th, 2022. Councillor Mayes, our Chair.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER AND WASTE
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2022

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll move consent agenda Item Nos. 1 and 2.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. We'll now have question period under this committee. Any questions for Councillor Mayes? Any questions for our Chair, Councillor Mayes? Seeing none, next committee is the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am going to move consent agendas Items 1 all the way through 19 with thanks to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins, there is an amending motion with…yes. Amending motion with Item 3, is that correct, Mr. Clerk? Yes, we do have that. And Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I need to have Item 10 standed down to the purpose of declaring a conflict as they are a former client of mine.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. We…Councillor Allard?

Councillor Allard: I would like to symbolically vote against the by-law for the Municipal Board.

Madam Speaker: That will be later.

Councillor Allard: We're not there yet? Okay.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, okay. For now, I guess I'll…I can call the consent vote before we…

Councillor Rollins: Madam Chair, that would be Item No. 9 that…Madam Chair. No problem. So, we'll stand down 9 and 10, the rest? And then I think there's an amendment to Item 3. You want to stand something down, Mr. Mayor?

Madam Speaker: Mayor Gillingham?

Mayor Gillingham: Item 19, please.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Thank you. I am going to ask Councillor Wyatt to depart from the chamber and we will deal with that item first. He's declared conflict of interest for Item 10. And then we'll have him back to the chamber for the rest of the votes. Item 10. Yeah. We will vote on Item 10. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Yeah, moving…

Madam Speaker: If you could introduce the item.

Councillor Rollins: Sure. Yes, Madam Speaker, moving a subdivision rezoning – 301/309 Harold Avenue East. So moved.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any other speakers? Seeing none, do you wish to close?

Councillor Rollins: No, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Call the question on Item 10. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. If you could ask Councillor Wyatt to please come back to the chamber. Councillor Wyatt, please.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, while we are waiting, pull down Item 3, 9, and then 19. And then we can vote, theoretically, on the rest, Madam Speaker. When…okay.

Madam Speaker: Yeah, we'll do that momentarily. The amending motion, Mr. Clerk, on Item 3, the number of the motion? Just reconfirming, we are pulling 3, 9, and 19. And I'll call the question on 1, 2, 4 through 8, 11 through 18. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 3 – Occupancy Permits – Garbage Bin Requirements for Multi-family Properties

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins, your opportunity to introduce the item, followed by Councillor Eadie, who will introduce amending Motion 12.

Councillor Rollins: Yeah, there was a good discussion at committee, as well as at Executive Policy Committee because there had been more than one motion, Madam Speaker, on garbage bin requirements for multi-family properties. Two, in fact, by City Centre and as well as another one by Councillor Gilroy and I believe I was co-signer. I believe item…this Motion No. 12 will be a friendly amendment because there…there was much discussion at committee about what is currently happening at Water and Waste with respect to a review. As well as, Madam Speaker, the concerns on multi-family and whether or not there is sufficient garbage bins. So, I believe this would be a friendly amendment given the trajectory of…of the motion thus far through various committees of Council. And I appreciate the team effort, Madam Speaker, including, you know, on behalf of the standing policy committee to really dig in deep and understand the issue pertaining to, you know, sufficiency of the garbage bins because we're seeing a lot of messy back lanes in a variety of neighbourhoods. And speaking, Madam Speaker, as the councillor for Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry and Osborne Village, this has been an issue and the HIZ zones would not cover…would not cover Osborne Village. So, the old, mature neighborhoods, you know, suit me just fine. I think that there is willingness to, you know, explore that and, Madam Speaker, lots of neighbourhoods are having problems with multi-family properties and insufficient garbage receptacles. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. Next speaker on the amending motion is Councillor Eadie.

Motion No. 12
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS the insufficient garbage bin capacity problem exists beyond the five Housing Improvement zones in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS neighbourhoods such as St. John's Neighbourhood, Inkster Faraday Neighbourhood, Chalmers Neighbourhood, and West Alexander Neighbourhood are just some examples of old mature neighbourhoods that do or may have multifamily properties with insufficient garbage capacity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Recommendation 1 of Item 3 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development dated November 30, 2022 be amended by deleting the words "the Housing Improvement Zones" and replacing them with "old mature neighbourhoods in Winnipeg".

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. And I'm moving this motion, Madam Speaker. I am supportive of anything that Councillor Gilroy and others are trying to do to resolve…you know, these are actually serious issues and it's health and safety related. People may not see it that way, but you know, when you get too much pile of a garbage somewhere because the apartment block doesn't have enough capacity or, actually, in…well, actually, in one of the housing improvement zones, William Whyte, I know of two apartment blocks that are built on one property and somehow they only had to have one bin that would be enough to serve one of the buildings. There's no other. And anyway, so Madam Speaker, this issue…and I am not quite sure about occupancy permit because technically, I don't think any residential property once it's built, there's building inspections that happen according to the building permit and so on. But in terms of occupancy, I don't think that that's quite the right terminology, but it doesn't matter, the point is made in the motion. And alls I am doing is adding in because I have this problem with the St. Johns neighborhood, for example, in parts of it and with some multi-family. And ultimately, Madam Speaker, it is outside of the housing improvement zone. So, it is…and I thought it would be friendly. And so, it's just merely adding in our older mature neighborhoods to have a look at this. Because as the Chairperson has rightly pointed out, like, Osborne Village, like, could…they could be having a number of problems especially with the older blocks. When they build new ones, one hopes that they put in enough service

capacity. But ultimately…and actually, Madam Speaker, I'll point out, I didn't say anything about St. Boniface, but you could say the older neighbourhoods of the inner-city. But the thing is though, is that, like, old St. Boniface, for some reason, isn't considered to be inner-city. But you have many apartment blocks. Actually, the two densest wards for apartment blocks, I am going back about 8 years, the last time I looked, was the Daniel McIntyre Ward and second was the St. Boniface Ward. So, Madam Speaker, it is a friendly amendment. And you know, I campaigned…the dare devil campaigned on cleaning up the garbage. Let's get it done.

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

Councillor Mayes: It would be helpful for the…I…definitionally, is old mature the same as mature as defined under our Complete Communities exercise? We had a lively line drawing debate around Windsor Park was out, it wasn't a mature community, so therefore, why was St. George deemed it? They're the same age. The school, this sort of thing, right? So, to say old mature, you know what is coming when the report comes in. Somebody will stand up and say, well, why wasn't Glenwood included? How can you say that isn't an old? You voted for this. Or somebody else will say, well, this shouldn't be in. So, if…I mean, I assume the staff should deem old mature to be the same as mature under the PP&D recently approved infill guidelines and the boundary for mature communities that we approved as part of Complete Communities. So, if you don't have that then…then there's another…yet another line drawing exercise. Within the mature communities, we have the old mature communities. So, I mean, if it is deemed a friendly amendment, I guess I'll support it, but it does…does force the staff to try and figure out what is meant by old mature in a…not in a notional sense, but in very much a concrete sense of…I mean, the mature communities boundary, you know, was not…this was not going down main streets in some cases, it was a jagged line drawn down back lanes. It was usually some reason to it, but we'll assume it's the same boundary, I guess, for determination for the garbage issue.

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

Councillor Eadie: Yes, I would like to close, Madam Speaker. I would give some guidance, Madam Speaker, in concluding because I think that the councillor from St. Vital does make a point. Because we are dealing with solid waste issues at our committee as well. So, Madam Speaker, our Public Service in regards to Councillor Gilroy's original motion, are quite familiar. Alls one has to do is look at the 311 data base, and…because we are talking about managing specific properties within neighborhoods. So, when we said the housing improvement zones, there is only five neighborhoods in that. But we have some multi-family issues that if you look in the 311 database, Madam Speaker, and our Public Service are, I'm sure, quite aware of it in that we know where those multi-families are because it is an ongoing continuous, continuous, continuous, continuous problem. And so, I think that the Public Service will be able to understand what I meant when I added old mature communities in the whereas as it talks about some of the ones, as an example, St. John's neighbourhood, which does have the properties with that problem. Inkster (inaudible), which does have that problem. To some degree, Chalmer, that I know of, only that I had a friend who lived at the Chalmers neighbourhood and there can be some issues with some old apartment blocks around there. And so, Madam Speaker, I think the Public Service, alls they have to do is look to…at how to manage this, is to look to our 311 database. And it will be clear as to what we're…the problematic properties we're trying to do something. Because right now, Madam Speaker, the point is, is we are told we can't do anything. We can't force, for example, the one in William Whyte that I know of, we can't force them to pay for another…they are not using the City service. They don't have to put in a second bin, which is really needed. It really is, Madam Speaker. So, I hope that answers your problem. And that's my…that's it.

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

Councillor Rollins: So moved, as amended, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Oh, we will do the call, actually, on the amending motion first. All in favour of amending Motion 12? Contrary? Carried. All in favour of the main item, as amended? Contrary? That is carried. Mr. Clerk, next item.

Item 9 – Rezoning of 4025 Roblin Boulevard and 2nd and 3rd Reading of By-law 36/2022

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

Councillor Rollins: So, you know, I want to thank Councillor Mayes for bringing up OurWinnipeg Complete Communities, Madam Speaker, because it is, indeed, the strategic plan of the City of Winnipeg to seek first to grow up with respect to development and not necessarily out, given the work that councillors did last term with respect to ensuring that, you know, we have infill/greenfield split that is sustainable, Madam Speaker. And I'm talking about OurWinnipeg Complete Communities because, of course, we did a lot of heavy lifting last term on getting a strategic plan through and up to the legislature where they then approve it, as per our Charter. Our Charter, typically, when you are a charter city, you have

enabling…it's an enabling document that also provides the City tools. And I am grateful that we have tools like tax increment financing, Madam Speaker, because we use it to do things like affordable housing, Madam Speaker. What we have and saw in the legislature is some important discussions that were brought about through community that we knew were dissatisfied with the City of Winnipeg's system when it came to the system of public hearings. What we have in the municipal…what we have now in the Municipal Board is even more hearing potential. And I am not sure it is necessarily meeting the tests that folks had envisioned for it in terms of certainty, consistency and growing our economy. But that being said, this rezoning of 4025 Roblin Boulevard is essentially, you know, pulling that first reading back. A first reading and the work of this Council which would have seen 199 units go up on Roblin Boulevard, something which, you know, had I had a voice at the committees and in part I did on Council, I would have been supportive on. Madam Speaker, I will wait to hear from those that pulled it because I've certainly said my fair share on this, and what it…you know, the other work that I am committed to doing to making sure that, you know, Council still works and we promote good relations with the legislature and with external groups so this type of conflict that I think resulted in the new powers the Municipal Board has doesn't mean slowing down our commitment to our economy and any player within social or economic development in the city of Winnipeg.

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

Councillor Allard: Yes, I wanted to raise this because I think this is the first time that the Municipal Board has killed a Winnipeg housing project. And reading some of their recommendations from the board, the board notes that fiscal pressures appear to be driving the development process in this case. Well, yes, if we raise the land values in the city of Winnipeg, it is going to lessen the tax burden. And yes, infill and densification will reduce the amount of impact Winnipeg has on climate change because the new infill units will be more efficient because it will be easier to service them with active transportation with transit. I wanted to flag this and vote against it. I presume it's going to pass because it's the (inaudible). Even though Councillor Wyatt in the past has proposed not voting for the education tax increase. We'll see how he votes on the Municipal Board, Madam Speaker, through you to Councillor Wyatt. But yes, the economy and economic imperatives are important to infill and densification and that's part of why we have infill and densification targets. And reading the rationale for the board, saying the board is of the view of the site is appropriate for some level of infill development and that the existing RMF-S zoning, which is intended to accommodated a mix of residential, multi-family types at lower heights and densities would still allow new development to diverse, high quality housing stock, but in a form and density that are sensitive and complementary to the character and features of this unique site and area. And development on lot one will require either a discharge or amendment caveat 257. Municipal Board recommendation, it would quash the by-law. Isn't this our job to determine whether or not development is in the character of a neighbourhood? Didn't we just do the Infill Guidelines? Isn't this a major thoroughfare in Winnipeg, Roblin Boulevard? So, I wanted to flag this to say, I think this is an absolutely misinformed, very bad decision from the Municipal Board. And the last Council did ask for some amendments to the legislation. We had to make a choice: are we going to simply oppose or do we engage in the process and ask for changes? Well, one of the changes I recall asking for is that in the event the Municipal Board says no, we send it back to Council for consideration. Well, here we don't even get that opportunity. They want us to quash it. It is dead. So, thank you…thank you…well, that's an ironic thank you. I believe that the…that the current governments who may have had good intentions in encouraging economic growth and development through ensuring that we respected our processes or secondary plans and our infill targets has actually done the opposite of what they had originally intended. So, here we have what would have been a beautiful project, what would have been incremental net new tax revenue to the City of Winnipeg, meaning that every one of us would pay less on our municipal tax bill if we are property owners. If you're a renter, then you'll eventually pay less because your property owner is going to have to pay less in taxes. And I do…I do have an issue with…with the report and that is the financial impact statement. Recommendation regarding Council's second and third reading for by-law with respect to DAZ 212/2021: there are no direct implication…financial implications associated with this report. Well, okay, that is true in the sense that there are no financial implications to the City of Winnipeg Corporation as a result of this report, but every single Winnipegger will pay a little bit more tax because taxation promises by the mayors of the city of Winnipeg for the last number of years have been based on how much the City of Winnipeg raises based on property tax. And so, we kill this project today because we have to – I'll be voting against – and that means every single homeowner pays a little bit more in tax because we have to adjust the mill rate accordingly. So, to the Provincial Government if they're listening, if anyone in the Provincial Government is listening; MLA, staff person, anyone, you have just…I don't know how many jobs you just killed, I don't know how many taxes now we're going to have to pay based on property because this project isn't going forward, but this was a very, very bad call. And in terms of transparency, it's very unclear to me why this is not a perfect development for this other than the fact that a certain number of residents opposed. But that is our job as representatives to decide based on our secondary plans, based on OurWinnipeg, based on Complete Communities, is this a good development? And we have just had the rug pulled from under us in one of the most important things that we have to do as city councillors, which is zoning. We have just had a report that took hours…to use Councillor Rollins' words, hours and hours and hours of deliberations and now it is dead. And likely the proponent will reapply and we will go through this…this same dog and pony show again, I don't know, in a year or two. And who knows what will happen because it will probably be a whole new host of politically appointed representatives to this Municipal Board. I don't know who they are, I don't know who elected them, I presume no one, to

kill economic development and to hurt the environment and to overrule the democratically elected representatives of the City of Winnipeg Council. So, that is why I am voting against this despite knowing that it is likely not in line with the legislation.

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

Councillor Lukes: Thank you. I am going to rise. I am not…I, like Councillor Allard, am not in agreement with the decision but I am supporting it because we don't really have a say in…this is…we're supporting the by-law process. So, I am rising to speak to this report. I want to implore to the Province to please review how the Municipal Board is set up when making a decision on municipal development applications. So, a bit of history; I was on the Assiniboia Community Committee when the project came forward. We spent 10 hours discussing this project with the Public Service and the public when the report came forward. By no means am I an expert in development, but I will say, over the past five years, I worked through over 33 – 33 – large multi-family developments which translates into upwards of 2,600 units. My ward has seen much multi-family development in greenfield and much multi-family infill development along two major corridors; Pembina Highway and University Crescent. I have seen positive transformation of communities because of both types of multi-family developments in greenfield and in existing. The Province has approved OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities. These are the guiding documents that the City uses to weigh against development proposals. The City process is very rigorous. Many think too rigorous, which is probably how all of this situation evolved. Whereby a subdivision and rezoning passes through four lenses; the local committee where the public has an opportunity to weigh in, the standing policy committee, the Executive Policy and Council where elected officials can weigh in. Many opportunities to weigh in by elected officials who represent the public and the interests of our city to ensure a project aligns with Council approved guiding documents OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities. It is my understanding that the Municipal Board was to consist of planners, policy analysts, development industry experts. It is my understanding that when the development projects were appealed that the Municipal Board was put in place to ensure municipalities were adhering to policy. 425 Roblin aligns and adheres to policy. And the majority of Council supported this development because it adhered to policy. Policy that was set up by the Province and the City. Created by City, approved by the Province. So, it's very difficult for many to understand why it was rejected. Now, we know that since 2016 census to July of 2020, city of Winnipeg population grew by 40,679 people. Winnipeg is primarily going through…growing through immigration and city economists project Winnipeg's population to increase by another 52,000 over the next four years. And we know that the Federal Government is opening immigration to half a million people a year for the next four years. So, if you see the new residential units in heat map that the City produces identifying where this construction and housing is occurring in the city, you will see that the bulk of it is occurring in the greenfields and on the outer limits of the city. It's not occurring in developing…it's not occurring in existing neighborhoods. So, if we don't support infill projects that align to policies we set out, ultimately, we will end up doing more greenfield development or pushing development outside the city and even outside the province. And this shouldn't happen because it impacts all of us. There's a national housing crisis. Not everyone can afford a single-family home. Multi-family developments are key to helping solve the crisis. Also, construction brings in billions of dollars to our Winnipeg and Manitoba economy which creates jobs, wealth and improves the quality of life for all. This is interesting, in 2019, investment in building construction totaled approximately $2.1 billion in the city of Winnipeg. Highest on record. The Canadian Homebuilders Association reports…report identifies that residential home building in Winnipeg created, to Councillor Allard's point, 10,500 jobs, $657 million in wages, $1.2 billion in investments. This revenue undoubtedly improves the quality of live for all. If we…if we don't do a more rigorous job of approving infill in existing developments, it will go to greenfields, we'll run out of greenfields, you know, we want to grow up versus out, or it will move outside of the city or it will move outside the province. So, again, in light of our national housing crisis, in light of the rigorous process already in place and the policies that we adhere to, I want to implore the Province to please review how the Municipal Board is set up when making a decision on municipal development applications. I will be supporting the report.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes. Or pardon me, Councillor Eadie, then Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Actually, kudos to my colleague from Waverly West. Covered off some of the concerns I have had including…including the one in which if you want developers to invest in the city to build multi-family, there needs to be some level of certainty for them for risking their money. And so, I think that is important. But Madam Speaker, in hearing the debate and what's been coming out of some comments in the public and different manner, I just wanted to first imagine, because we are not the Provincial Government, but the Provincial Government didn't just pull applying the Municipal Board to the City of Winnipeg's…and the Municipal Board has played a roll with municipalities outside of Winnipeg to a large degree over the years and only special areas like the airport have been subjected within the city to the Municipal Board. And actually, I think we just voted today…at some point today we voted for the new rules…the new rules on the airport vicinity which…which, actually, addressed concerns of the former Councillor Gillingham in the area. And turned out in favour of development in the city, Madam Speaker in that we have new construction techniques and ways of dealing with things that make it better. But I would imagine that the Province…I don't know how they just pulled this out of their hat. So, I'm sure that there were some…some developers within the city of Winnipeg who

asked the Province to consider putting in what rules we have to live by today. And that was pretty clear to me in that, you know, originally when they established the new legislation and regulation, they…you know, they weren't going to allow…it was only going to cover off developers and not allow people like here in Charleswood…in Charles…it's Charleswood, yeah; in Charleswood, there was a number of people opposed to this project. We heard from them as councillors and seen many e-mails, Madam Speaker. But I would…so I would point out though that the Province didn't just pull the Municipal Board application to the City of Winnipeg out of their hat. It came…somebody asked them to do it because they didn't like what the City was doing, I think. And so, but Madam Speaker, what we need to realize…and I do have a concern on how the decision was made at the Municipal Board. I believe that the people do have a right and they appealed it to the Municipal Board which, okay, under the new legislation that is their right and that is okay. However, Madam Speaker, I am trying to figure out how the so-called experts on the Municipal Board, Madam Speaker, made a decision to just get rid of it because through the City of Winnipeg's process, as Councillor Lukes was trying to refer to, is there were adjustments made to the original application plan for how many units here. The developer listened to a large degree, but you know, they are investing some money. We need multi-family. We've identified that our major corridors are places for serious multi-family density. So, I'm…I don't…I am not confident in how that Municipal Board made their decision because we here, Madam Speaker, at the City…now, I have a level of expertise like many others, and 33 applications, I would say that Councillor Lukes has expertise through experience. However, if you…we have other experts that we rely on, Madam Speaker. Those experts are the Winnipeg Public Service. They are experts. And applicants…when they…they need to provide certain information to our expert City workers who analyze this stuff and make recommendations, Madam Speaker. So, to say, you know, like this whole thing about expertise, but I'm just going to conclude, Madam Speaker. You know what? They have no provisions in this new legislation that I know of that they can go against me because I voted against what the Municipal Board said. Are they going to remove me from office if I vote nay to this report? I am voting nay. I'm voting nay because I think that the Municipal Board, while I respect the right of appeal and the concerns, I don't think they recognize that all of the work that went in by this developer, by our City workers, by the councillors who had to consider whether or not to vote for it. We had a debate. Councillor Lukes knows we had a debate. Former representative from Charleswood was actually opposed to it. You know, back and fourth. But you know, I don't subscribe to the idea that somehow councillors don't have a level of expertise and a good councillor knows that they can go to our Public Service to get answers if there is something they don't understand. So, I am actually not going to vote for this report. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: Well, I hate to be the bride at the funeral, Madam Speaker, but I actually kind of agree that the Municipal Board was given the ability to hear citizen input and citizen appeals for a reason. If we didn't really want the citizens to ever win and overturn the decision of Council, why in hell did we advocate for that? I was told that our staff said the threshold should be 250 people, which was crazy. Crazy. I mean, the threshold's much lower than that. If the citizens don't like what we do, they can appeal to the Municipal Board just as the developers can appeal to the Municipal Board. A number of misstatements already. It's…this…this one isn't within the infill guidelines there, it doesn't really matter. Apparently, no one else read Report No. 7, it talks about how 61% of the building permits we've issued in the past year were in the intensification area. So, it isn't all in the greenfield. Read next sentence in Report No. 7. We have a vacant land. We have greenfield enough…a healthy supply of remaining greenfield land. That is our experts saying that. So, maybe you disagree with the experts. Oh, no, we're not supposed to disagree with the experts. Sorry. it was a hearing, there's wording in there, it's not an exact science. It's not a mathematical exercise. It's…is this compatible or not? Look at page 27, the three people…I think we've used Mr. Oral, in fact, as our counsel on matters; the three people on the hearing panel didn't agree it was compatible. They heard from hundreds of citizens. So, we're hearing it's undemocratic. Wait a minute, hundreds of people showed up, nobody showed up from the neighbourhood in favour of it, but it's undemocratic to listen to the people who are opposed to it. I am not sure we are using that terminology correctly. We advocated for the citizen (inaudible) right to appeal if developers did. They got it. So, either your position should be throw the whole thing out or not, but there is a new panel that's been created. We have all voted against development. If the sole test is, will it lower tax burdens and create jobs, why this farce then of this whole development approval process we've gone through just to prove everything? It will increase our tax base, it will create jobs. But we don't, we labour through four different stages here. If we really cared about the opinion of the local elected officials, let's just do the community committee and then one…and then Council and then they can be appealed. No, we labour through four levels. We get overturned all the time by our own colleagues. The public in my ward isn't upset about these unelected people, the public in my ward is upset about people around this table where they say, well these guys don't listen. I never…I didn't vote for these people and they vote me down and they call me a climate change denier and they say I'll have more friends, you know, because we'll have more development. Not John, to be fair. John, they tend to like the people in my ward. But the idea that somehow the public should rise up in arms now and be outraged at these unelected people, my god, who overturned the decision. The public were who showed up, the public are the appellants here. So, yeah, the public is going to win sometime. That's what we advocated for, the right for the citizens to appeal. Did I vote for the development? Yes. Do…but it's not an exact science, it's not like our experts should be listened to at the expense of everyone else. If it was, why, again, this long four stage process here? I have sat there and had the experts on our staff say to me, we think Glenwood's been a success. And I've said, really? I have had hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of complaints about the way the infill's been done

there. We don't get those calls, councillor. So, if our standard is, the experts rule, okay, but let's not have the sham of democracy then where we have these public hearings. We're not going to…if the public doesn't have a voice in this, it's only our experts, why this theater, why the sham public hearings? Doesn't make any sense. Let's just do, frankly, what former Councillor Klein said, let's have a planning commission. Fine. That way we don't pretend that we are in control, but we also don't just pretend the public has a voice. That is what we are seemingly saying here is, we should…it should be us. Of course, us listening only to our own unelected people who are the civil service. So, I will vote for it. Councillor Rollins is right in procedure, like, I think legally we need to vote for it. Vote against if you care to, but I am going to vote for it. But I am not outraged that the Municipal Board actually listened to the public and didn't just listen to the developer. I'm not outraged that the Municipal Board did the job it was supposed to do and heard from both sides. Certainly heard from the City with long presentations from some of our very good people like Trenchard who said it was a terrific Public Service who went in there and spoke. So, they didn't buy what we were selling, okay, but I hardly think our correct response would be, they are dumb, they don't know what they are doing, they should only listen to our City staff. Why was this all set up then and why has it actually survived for many years hearing rural matters? Are our planners so much better than the ones outside the city? I mean, let's try and work within this framework. We have a new framework. Let's look at, again, I actually think Councillor Klein, as he then was, was onto something. Let's look at our own incredibly long approval process and try and truncate that. I would rather have that than have these sorts of sessions where you go through four steps at committee and we've had the ones, the one in Councillor Orlikow's ward with the medical office that went one way at committee, one way at PP&D, one way at EPC, one way at Council. People at different…it's not an exact science. People can change. So, I'll end with, sitting here 11 years ago, one of the first meetings I came to, with then Councillor Gerbasi and people speaking at that mic and the issue was the Shoppers Drug Mart in Osborne village. Both sides quote the exact same phrase out of the OurWinnipeg documents, some verbosity, some generality about finally grained planning. What does that exactly mean? Well, clearly, there's a subjective element to that. There's no…one side thought the Shoppers Drug Mart wasn't finely grained and the other side did. I voted with Gerbasi, I listened to the local councillor. So, I can't even remember which way we voted. But if our whole thing is, let's have local elected officials decide, terrific, let's do that then and not have a four-stage internal process. But if our position is we wanted the citizens to have the right to appeal, well, we got it. This is…we may not like the result, but does show they are not just reflexively and automatically listening to the development industry. So, was it a decision I agreed with? No, not necessarily. I voted the other way at Council, but it's a new show in town. And you know, we sometimes get overturned. Our experts said the police pension thing was A-Okay. Arbitrator who spent a career on labour relations disagreed. We've…I could go through a number of court decisions as well, but I think we've got to live with the new reality and try and figure out a way that our own system can still listen to the public, but we don't require all of this internal effort only to have it overturned at the Municipal Board. So, I'll vote in favour, but…but I got to say, we asked for it, we got it, so let's not complain about it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer. Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thanks, Madam Speaker. You know, I wasn't here in the last term, but my understanding is that Bill 37, which we are dealing with here, the outcome of that is probably the result of the way we handled previous applications here or did not accept or did not allow to go to hearing and thus, legislation was brought down similar to legislation which apparently exists out east. You know, I am not a card-carrying conservative. I'm not a conservative, but in terms of the legislation they brought forward, it's not the end of the world. I would say this, that if you actually take time to read the decision, 27-page decision, it is quite interesting. And I will just quote, if I may. "Findings: the board notes that there were no neighbouring residents in support of the proposed by-law at this hearing. Earlier opposition was significant. Approximately 2,000 petitioners and over 140 registered against." Well, okay, that's something we're familiar with. You know, not in my backyard, right? But this is where it kind of changes. The proposed zoning…rezoning pertains to lot one only, but there are some key historic events that provide helpful context to the present opposition by lot two residents. The International Order of Oddfellows eventually owned all the land known as lot one and two. Following the subdivision in late 1990s, a 40-unit life lease complex was built on lot two. In December of '97, a zoning agreement, a caveat, Caveat 222, between the City and the International Order of Oddfellows was registered against lot two. Providing for, among other matters, limitation to the number of dwelling units on lot two of 40 units. Due to financial difficulties, the life lease project was converted into condominium amenity where by then the life lease tenants purchased the condo units and (inaudible). However, limited on lot two of 40 units. Now, this is even more interesting. In February of 2001, as part of prior rezoning application, a separate zoning agreement and new caveat, Caveat 257, was registered on lot one between the City and the Assiniboine Links Phase Two Inc., formerly the International Order of Oddfellows registered against lot one. Caveat 257 contains a number of restrictive provisions. These include limiting the number of units to 33 and height of the existing Oddfellows building to three stories and limiting land use to seniors' accommodation. I don't know if that is legal, but they did it. Due to ongoing fiscal difficulties, Assiniboine Links Phase Two is now in the process of selling the land be to the developer subject to rezoning approval which includes a discharge of Caveat 257. 257 was clearly intended of protecting the neighbourhood which is why they put it in place. The protection secured under Caveat 257 had remained in effect for over 21 years to the present day. Though there is conflicting evidence about what information the former life lease tenants relied upon at the time they made financial commitment to purchase a life lease leases, the condo residents on lot two, both past and present, had no reason to believe that their established heritage rich community could be transformed to an

extent being proposed because they know about this caveat on the neighbouring lot. There's no doubt that the care and qualities features of the area would drastically change with the higher density RMF-L rezoning on lot one. So, I…and this is on pages, by the way, 20 to…this is 27 pages. Jump forward just to the recommendation, "The board notes, the fiscal pressures appear to be driving the development process in this case. The board is also cognizant of the time, costs and efforts submitted by the developer and desired by both the owner and developer to move forward with further delay. The board is, however, of the view that development should not be driven by economic pressures or desperation. Legitimate concerns have been raised by nearby lot residents on lot two whose dependency on lot one and interests are inextricably linked to proposed rezoning and any future redevelopment on lot one. Any development on lot one will require either a discharge or amendment to Caveat 257." So, this was not just about nimby. If you read the decision, there is actual legal framework here where these residents where the developer in question clearly should have had the discharge done of Caveat 257 prior to filing the application rezoning. Did not do that, came back to bite them in the you know what at the Municipal Board. I think the decision is sound. I am the biggest proponent when it comes to infill. I've pushed it, I've pushed…I've lobbied my community in terms of infill over and over and over again when I was on Council in the past and I see the benefits of infill. I am in agreement with most of the things that Councillor Allard said today, other than on this decision which, clearly, in this case, I think the residents in this area have a case. I think the Municipal Board has actually made a sound decision based on legal precedence and the rights of existing property owners based on caveats that have been registered, legally titled caveats…titled…legally registered against the title of the lands. So, in this case, I think we are making a lot about nothing. Yes, maybe there will be a situation in the future where the Municipal Board may be overextending itself, but this is not an example of that, Madam Speaker. I was an advocate, by the way, when this legislation came down. I believe that there should be a fee. With anything we should be saying, there should be a fee for residents. They want to appeal the Municipal Board? You know what, put a little bit of skin in the game. Put up $100 or $200…if you want to appeal it, consuming the time and everybody else, and if it's serious, people will pay a fee to appeal. Otherwise this could be coming about over and over and over. Anyway, those are my thoughts. I think it's actually a sound decision by the Municipal Board. And to the point of Councillor Mayes, I think we do have to vote on it. It's kind of like the…it is like the school taxes, but not. But anyways…but anyway…but anyway, thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further speakers?

Councillor Wyatt: Read the decision.

Madam Speaker: Further speakers? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer:

Translation of French Spoken:

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to say something because of the new director today. Just a few words. For me, I have to admit that it's a bit confusing, this conversation. But I must say that there have been good points made in this instance. All around this circle, some good, good points made. Up until now, I have to admit that there is many things I need to learn about, but not only me, because up until this, there's some questions that I'm obligated to resolve in my own words. Example, is the question here that we're deciding on, is this a decision of if this Council…

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Wyatt: Point of order, we don't have translation and I believe what you're saying is important and I'd like to hear that.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. Yeah. Yeah. Sorry about that.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, could you switch to English? Translation…

Councillor Allard: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I believe we have a translator in-house. I believe we should use a translator.

Madam Speaker: It's not working at the moment, Councillor Allard. You wouldn't be knowing that because you don't have the ear piece in. So, we can come back to that when we have the signal. Oh, we can hear it now? Okay, thank you. Continue en français.

Councillor Schreyer:
Translation of French Spoken:

I will try to continue on it. So, this is the question: are we deciding right now if it is a question for Council's vote to vote or to only ratify. So, to me, I am not certain if there is a consensus on this. Do we vote or ratify? So, I have heard a few (inaudible) here who say…who imply…or at least imply that we don't have a choice. I believe I heard that; we don't really have a choice. But at the same time…at the same time, if this is the case, what exactly are we doing here and why is there a debate? So, because of the Municipal Board, it's new. So, there will be, as Councillor Mayes just said, there are four steps, including the Municipal Board, I don't know how to say Municipal Board, but in any case…Municipal Office. I'm not certain. Pardon me? Municipal Board, that sounds right, that sounds good. I hope it's right, we'll see. But in any case, this is a question that we have to resolve. At this point, I am obligated to vote, but at this time, I'm not certain. So, and it's (inaudible) because I heard the point that we don't really have a choice. But at the same time, for example, when we consider the point of (inaudible) River Heights, Academy, when there was a store or the doctor's office, and the decision changed four times. Are we…the Council is not the final point where we say that the Council is supreme, that we can change the vote once again. Apparently, they say, no. Despite them saying no, despite us having potentially two councillors who will vote against. So, I have to admit, I'm a bit confused because I'm not very comfortable with the fact that we exist solely to ratify when we say that we are the Council…the supreme agent of these municipal decisions. But at the same time, we always have, because of the fact that the Municipal Board was made with the cooperation…the authorization of the Province. So, in this case, we have to admit that…supersede…superseded…we can't supersede the provincial laws…provincial…the laws that enforce the provincial legislation, so again, I am confused. In this case, I have to admit, I respect the decision, the opinions of Mr. Allard, of Mr. Eadie and there is…hey, yeah, I have to admit that the explanation given by Russ Wyatt, in a way that only Russ Wyatt could do, he explained…but it's interesting, no? So, for something like this, it's very interesting. So, I have to say, there are a lot of good points made in this case to the point that…to the point that, I have to admit…up to now, I have to admit, I am still and always confused. I want to go with…well, I believe it will be the majority in this case, but the questions that were asked of past councils, they need to…I have to resolve them on my own. I don't think I'm alone. Everyone here and even administration need…they need to resolve this. And I hope…I believe that I need the help of the administration and our Chief Administrative Officer, all that. And for…because I believe this won't be the only time. This won't be the last time that this will come to this point when we have conflicts at the level of processes…of process. So, I have to admit, I'm confused. What is the process? And that's why this is here and why we can have councillors who vote against. So, I will vote with the majority (inaudible) what I belief that is a position of (inaudible) but I have to admit that the position taken by Councillor Allard, it can be his own belief that this is a position of caution too in his own life. I know that there is a lot of ambiguity here but…

I just kind of had to get that off my chest. Anyway…

Translation of French Spoken:

Thank you very much. And yes, I don't believe this conversation is finished. (inaudible) today, but we'll have to see what happens in the next few months. Thank you.

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

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank everyone for the conversation, Madam Speaker. I do think it is important to read the whole decision. I want to thank, through you, Madam Speaker; Councillor Allard and Eadie and Lukes and Mayes and Wyatt and

Translation of French Spoken:

Thank you, Councillor Schreyer.

I do think it is important to read the whole decision. And I am grateful for Councillor Schreyer including the caveat issues that Councillor Wyatt mentioned. I understand though the protest votes, Madam Speaker, that we might see here. And I'm going to characterize them as that, not, Madam Speaker, to be disrespectful to my colleagues that are going to issue them. But as I said before, I think the promise of the collection of bills that are having the effect of amending our Charter this month, in the words of the government's own FAQ is to, "Modernize land use planning processes and reduce red tape." And so, while, you know, I appreciate all of the comments on the record, Winnipeg's first taste of these bills and the Municipal Board decision is, in fact, increasing red tape, adding to our costs as a city and the…and having new requirements of staff time, effort and including in voting in this decision, a decision that is not ours, is taken together a pile-on effect of time and red tape. That legislation is having a pylon impact. And if you talk to community and Councillor Lukes summarized this really effectively, the moving at the speed of business these days when folks are impacted by labour shortages, supply chain issues, as well as inflationary costs, it is very troubling for our economy. Very troubling for a city

that wants to address the national housing housing crisis that we are having. So, while I appreciate that, you know, this day is not like any others in so far as the Municipal Board could have been, in effect, really reflected as a decision that we would have made here, the…the…what I have characterized as undemocratic and the issuance of this having problems with transparency that is a slightly different than our committee of council processes and hearing processes, it doesn't…my concern is that this does not feel like there is more tools nor more enabling. And it's certainly not landing this way with communities. So, really want to reiterate the commitment to work with all parties including our residents who have another body to appeal to. And really will be watching, as are other municipalities, the effects of the Municipal Board having new decision making, in particular in met regions where there are a lot in the community that are seeing hearings that are also not necessarily being met with pleasure. But really good debate, Madam Speaker. Really important to get so much on the record here today. And you know, with that, perhaps we should call the vote.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins. I'll call the question on Item 11. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. And who is noted in opposition? Councillor Allard. One in opposition. Thank you. And that carries. Two? Councillor Eadie. Thank you. Noted. No. Mr. Clerk, next item.

Item 19 – Supportive Housing Initiatives

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins to introduce the item.

Councillor Rollins: Yes, Madam Speaker. I believe the Mayor called this down and we'll…perhaps he'd like to open.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the Chair, Councillor Rollins, for the motion that is making its way here before us. And then, of course, as a city we issued a press release calling all…on and inviting proponents, which includes non-profits and business developer citizens, anyone with ideas to help address homelessness. And that's really what this is about; the Rapid Housing Initiative is funding from the Federal Government that help cities, and indeed, the City of Winnipeg deal with housing challenges that we have right now. And I want to acknowledge the Federal Government and their commitment to assisting cities in developing housing that will really help us…help individuals and target individuals, those that are struggling with homelessness right now or on the cusp of homelessness. And so, this is a very important initiative. Something that I campaigned on. And what this motion deals with today is we as a Council doing our part to ask our staff to begin to work on identifying sites that would be conducive to modular housing or other type of housing that we could in short order get put in place so that we can assist individuals who are struggling right now with homelessness or who are at the threat of homelessness or vulnerable populations. Winnipeg needs more housing of all kinds, especially affordable housing, and those types of housing and accommodations for those that are struggling with homelessness or unsheltered at this point. And it also moves us towards density, which is another benefit of this, the density targets that we have put in place. But I do want to point this out specific to this initiative and the types of housing and types of partners that we are looking for in this round of the Rapid Housing Initiative. I want to read this off of our release but I think it's very important. "The priority for Rapid Housing Initiative will be given to projects that can demonstrate the following qualifications led by Indigenous organizations of governments: support for…support women and/or women and children, particularly Indigenous women and children." And I just believe that for all of us all, in light of all that we are facing currently in this community, we can't emphasize enough our role to assist in providing housing and making housing available for Indigenous women and girls at this point. And I think that that is certainly part of the MMIWG cause to justice, the 231 calls to justice. There are some specific to the city of Winnipeg. A few moments ago, earlier in this meeting, we voted on the journey to reconciliation in that report, the update of that report. If you take a look on page 14 of that report, it talks about how our staff under the direction of our Indigenous Relations Division is working with the implementation committee, the MMIWG2S Implementation Committee, to implement the calls for justice that are specific to the city of Winnipeg. And some of that and some of those calls for justice align making housing available, for a rapid housing available specifically, for Indigenous women and girls. And so, I just want to say that there's…there are a few different reports today and works today and initiatives that really come together. And this is one be that comes together at a critical moment. So, I am really pleased to see this motion here and this target effort that we are collectively focused on to identify city of Winnipeg properties that can be the appropriate sites to receive the funding that the Federal Government has identified as priority funding. This is the city stream of funding. There's also a project stream of funding that the Federal Government has as well, so there will be more opportunities that also come in due course. So, thank you very much to, through you Madam Speaker; to all of my Council colleagues for what I believe will be a unanimous vote on this that will…that will put us in a position as the City of Winnipeg to continue to access through partners Federal Government funding to make more housing available for the people of this city. And it is critical we do it at this time. Thank you.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be brief. Look, I certainly support Mayor Gillingham and Council on these…on these initiatives. We've got to continue to do this, as His Worship has mentioned. And he says that the City, you know, can't put this on other levels of government. But look, I'm going to be in disagreement to the extent this is not opposition to Mayor Gillingham. I'm saying…I've never…because I've never said that it's the obligation primarily of the City. I don't believe that. I don't…because I don't believe the City can primarily solve it. I don't believe it's primarily the City's fault. And as much as the City's sort of in the middle of it all and closest to the people in many respects, I mean, there's some decisions and some real meat to real…real power, financial power, that the municipalities don't have, and that includes the City of Winnipeg. I would say on the contrary, it's not the…it's not the obligation of our mayor to put all of that weight on his shoulders because there is more to it than we can do. And we need to admit to that kind of this. And we need to work with other levels of government. We don't have the financial capacity. And this is bigger than us. It's just bigger than us. The City didn't…it's…the City didn't cause all these problems and we don't have the financial capacity to solve them. Having said, that I am certainly in favour of what our Mayor has been talking about and the obligations that have been put upon us. I'm going to leave it at that for now. This is a bigger issue and I'm glad the City…the City has to lead. Yeah, the City's leading. We are here. We deal with things you can point at. We're the…we deal with things you can look at. We deal with things that you can see from this window right from the mayor's office. And we are dealing, but we sure as heck can't do it ourselves and we can't even put in a third of the funds, it doesn't make sense. But I am glad we are leading and I'm going to thank Mayor Gillingham and members of this Council be for leading on this issue to the extent that we can and that we are. It is sure bigger than us.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a very important report. It is a piece in what needs to be a multi-level government effort with the City of Winnipeg being closest to, I'll say, the ground to which it should be built and the roles that our planners and everybody plays in the development of various lands and so on. It makes sense that, you know…and anyway, but Madam Speaker, I think that, Madam Speaker, we could do a little bit more and the Federal Government is coming to the plate. The Province is still trying to figure out what they are doing. But they have a…Madam Speaker, we want to talk about providing a rapid housing. Now, a number of the housing that needs to be offered requires various kinds of social supports, but not for everybody that's living homeless, Madam Speaker. But a good number would require some kind of social support in living in…living in a place and having a long-term place to live or a place to live. Madam Speaker, you know, I can't remember the number now, but I bet you that under Manitoba Housing there is probably at least a thousand empty units. A thousand. Lots are probably in need of repair. A number of them, if you have a rule, well, you know, you've got an empty place, it's got two bedrooms but you have an individual who needs, you know, only one bedroom. Why can't they live in two bedroom? But you know, there's all kinds of various issues required. And you know, Lord Selkirk Park in my ward, I believe they are all full. But that is a what they call social housing. The rent is geared to income, which is essential because the median market thing, that doesn't work. Like, that doesn't work for the majority. We've got working poor who are homeless. So, they can't even afford to pay median market rents. And there's a number of those places that you could rent. We heard that Ms. Bergen has passed away. There's a number of apartment blocks which have always been at the median market rate where many people retire and go to, Madam Speaker, who live there because they don't have a lot of money. My mother lives in an apartment block that's at the median market rate. She doesn't have a lot of money, but she can afford to live there. You know, not rent geared to income. But there are so many that wouldn't be able to afford. So, Madam Speaker, I just want to make the point that I think that our Mayor can work from the bully pulpit in that the intergovernmental affairs sits with the Mayor. And you know, I sit on the Winnipeg Housing and Rehab Corporation. And you know, we have a number of empty suites, but we're managing the portfolio for Manitoba Housing. They are empty. We need money to repair them to get people into them. And you know, I'd really like to see some efforts in that was as well, Madam Speaker. But I definitely support this Report No. 19. And again, Madam Speaker, I appreciate that Mayor Gillingham campaigned on trying to resolve homelessness and a number of other issues which are of the utmost importance for the city. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Rollins to close.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, and you know, sometimes I feel a unanimous vote coming on and this might be the case here. For sure, there was a concerted effort with the Standing Property Committee on Property and Development to signal momentum because we are in a housing crisis, Madam Speaker. And the other piece that I want to pick up on that a lot of speakers talked about is that the City of Winnipeg, in viewing housing projects, Madam Speaker, is really working to uphold the social and economic rights of Indigenous women girls…women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people by ensuring that infrastructure to support access to safe housing to support and resource Indigenous community based supports and support the construction of housing to meet the core housing needs of everyone, including at this time, you know, so heavy on all of our hearts and our minds, including the core housing need that may, indeed, save lives of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBQ people who are fleeing violence. Our core principles; Indigenous Accord, those of us that signories…signatories of that document or will have opportunity to be signatories of that document, recognizes that reconciliation must create more equitable and inclusive society by closing gaps in social, health, economic outcomes

that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians and Winnipeggers. And that this work requires real momentum and substantial investment and resources which, of course, we have received in two rounds of rapid housing initiatives which we have tried to do through our Affordable Housing Now Program and, you know, structures like the tax increment financing that we were just talking about in the last item. And that…and that capital contributions from the City of Winnipeg in the form of waivers that we do and on permit fees and more, you know, that is part of the Affordable Housing Now Program. Our part can be seen as part of those commitments, as mayor…His Worship Mayor Gillingham said. Part of those commitments to the calls to justice, Madam Speaker. And we know this Council expresses this through other work like United Nations Global Safe Cities, and I think of Councillor Gilroy who is absent, Madam Speaker, but her work here working to respond MMIWG2S, the intersections of gender-based violence and, Madam Speaker, the human rights to housing. So, with that, I will close, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour of Item 19? Contrary? Carried. We'll now get into motions. Motion No. 9: moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Schreyer, it's regarding energy efficiency. It will be an automatic referral to the standing committee. Now, we will get into by-laws. Councillor Rollins.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
MOTIONS

Motion No. 9
Moved by Councillor Allard
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS according to the latest reporting on greenhouse gas emissions in the city of Winnipeg 2011 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report, buildings are the 2nd-largest source of community emissions, second only to transportation;

AND WHEREAS there may be an opportunity for the City of Winnipeg to guide the shape of buildings in order for them to be more energy efficient;

AND WHEREAS a south-facing flat wall may be ideal for solar voltaic power insulation, or another configuration that allows for solar panel operations throughout the day regardless of the position of the sun;

AND WHEREAS there may be other opportunities to reduce the energy consumption of homes by considering things likes the placement of windows, such as placements of windows on the south side to allow the sun inside in the summer as well blocking the sun with an awning in the summer;

AND WHEREAS there may be other ways to improve energy efficiency at no cost to the builder;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service report back on opportunities to encourage the use of energy efficiency concepts in the development approval process of new buildings.

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

Councillor Rollins: I would like to move, Madam Speaker, that By-law No. 139/2022 be read a first time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. What number did you read?

Councillor Rollins: Sorry, I started on the wrong one, I think. 146? Yeah. Yeah, 146/2022. No, 139/2022 I read the first time.

Madam Speaker: Could you read them again? Let's start all over.

Councillor Rollins: Yeah, one…sorry, By-law No. 139/2022, By-law No. 146/2022, Madam Speaker. My apologies.

Madam Speaker: Read a first time. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 139/2022 and By-law No. 146/2022.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: I move that By-law No. 139/2022 and By-law No. 140…sorry.

Madam Speaker: 80/2022

Councillor Rollins: Sorry, I move that By-law No. 80/2022, By-law 81/2022, By-law No. 131/2022, and By-law No. 133/2022 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 80/2022, By-law No. 81/2022, By-law No. 131/2022, and By-law No. 133/2022.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that By-law Nos. 80/2022, 80/2020…81/2022, 131/2022, and 133/2022 be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Rollins: Alright, hold your horses, Madam Speaker. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 155/2022, By-law No. 156/2022, By-law No. 157/2022, By-law No. 158/2022, By-law No. 159/2022, By-law No. 160/2022, By-law No. 161/2022, By-law No. 162/2022, By-law No. 163/2022. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Read a first time. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 155/2022, By-law No. 156/2022, By-law No. 157/2022, By-law No. 158/2022, By-law No. 159/2022, By-law No. 160/2022, By-law No. 61/2022, By-law No. 162/2022, By-law No. 163/2022.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I move that By-law Nos. 155/2022 to 163/2022, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 155/2022 to By-law…to 163/2022, both inclusive.

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 155/2022 to 163/2022, both inclusive, be read a third time and that the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Question period under this committee. Councillor Wyatt, first question for Councillor Rollins.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. It's fair to say that with the Bank of Canada having raised their benchmark interest rates, lending has…the cost of lending has gone up making it even harder for individuals to qualify to have a mortgage, to obtain a home. On top of that, the rental market has seen increases in the cost of rent whereby the average household now in Canada it's not uncommon to well exceed the ideal 30…a third, 33%, of a gross income towards the cost of rental income going beyond in terms of the families' income. Therefore, it is fair to say that not just Winnipeg but city after city in Canada is facing massive housing crisis. Based on the good work that you have done over the last number of years, Councillor Rollins, and what we need to do going forward; thoughts on this matter, ideas, suggestions to go forward? I cite, if I may, just as part of the question under the leadership of former Premier Ed Schreyer in the 1970s, thousands of affordable housing units were being rolled out every year. How do we get…how do we ramp up to get to that level again here in the city of Winnipeg in light of this housing crisis?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Through you, Madam Speaker, to Councillor Wyatt; thank you very much for the question. We…last term, with the help of University of Winnipeg, the City produced City of Winnipeg's Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment. And in part, the answer is, when I say core housing need and part of the answer, indeed, is found in the City of Winnipeg's Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment. I think the City is well advised to…and every city councillor, indeed, the folks that are concerned about the housing crisis in Winnipeg or nationally is really well advised to read the Comprehensive Needs Assessment. And in part, you know, what I think should be done is expressed in the motion that we just passed unanimously at this councillor…at this Council. In here in Item E, for instance, that we just passed unanimously was insuring that the department will return to Property and Development with an exploration of office to residential conversions to keep downtown buildings vibrant, as well as looking at our zoning by-law which support key commercial corridors and transit-orient destinations, including not limited to, residential construction as of right. Why? Because I don't want anyone in this chamber or outside of the chamber not to understand that we are going to move with haste if, you know…and that we are going to do all we can. In part, the answer, Madam Speaker, is also the Affordable Housing Now Program and insuring that it is working for those that are trying to draw down CMHC, trying to address the housing…core housing need. And that I am watching really closely and in radio contact with players. But the other piece that I think is critical and that Councillor Wyatt started with, Madam Speaker, is the discussion on rents. And if there was something that I thought and was talking to Make Poverty History and other players is the role that Council does not have, that the Provincial Government does with respect to rent controls. Watching affordability now I think is critical to being a responsive actor in this base, Madam Speaker. And so, those are a few of my thoughts with respect to affordable housing, the housing crisis and how we need to act in response with some haste.

Madam Speaker: Any questions of our Chair, Councillor Rollins? Seeing none, no further questions. Next committee; Standing Policy Committee on Community Services. Councillor Orlikow on the report dated November 28th, 2022.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED NOVEMBER 28, 2022

Councillor Orlikow: Oh, yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to move Items 1 to 6, please.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. We do have one motion. Motion 10: moved by Councillor Allard, seconded by Councillor Santos. It's regarding ambulance billing and it is an automatic referral to the standing committee. We'll get right into question period. Mr. Mayor to start with the first question for Councillor Orlikow.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
MOTIONS

Motion No. 10
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS in some cases mail is lost as ambulance bills are sent with regular mail and not registered mail;

AND WHEREAS there may be significant delay in billing for ambulance services, especially in the case of lost mail;

AND WHEREAS in some cases the delayed billing may result in residents not being able to claim the bills against their insurance, resulting in financial loss for the resident;

AND WHEREAS many residents do not have the means to pay for ambulance services, who may be able to be covered under an insurance regime;

AND WHEREAS despite these bills going to collection agencies, a number of these bills remain unpaid;

AND WHEREAS if communications with residents were improved, the City of Winnipeg may see a higher compliance in payments, especially from those under an insurance regime who may not be able to pay using their own financial means;

AND WHEREAS better communication with the City of Winnipeg and residents could result in less losses to the City of Winnipeg in the form of unpaid bills, as well as less losses to residents of Winnipeg who may suffer financial loss as a result of missing statutory deadlines with their insurance providers.THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services within 180 days on:*

   A. *The average number of unpaid ambulance bills per quarter.*

   B. *Reasons why ambulance bills are unpaid.*

   C. *Possible improvements to better communicate ambulance billing with the view to increase the amount of fees collected by the City of Winnipeg.*

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

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
QUESTION PERIOD

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to councillor…to the Chair; in light of everything related to the Millennium Library and its current closure, I'm just wondering if the councillor could perhaps update this committee, this Council, on work that is being done right now in preparation to reopening at some point and work specific to looking at safety measures and increasing safety measures. So, if the councillor could provide us with an update, we would appreciate it.

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

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much, through you, Madam Chair, to Mr. Mayor. Yeah, my pleasure. It is a rolling ball right now a bit. We are planning to reopen it as soon as possible, as soon as we can get some of the issues addressed regarding safety that have been identified not only by the staff but by administration as well and some of the community groups and some of the councillors who approached me as well. So, what's been going on for this last week, I admit I may be a little optimistic, but again, you got to be optimistic in life, was to reopen Monday. That is what I really hoped we could do, I'm not sure if that will be possible. This is taking a little longer, there's a little more layers on this that we need to be addressing. But the idea there is to, again, it's really the staff right now for me as huge concern. They have been traumatized. It wasn't just prior to this horrible incident with Tyree, it was also prior to that where they've had a lot of issues in the library with…and again, I really want to stress, it's not an unsheltered person's issue, it is criminal activity is the problem we are having. There's criminal activity going on in the library, so please separate those two out. I've been hearing some comments about it's 'those people'. It is not. They need a place to go and to be able to access computers and different information. So, it's the criminal activity. So, the question is, how are we going to do that in a way that keeps the library open and inviting to all, but also make sure that it's a very safe environment. And there's many opinions out there, it goes from very far over there to very far over there. And so, the process right now with administration and the Mayor's Office and Cindy Fernandez and the different community groups is trying to find that place where we can do it. So, the objective right now at this point is to get the library open in a short-term manner and then there is some much more complicated questions and issues that we're going to have to deal with in the longer…intermediate and long-term. So, right now, quite focused on the short-term. So, how can we do that? I really strongly believe that we cannot keep this library closed over the holidays. Too many people depend on this library as a place to go, it's a place to be, it's part of their…part of what they do. You know, from…you know, the senior that likes to go on the computers and they get computer help from our library technicians who are there to help out a bit, to the person who likes just to go get that new magazine that showed up, to people that want to do research projects or students, the general population really do use this library. It is our premier library in the city. But again, we can't just open it up as was. I think we have to address some of the issues in front of us. There's been some really wonderful suggestions brought forward. Some of them involve money. Some just involve moving some monies around. So, we are getting through that process. I hope that we're going to have a plan in a short…for the short-term opening that we will share with our labour unions prior. And also, with councillors, we'll share to get some more feedback. And again, I don't think we're all going to agree on everything, but I think we all agree that the library needs to reopen. And…but I do value your opinions and ideas and I also value our staff because they need to have a chance to decompress and get input. And then also, the many community groups that are also helping us trying to figure out a way to do this opening the…reopening the library as safe as possible. So, while I think Monday is going to be a pretty tight timeline to get that done, you know, there's been other ideas, which I probably shouldn't say, but I will; it's a soft opening where we just open it for staff only for a bit, a couple days, let them back, acclimatize to the area and then

reopen it to the public. So, there's lots of neat ideas that are coming forward that…but again, what the key point be is that we have to do it together. We have to try to do this altogether. You know, and try to find a space that we are all comfortable enough, especially in the short-term, and then identify some of those longer-term issues that we need to address and then keep working on this for a little bit longer. But again, my hope is that sooner than later we'll be able to reopen the library, the staff that feel safe and they valued, with residents that are able to go the library feeling safe and valued and be able to access material and then also making sure that the criminal activity that's going on in the library is taken care of. So, that is kind of where we are at. It's been an incredibly long week working on this. But again, it's been quite exciting in the fact that there are so many bright and people in our administration staff and the community that really have some wonderful ideas on how we can do it. And we are the…kind of the same line which is, let's get the library open safe for all.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And through you to Chair Orlikow; I've received several calls recently and I don't know why this didn't happen during my first term, but certainly, since being re-elected or acclaimed, I have had three different calls on three separate occasions with respect to house address numbers on back alley garages and residences. And wondering if Councillor Orlikow has had any calls of this nature and from a community by-law enforcement perspective whether or not the Community Services will look into this and follow-up with respect to maybe an education effort in increasing residents' knowledge about the importance of having addresses…address numbers on their back entranceways. Whether it's garages or the back of their homes or whatever for first responders who are attending to calls or delivery drivers who are trying to find addresses to execute their deliveries.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you very much to you…from you, Madam Chair, to Councillor Chambers. I have heard of it. And actually, even in River Heights-Fort Garry, we have done some campaigns to try to even provide the numbers. It could just be a black pen if you really want to do it. But again, it does…it does cause some issues, especially in some areas where you have (inaudible) streets and you say, there is an incident at this garage, they can't find it because they don't know what the address is. So, there is no plan at this point to start imposing it. Started doing a by-law crackdown because it is required. But I think the idea of more an education and try to get people on board with that a little bit more. I think people just don't know that they are supposed to. Really, that's about it. I have it on mine, but that's because I took the numbers from the front of it and put some better numbers and moved the other ones back. But again, the idea there is, I think it's a campaign that we need to do and each one of us can help our residents know that, that you know, just put it on the back lane, just put it on your back fence, put it on your garage, whatever it is. Because it does help our first responders, it does help a lot of different groups. But at this point, I am not hearing anything about some type of hard by-law enforcement. But if there is a neighborhood where you feel very strongly that you want to get some people out there, we…I think it is education that's a first here.

Madam Speaker: Any further questions? Seeing none, that concludes that question period. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works, the report dated November 29th, 2022. Councillor Lukes, we do have an amending motion for Item 1. And item…the other item as well, thank you. Councillor Lukes.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
DATED NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Councillor Lukes: Yes, Item 7, I think we've got an addition.

Madam Speaker: Item 1 and Item 7, yes.

Councillor Lukes: And Item 7. So, I'll pull items…I would like to bring forward Items 1 to 10, but I'll pull item...

Madam Speaker: 1 is…1 is pulled.

Councillor Lukes: 1 and Item 7.

Madam Speaker: So, I will call the question. What number? There is no 27. Yeah, goes up to 10. So, we are pulling 1…we're pulling Item 1 – Winnipeg Transit On-Request Pilot and Item 7 – Service Delivery Options for Snow Clearing on Sidewalks.

Councillor Lukes: What one?

Madam Speaker: I don't believe so. That was probably…

Councillor Lukes: We only had one and it's only…

Councillor Allard: Was it only at Public Works?

Madam Speaker: Right. Right. Councillor Eadie?

Councillor Eadie: I'd like to speak to Item 6, please.

Madam Speaker: Item 6 – Results of a Street Signage Pilot Project in the Exchange District. Okay, with that, I will call the question on 2 through 5, 8, 9, and 10. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Item 1, Mr. Clerk.

Item 1 – Winnipeg Transit On-Request Pilot

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes to introduce Item 1 and there's an amending Motion 11 that goes with it. Moved by councillor…Councillor Lukes, the Chair, and Councillor Mayes. So, you can speak…to introduce the item and the amendment if you'd like at this time.

Motion No. 11
Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated November 29, 2022, be amended as follows:

- *That Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 be referred to the 2023 Budget Review Process, namely:*

  "1. That Winnipeg Transit adopt On-Request transit as the way of providing demand-responsive transit service in Winnipeg and that the Dial-a-Ride-Transit system be cancelled.

  2. That, subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, the Winnipeg Transit 2023 operating budget and future forecast years be amended for the financial impact as follows:

2023	*2024*	*2025*	*2026*
$182,069	*$185,966*	*$188,913*	*$192,412*

  3. That, subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, 2.60 permanent Clerk A FTEs be added to Winnipeg Transit's employee complement."

- *That Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 be adopted, namely:*

  "4. That the City award, enter into, execute and deliver a contract extension for the provision of software and support for on-request transit service to VIA Transportation for the period of January 1 – September 30, 2023, in the amount of $31,500 plus MRST and GST as applicable.

  5. That authority to be delegated to the Director of Transit to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions for the provision of software and support for on-request transit service and any Ancillary Agreement in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

  6. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing."

Councillor Lukes: Sure, I'd like to just speak to the amendment. This report came to the Executive Policy Committee. And I think we sought further clarity and put it to the budget process, but realized that if we did that, as we heard today from our delegation, it would basically stop the on-request transit service. So, the motion is asking to continue with the on-request transit service and to move Items 1 to 3 to the budget process. So, that is the motion I'm putting forward with Councillor Mayes' support.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers on this item? Seeing none, do you wish to close or I can call the question? Pardon me? Yes. Question on Motion 11 first, amending Motion 11. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. And the main item, as amended. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Mr. Clerk, Item 6.

Item 6 – Results of a Street Signage Pilot Project in the Exchange District

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

Councillor Lukes: I will wait to hear from my councillor colleague on this item.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be…well, I'll be supporting the report because the Government Manitoba Department of Transportation, whoever is responsible for the Highway Traffic Act that the various regulations regarding signage and so on and so forth, Madam Speaker. So, they said no, so immediately it is discontinued. But Madam Speaker, I was reading through the report and as I was reading through it, I noted they were going to continue to try…for accessibility purposes to look at further ways of providing information for persons with disabilities who do use motor vehicles and park and so on. Because they had tested it. But Madam Speaker, I am reminded…and I'm hoping somebody from the Parking Authority, because I am sure I have talked to the councillor who represents…is the Chairperson of P&D, Councillor Rollins, I did express a concern that I had, Madam Speaker, in that one time a little bit severe and I am sure it is a parking sign. We have universal design standards that talk about how to install signs and at what level they should be installed at in terms of from the ground up. And other standards that are in there, Madam Speaker. I am sure that this was not a construction related sign as I walked up Smith…not Smith, Garry. And Madam Speaker, lo and behold, right at…right at head level, sticking out is a nice, I guess, big informative sign about parking. Cut the…cut the top of my forehead. Now, I am just talking about myself here. And I…you know, I can only use myself as an example here. But I do know, in the past, a lot of people who are totally blind wouldn't be able to see it. It's probably a nice colourful, sign you could duck it, whatever, or avoid it. But when you are blind and your cane is below a sign that is a bigger sign and it sticks out, your cane isn't going to find the post that it's always sitting on. So, what happens is, you whack into it. That is what happens. Some…well, some people have dog guide, I don't know how that's helpful. But I just wanted to point out that it seems to me when we are looking at signage and dealing with parking, which I agree with the report, a lot of people are saying, well, the rules are too complex. Simplify the parking rules. That is what came out of the…this pilot. Look at this, Madam Speaker. But…and it was in the Exchange. I don't know if I was walking anywhere near where the pilots were being tested. But Madam Speaker, I just want to remind that…the Public Service their universal design standards, and they are there for a very, very, very good reason, to try to help prevent injuries. I got a lot of work to do. I was coming from an event related to City-related business. And I just like…and I don't know how many of these are in the downtown area but I don't know…and I don't know why they installed them at such a low level in that, usually if it is higher, you can see it. I know if you are sitting in a vehicle or whatever. Anyway, I just wanted to point that out. And I am sure the Chairperson of IRPW…or sorry, it's just Public Works now, will you know, consider this and that pedestrian safety is also important. And I know that my colleagues do that. But I just, you know what? And I can't identify the sign. And you know, I tried to take an image of it, whatever. But you know, you are in a rush, you don't have…anyway. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Lukes to close Item 6.

Councillor Lukes: I just did want to mention to Councillor Eadie. I haven't had a chance and I didn't know if he saw the video. But I did bring this up with the Public Works Department, your exact story, because we talked about this before the committee meeting. And they insisted that it was according to accessibility standards that it was put in. So, that was their comment back. I guess we could pursue this further. But I just wanted to share that with you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, I will call the question on Item 6. All in favour? Contrary? That is carried. Mr. Clerk.

Item 7 – Service Delivery Options for Snow Clearing on Sidewalks

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes to introduce the item. We also have amending Motion 13 that Councillor Allard will have an opportunity to introduce. And if you could make the comments about the attachment that's being circulated.

Councillor Lukes: Sure. So, I'll make the comment about the attachment. I was provided this attachment, did you get it? I was provided this attachment by the Clerks. I guess it was forgot to be attached to the report. This is a report many of you will recall. We were looking…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes, if you could just suspend the rules to receive the attachment. It was initially on the Pubic Works agenda, it's just missing from the Council agenda today.

Councillor Lukes: Sure. Did people not get it?

Madam Speaker: It's just coming around.

Councillor Lukes: I would like to suspend the rules to have the attachment and receive the attachment.

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

Councillor Lukes: Okay. So, I'll speak to the report then. Okay. So, the report in front of us here is to accept…is to go ahead and speak to contractors and to sign on for a one season period an additional…additional plowing for 217 kilometers of sidewalks and pathways because the City of Winnipeg does not have enough equipment to do this work. So, while the equipment is being purchased through an agreement, I would like to commend Mr. Delbridge for working through this with us, to get a letter of understanding that CUPE will allow this external contract to occur. So, this is to enable snow clearing on 217 kilometers of sidewalks starting in January. I spoke to the director of street maintenance today, Mr. Cantor, and the agreement was being signed. CUPE was in agreement and the contractors did have available resources to put forward to clean the 217 kilometres. So, I take this as very, very positive. Noting again, it is one-time only and that CUPE is in agreement with their letter of understanding.

Madam Speaker: This is also your opportunity to speak to the amendment if you wish.

Councillor Lukes: To the amendment. No. 13, okay.

Madam Speaker: It hasn't been introduced yet, but I…perhaps in your close or now.

Councillor Lukes: Sure. So, yes, in our Public Works Committee, we spoke in detail regarding not quite this amendment be but a motion similar to it that Councillor Allard had brought forward. So, the challenge that the Public Works Department told me was that this request is wanting to plow to pavement, plow sidewalks to pavement. So, the reason the Public Service does not want to proceed with this is because many of our sidewalks are, you know, old and have…aren't smooth enough that the plows can go down and not hit concrete and damage the blade, damage the equipment or damage the sidewalk. The areas of the city where the sidewalks are new and that that could occur being plowed to pavement basically are in the new developments which would be on the outskirts of the city, the Waverley West Ward, the Transcona Ward and your ward, Madam Speaker. But you know, the request is to have a pilot. So, if you think of downtown where we've got lots of density and we think of the sidewalks downtown and we think of the complexity of an operator having there's one section of sidewalk that's been replaced, and then there's another section that hasn't, and then there's, you know, seven centimeters of snow. Practically, in the practical terms, the Public Works Department does not feel that this will work. So, I guess we could do a pilot in Waverley West plowing sidewalks down to bare surfacing, but really, you know, I am really not overly supportive of that. I would like to see the sidewalks…if we're going to be doing any improvements, that we do it in high…and there is high density in Waverley West, but high density more in the downtown area. So, you know, I thank Councillor Allard for his efforts but actually, and practically it makes sense that the department can't really do this without damaging machines because some sections in the downtown have good sidewalks and some don't, but you can't tell what is going on under 7 or 10 centimeters of snow. So, I'm not supportive of the amending motion. Maybe Councillor Allard can articulate it in a different way, but essentially, when I spoke with Public Works Department that is what it was. If we want plow down to…if we want to do a pilot on sidewalks that we know that are in good condition, I guess bring it on to the suburban outer edges of the city where the new sidewalks are, but I don't think that's what the public wants to see. So, nor do I really.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Next speaker, Councillor Allard, this is your opportunity to introduce your amending motion.

Motion No. 13
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

WHEREAS the public service at the time of renewal and renovation ensures that sidewalks are in a condition that is good where plowing to pavement is not an unreasonable risk to equipment

WHEREAS in every ward there may have been a street with a sidewalk that has had a road renewal or a renovation where a sidewalk was either reconstructed or deemed to be in good shape in order to allow for the plowing to pavement

WHEREAS currently, when sidewalks are not plowed to pavement, residents including those who need to use mobility aids such as wheelchairs need to use the street in order to get to their destinations in the city

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Item 7 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated November 28, 2022 be amended by adding the following recommendations, and renumbering the remaining recommendation accordingly:

4. That the Public Service pilot for the 2022-2023 snow season plowing to pavement on a sidewalk apply to all fifteen wards in the city.

5. That the Public Service compile a list of sidewalks, as roads are renewed and renovated where sidewalks may be plowed to pavement.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. So, my…my earlier reference to Item No. 27 was the item on the previous Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, but it's not called that anymore.

Councillor Lukes: PW.

Councillor Allard: Public Works Department standing committee. So, we had ordered a report at IRPW to know what all of the active transportation not built was. And the scope of work was for 2020 and 2021. What we got was, the amount of sidewalks not built for 2020, 2021. Based on the fact that they were deemed to be in good enough condition to not rebuild them. And so there is a graph. If you go to the last…if you go to the last Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works Committee Item No. 27, page number 12, you will see the summary of estimated sidewalk reconstruction on residential street renewal 2020 2021. So, for 2020, reconstruction total of $10 million, estimated replaced 80%. Estimated not replaced they have a number of kilometres. For a grand total in 2020 of sidewalks not replaced of 1,895,410. So, what I'm…what I hope to illustrate here is the department has done the work for 2020 and 2021. And they have determined that going back to departmental policy and this is out of the snow clearing report that we are deliberating today. The street renewal definition included in the City of Winnipeg website generally identify the level of sidewalk renewal undertaken with various street renewal treatments on both regional and local streets as follows: street reconstruction typically includes renewal of all sidewalks. Street rehabilitation includes renewal of sidewalks of poor condition or are requiring improvements for those with restricted mobility i.e. accessibility improvements. And three, pavement preservation only safety repairs to sidewalks, as example, tripping hazards. And so, if you…if you're…if you apply your sleuthing skills or if you apply your skills of investigator and you read one report and you read the other report, you can combine both reports and you find a list of sidewalks that you can plow to pavement. In the one report, we have Public Works Department arguing we can't plow to pavement because we're going to break our machines. In the other report, when we asked the Public Works Department how many sidewalks do we not build because they are good enough? You see that there's over $2 million over only two years of work. So, that's 2020, 2021. And so, there is a list. If we wanted to take la creme de la creme, which would directly translate as the cream of the cream, which doesn't make any sense, but if we want to take the very best, our renewed streets, we would have a list. We could take the most recent list of street renewals, typically includes renewal of all sidewalks, and we not only go to suburbia, we can go in in all of our wards, look at street renewals where the sidewalks have been reconstructed. And this is an illustration of how frustrating it may be to be chair of a standing policy committee because I asked this question probably a hundred different ways and it took two reports that you have to read in parallel to find out there's actually a list of streets, of sidewalks that we can actually plow. But you don't get the response when you ask the question. You do get the response if you read two reports and then you deductively analyse the two and then all of a sudden, you have a list of streets. So, we have three tiers of streets; we have reconstructions, rehabilitations and preservations. So, there's tier one streets which are the reconstructions. We have the report from 2020, 2022. We know that there is $2 million in sidewalks not built, but that is only part of the…that's only part of the sidewalks that we know we could be plowing because that is only a percentage of the sidewalks that we didn't build. So, we didn't build $2 million worth of sidewalks. But we know because when the Public Works Department does renewals that the sidewalks are in good…good enough conditions to plow. So, we have three tiers; we have tier A, which is reconstruction, tier B: rehabilitation, tier C, which is reconstruction. So, if we stick to tier A, I think we've probably all had renewals in our wards whether we live in the suburbs or not. Whether we represent the suburbs or not, there's been renewals. And so, this motion asks for, can we please not waste an entire snow clearing season to pilot plowing to pavement because we know from these two reports that there are sidewalks that are good enough to plow, and I did check with the department when I was chair of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works. And if you read the two reports, and I've referenced them here; the current snow clearing report and then the report on the active transportation not built in the years 2020, 2021. Now, I wanted to speak to Item No. 27 on the IRPW agenda which is currently not at…which I am using to illustrate the point that we do have a list. But what was very frustrating about Item No. 27, was that we actually asked for all the active transportation not built during 2020 and 2021 what the value was. And all we got was the value of the sidewalks not built during 2020, '21. And then, we got a list of projects not built with no dollars attached despite the committee specifically asking for how many dollars did we not build in active transportation, which was Council policy and

it was in budget documents. So, anyways, that's a side note. The main note is we can pilot based plowing to pavement on street renewals. And if we're not going to do street renewals, we can do street rehabilitations. And if we're not going to do street rehabilitations, we can do resurfacing because the department has told us these were good enough not to rebuild. And the department has told me that they are good enough to plow as long as they've made these lists. And so, we have a list, all we have to do is ask the department what the list is. And if we don't want to ask the department what the list is, we can refer to the 2020 2021 renewals which the department says, and this is the policy, "Street reconstruction typically includes renewal of all sidewalks." So, you don't have to go to the suburbs, all you need to do is you need to go to street renewals and you know you have a sidewalk there you can plow. And if we wait and we don't do it this year, we're going to wait…we're going to…we're going to have a whole winter season where we don't plow to pavement and then we're going to have to ask the department next year to plow to pavement as a pilot. And we're going to have…we're going to have waited an entire season where we can ask the department to clear 15 streets, sidewalks, that we know are safe to plow without damaging our equipment. And we…most of us would have voted for mode shift 50% by 2030. We need to do this type of thing in order to achieve mode shift. We have people that are walking on streets to avoid the sidewalks because the sidewalks are in such terrible condition. Not structurally, but because they haven't been plowed properly. So, this isn't the big ask. The department can do this within existing resources, they could do it with public forces. Public forces are 80% of our forces. If not 15, then one. Please do one street. They've told me they can do it. If we don't be do it, it is because we as Council have decided not to. So, by all means, if there is an amendment, please amend it to make a pilot of one street where we can plow to pavement and put some sand on it like I don't know how many other jurisdictions do. But if we want people to take other modes of transport, whether it is taking the bus or taking their bikes or even walking, we need to provide the facilities and the services in order for that to happen. And I have known since I did my bus challenge in January 2017 how bad our sidewalks are. So, we have a level of service for cars, which allow us to drive, you know, 4,000-pound machines from 50 to 80 kilometers per hour. And then the level of service for sidewalks is you can barely walk on the sidewalk even when you have the best…the best footwear. And then we have the Public Service saying we can't plow to pavement because it's going to break our machines, yet that same Public Service knows that they have a list of sidewalks based on renewals, rehabilitations and resurfacings that are perfectly ripe for plowing to pavement. So, please, please put politics aside. And if you don't want to do 15, please just do one so the Public Service can say, yes, we actually have the technology sophisticated enough to plow to pavement and then put sand on it so people can walk on the sidewalk. This seems like not a big ask. So, that is why this motion is here. The Public Service says they don't plow to pavement. The Public Service has said they can plow to pavement. The Public Service has said if they can't plow to pavement it's because the machines are going to break, yet we have the list of sidewalks where we can plow without breaking the machines. So, can we just do 15 sidewalks in every one of our wards, please, not just the suburbs. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was debating whether I was going to withdraw my question or not. Just based on what Councillor Allard was stating, you know, the question I think is two-fold in a sense that, you know, it is an issue of whether it is the equipment and the infrastructure or whether actually plowing down to the pavement improves traction and therefore, safety concerns for people that are walking or riding their bikes during the winter months. You know, so…and maybe this is more for the question period, but are we also adding salt and sand to the sidewalks as they are being plowed if they are going to be plowed right down to the concrete? We were having this debate earlier, Madam Speaker, between Councillor Browaty, Councillor Allard and myself. And again, whether or not a skiff of snow that's packed down provides better traction or whether the better traction comes as a result of plowing right down to the pavement. The other part to that, as well, is adding the salt and sand might have a detrimental impact to the sod or the grass and trees that are on the boulevards, as well. So, in terms of where this debate is going with respect to plowing down…right down to the concrete and whether or not that is a better service on newer infrastructure, I'm still kind of questioning, you know, what is the better route here without adding unintended consequences, such as killing more grass or trees that we're trying to save, as well as the better traction, you know, if some snow is left there as opposed to plowing right down to the concrete. Thank you, Madam Speaker

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've walked in every street of my ward. I haven't hit every sidewalk as there's two sidewalks on streets and sometimes it's my wife or our son on the other side of the street. Some of our streets, of course, don't have sidewalks. However, what I've noticed is there's a great difference...a great disparity between streets and sidewalks that are pristine, they're excellent, and some that I just…I can't believe they got to this state. And I've seen this in essentially every ward. Sooner or later, you see a great variety of states of streets and sidewalks. I think I heard Councillor Allard, no offense, he's not the first to have done it, I think repeat himself three times in his 10-minutes, which is why he didn't get an extension, I don't want to hear it anymore. I'm just going to vote with Councillor Allard and Councillor Santos. Vote for this. It's a pilot project. We've got a lot of questions on this. Let's try it. And I know there could be doubts and everything. It's a pilot project, it's really small scale. Let's try it and then we can have it out. And then we

can have more disagreements after that. It's hard to disagree before we get some facts from the pilot project. And then we can talk again. Yes.

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

Councillor Eadie: Hasn't been that long of a day, has it, Madam Speaker? And yet, we're still...anyway. Madam Speaker, I rise...I'm going to support the amending motion from Monsieur Allard. But Madam Speaker, so I spent 38 years having...well, 62…well, not…since I was three years old, I've been out on the sidewalks of this street…city, so 59 years experience on sidewalks; in the winter, in the summer, and all times, Madam Speaker. And first thing I wanted to say is, listen, in Elmwood, some of those sidewalks are too narrow. It's not a problem…it's not the issue of snow, they're so narrow like on Johnson, it's not a safe place for many people to walk. But Madam...I digress a little bit. Madam Speaker, so when you're walking on many residential sidewalks, there are people who actually shovel to the concrete in front of their…in front of their yard. Now...now...okay. Tsk, tsk, tsk. So, what happens, Madam Speaker, though, is this is the reason I'd like to see a pilot. Because what happens, Madam Speaker…and this is on a lot of residential streets in this city…sidewalks…residential sidewalks, Madam Speaker. There are people who shovel to the concrete, so…so…but then, there's a lot who don't. And actually, what's really bad in those situations, Madam Speaker, is you slip and trip when you hit the new pile of snow. Sometimes, when I walk down Seven Oaks Avenue, there's actually four houses in a row with…to the concrete, and then, all of a sudden, whoa. And on a…in a snowfall like today, like, there is no standard type sidewalk snow in terms of ice, Madam Speaker. So, if you have packed snow, you…so you compress some of the snow as your plow went by, and then, you get a warm day like this, ice warms on top of the pack. There's no grip in the ice situation. There are times when residential sidewalks need to be sanded, when they become sheer ice, like my front walkway was the other day because it got so cold at night that it froze. And so, you do need some sand. But...and you see that all the time on our regional streets. Now, Madam Speaker, I just want to make a point here. Even if your sidewalks are bad, I talked to a contractor who has a…you know, a sidewalk plow who has the ability to put different attachments on it if he wants. It was suggested to me, Madam Speaker, that instead of plowing the snow on one of those sidewalks, you use a huge metal brush thing that could be...we could get fleet management to make one. We've got good welders and people who know how to, you know, make something. You could do an attachment that sweeps the snow to the side. You're still going to get your…you're still going to get your wind rows on the sidewalks like you do with the plows, but you're spinning the snow off. Now, it might not work so good in wet snow like we're getting today, Madam Speaker, but it's something...if we're doing a pilot, what we do need to make sure is to have continuous plowing to the concrete. So, the point I'm making is, I don't know...like, downtown, do we do it? I mean, quite often it feels like I'm walking on sand on the concrete, but that could be because there was a melt or what…like, but I just want to...wherever this pilot...and I'm going to vote to do it, a pilot. Now, you don't necessarily have to use a plow piece, which is what you use to compress the snow, right? There might be…somebody might have already invented...and this is a pilot. Somebody might have invented this particular attachment that could work as you pushing the snow along into a thing. But then we have the other problem where I think the pilot will have to happen where…where the…where the wind rows don't…the snow doesn't get piled on. So, on Scotia, for a good section of it, Madam Speaker, the snowplows come by after we shovel our snow at 274, and the snowplows come by to do the street, and they keep doing different passes because they're…on that particular road, it is to the concrete, I believe. Anyway, and they push up these huge wind rows which the sidewalk plows, when they eventually come along, you need a plow. So, I don't know how we could do this, but I think that our Public Works and the people who deal with our snow, they could do a test, they can actually talk to some of the people they're contracting to to do 217 kilometres of this road because I think the gentleman I was talking to is probably one of those contractors that's going to be using his sidewalk plow to do it. So, I'll leave it at that. I'm voting for the pilot. The pilot doesn't have to be very…so specific to the word plow. Let's talk about moving snow, moving snow on the sidewalks. Let's talk about that. Thank you

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers on this item? Councillor...just a minute. Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Maybe I'll give you time to amend the motion. Okay, I'm going to be…I'm going to be…and beet juice, okay. I'm just going to be quick. I already spoke to IRPW on this specific issue. And I want to thank Councillor Lukes as the new chair for getting some clarification on the report. It was very confusing, so I thank her for that. And I will be supporting, you know, the recommendation. But Councillor Allard, when he came to me and wanted to do some better quality for our citizens, I said let's do it because at the end of the day, what I'm seeing in my neighbourhood is people who have accessibility challenges, people who are on…in wheelchairs, they don't use the sidewalk in the winter time. They risk their lives to go onto the road that is nicely cleaned and plowed. Why? Because it's safer for them, and it's got more traction, instead of slipping and falling. Try pushing a wheelchair through a bunch of snow on a sidewalk, nearly impossible. So, I agree with Councillor Allard on where can we find those locations. I know Councillor Lukes had mentioned that, you know, there would be more on the outskirts, but I know a couple of streets and sidewalks that have been renewed in my ward near basically, Health Sciences Centre, I can give an example. Their sidewalks were renewed when William Avenue was repaired. So, that's a great candidate. It's right by the hospital, I'd like to suggest that. At the end of the day, for me, why I'm supporting it...I don't know if there's going to be some amendments, I want this Council and I'm hoping Public Works starts putting people first. And this motion puts people first. People who walk on sidewalks, active transportation

trails, making that a priority for our people will see us becoming more inclusive as opposed to just always focusing on vehicular traffic. That's why I'm supporting this motion, and I hope that Council will support a pilot project. Let's get something started now in 2023. We have an opportunity, we have a great report and an opportunity to do, you know, more sidewalks. I think this ties in nicely. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt, did you have your hand up? Councillor Schreyer, I believe you already spoke to this item. You did. Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, we're just awaiting (inaudible).

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much. I am not going to be supporting the amending motion, but will support the original motion. Just a quick comment; we have professionals in our Public Works Department. They live, breath and eat snow. No, that sounds bad. Not yellow snow. They are the experts. Sure, anything is possible with enough money and enough resources, but to do this in one place and not do it everywhere, I don't think is fair. Again, if we want to look at changing the service standard, let's consult with them, let's work with them, let's have the discussion. I don't think having Council prescribe precisely what we tell them to do is appropriate, so I will not be supporting the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: You know, prior to October, I probably wouldn't have risen in support of what Councillor Allard is attempting to argue. But having had these wheels and experience a disability myself, in a sense, over the last number of weeks, I've seen the difference, actually, personally, and it's not easy. If there's snow in the sidewalk, it's like you wish you had skis on these wheels. And I can see the point raised by Councillor Santos about residents using the road because I look over at the road and I say it's easier to go down the road than to go down the sidewalk especially if this was permanent. This is a temporary thing for me. I really don't have any right to comment what others go through permanently, but it has opened my eyes in terms of what those who suffer from a disability permanently must have to contend with in the winter time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor…Mr. Mayor, you have the floor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll be supporting the original report, but not the amending motion. I agree with Councillor Browaty, I think if we're going to look at clearing snow to such a standard, right down to the bare pavement, we really have to talk to those, first of all, before we even launch the idea of a pilot project, we really need to talk with those that do this and do this for a living and consult. What I think we need to be cautious as Council is to make sure that we are not overpromising and underdelivering. It may be impossible given the nature of snow to consistently offer a service level that clears to bare pavement, and so, I think, you know, we need to proceed with this in an informed manner, and just saying, let's do a pilot project, I think, is jumping the gun in this case. And I think that the first conversation would need to have…need to happen would…with those that clear the snow and look at standards in other cities, as well, that have the amounts of snowfall that we have on a regular basis. And so, I won't be supporting the amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie, could I pass the Chair to you so I could address the chamber, as well?

Deputy Speaker: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the Chair. Alright. So, I guess...

Councillor Sharma: I'm at the podium, if you could recognise me.

Deputy Speaker: I was going to say, I guess Councillor Sharma wants to speak before Monsieur Allard closes on his amendment. Please proceed.

Councillor Sharma: Thank you. I'd also like to add to this discussion. I think we all know that Winnipeggers are very, very passionate about snow clearing. I do agree that this conversation needs to continue, but the right place for that to happen is really at the Public Works Committee where we can get into a more depth discussion with our Public Service that will be there. So, I agree with Councillor Browaty, Mr. Mayor, yourself. And a lot of good comments made by everyone. But that detailed discussion is not for today, we don't have more details that we're looking for. So, it something that, you know, I'm sure the…the Chair will bring forward at a future meeting and if not, other members of Council, Councillor Chambers also just spoke, detailed discussion can happen there. So, I won't be supporting the amendment, but will be voting for the main item. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Sharma. If you'd like, I could…there's nobody else who wishes to speak? No? Alright, then Monsieur Allard to close on the amendment.

Madam Speaker: I'm back in the Chair, but I'd also like to note there's another motion being circulated. Just as…thank you.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. I'll take the Chair back. We have motion…amending Motion 14 that is being circulated. And if you...yes, Mr. Clerk, if you could read it into the record, please.

Motion No. 14
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 7 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated November 28, 2022 be amended by adding the following recommendation, and renumbering the remaining recommendations accordingly:

4. That the Public Service ensure appropriate sanding and salt to the sidewalk to ensure appropriate level of service.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard, your opportunity to introduce amending Motion 14.

Councillor Allard: Thank you. I wanted to address Councillor Chambers' comments, which are valid. If you do plow the pavement, you do need to ensure that there's appropriate traction like we do for motor vehicles, and that involves sand and salt where appropriate. And so, this is giving the discretion to the department to sand and salt where appropriate as part of the pilot. And I would like to say, I've heard a few times now say, leave it to the experts to decide. I spoke to the experts when I was the Chair of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, and you know what they told me? That's a rhetorical question. They told me do a pilot. So, please support this pilot. That's what the administrators are saying we should do if we want to explore higher levels of service for sidewalks. If we're going to achieve mode shift 50% by 2030, we need to give people the opportunity so they can vote with their feet. Instead of getting into their car, they can go walk on a sidewalk. Like Councillor Wyatt, I became aware of the huge discrepancy of the level of service between the roads where we drive vehicles that weigh, usually at least 4,000 pounds, go 50 to 80 kilometres per hour. Surely, if we can enable those vehicles with that speed with the safety standards that we have, if that's safe, if we're able to do that, surely we can pilot, as the administrators have recommended, plowing to pavement. And in terms of setting expectations, I campaigned on working to build the city that my children want to live in. Not everybody can afford a car. Not everybody can afford a single-family home. These are the types of services that we need to be promoting, bettering, in order to retain those young people that can vote with their feet in terms of going to any other city in the world. Anyway, this is...I really hope that Council will support this. I think it's reasonable. I invited any councillor to…if 15 is too many streets, then let's…can we please do one because the Public Service has said if we want to explore paving…plowing to pavement, then we need to do a pilot. So, I'm recommending exactly what Public Service has recommended, and I think if you look at the reports that I've referenced, we have the logic in order to pursue this. We have a list of sidewalks that have been deemed good by the Public Service after renewals, and we can look at either last year or the year before, the year prior. And so, we have the list. And then we…the rational from the Public Service to not plow to pavement out of the report that we've already...well, that we're debating now, or that we've already approved, with the one exception of whether or not we would do the private contractors for the additional kilometres, right in that report, it says the reason why we can't plow to pavement is because we're going to break our machines. Well, Report No. 27 of the last Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works meeting says, the sidewalks are fine on all of the streets that we've renewed. So, the department can't have it both ways. Either the sidewalks are fine or they're not. I think they're fine. And I think it's reasonable to do what Public Service has also recommended, which is to pilot this in all…every one of our wards, and it doesn't seem like that big...it doesn't seem like that big of a project to plow 15 sidewalks to pavement. And almost all of us voted for mode shift 50% by 2030. How are we going to get there, if not by doing things like plowing sidewalks to pavement? And I'm getting into repetition again, Councillor Schreyer, but Councillor Wyatt, the point at which I realized the huge discrepancies of levels of service between roads and sidewalks is when I started taking the bus in 2017, when the Province of Manitoba, I think that's the right year, cut the 50/50 transit funding, and it is night and day, sidewalks versus streets. And this report that we approved, and this is the second phase of approving this report, confirmed that we weren't meeting our snow clearing policy, and this allows us to meet it. And this is just a little bit more looking at 15 sidewalks that we can plow to pavement with appropriate sanding, with appropriate salting so that we don't have people tripping and falling. But please help me build the city that our children want to live in. And that city, I think, is one where they can walk around on the sidewalks and not risk themselves on the roads. So, thanks for your consideration

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, just clarify the rules for us, can I speak to this new amending motion?

Madam Speaker: Yes, you can speak to this new amending motion.

Councillor Eadie: Only the new amending motion, right?

Madam Speaker: Yes. Pardon me?

Councillor Eadie: I'm only going to…I'm going to (inaudible).

Madam Speaker: Councillor Allard was introducing his new amending motion. Councillor Eadie, do you wish to speak?

Councillor Eadie: Yeah, I'd just like to speak very quickly to this idea. Our city's Public Service, if there's an ice emergency on the right-of-way surfaces, including sidewalks, they're already sanded. Already, Madam Speaker. Already sanded. The kind of ice that makes you fall, whether that ice is on the concrete or on the compressed snow because those kind of days that you have a ice situation where you need to sand, it's the same whether it's concrete or compressed snow. So therefore, we the City, in order to ensure that our rights of ways are safe, they will apply sand in those in extreme situations. Leave it at that. There's no need for Motion 14. Thank you

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers? Any further speakers? Is your hand up, councillor? Okay.

Councillor Orlikow: Madam Speaker, I'd like to refer this to IRPW.

Madam Speaker: Okay, hang on. If we refer amending motions, the whole item would have to go back. The whole item would have to go back. You rescind that?

Councillor Orlikow: That would be a boo boo.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Any further speakers? Seeing none, Councillor Allard, your opportunity to close on your amending motion.

Councillor Allard: Okay. I will attempt to be brief. We know there are streets that have good sidewalks where we can plow to pavement. The department has confirmed the list of streets. The department has said the reason why we couldn't plow to pavement was because we were going to damage machines. We now know by comparing two reports, No. 27 of the last Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works report and the current report that we're debating today, which we've mostly approved, but are now debating again because there wasn't agreement on the private snow clearing, and now we have other conditions that have been added. So, we know…we have the list of streets, we know the rationale has been rebutted from Report 27 that says the sidewalks are good on streets (inaudible) have recently been renewed. We have the list of streets. I was told in a briefing that the way forward on plowing to pavement was to have a pilot, so I heard many people around this table say we should ask the experts what to do. The experts have already said, if you believe me, and I would not...I would not be making this up. If you know me, you know that I don't make things up. I say things that I believe to be true, and I heard the Public Service say the way to move forward on is to do a pilot. So, if you want to change the pilot, by all means, say it should it should be one street in the city, not 15, in every one of our wards, but the rationale is there. The scope of this work is relatively small. Most of us voted for a 50% mode shift by 2030. That's extremely ambitious, going to be really tough to do, and if we can't even plow to pavement 15 streets in the city of Winnipeg, then how are we possibly going to achieve that mode shift that we know that we need in order for us to achieve our climate goals, for us to achieve the modal shift, for us to give the transportation options that Winnipeggers want? We need to do this. And to address Councillor Eadie's comments, I acknowledge, Councillor Eadie, that what you say may be correct. The motion was to address Councillor Chambers' concerns. And so, in the event where Councillor Eadie, you are correct and I'm not saying that you're not correct, the point is moot, because it says, where…to ensure appropriate levels of service, sanding and salt, so even…so then, it's just redundant. The policy is already there. And Councillor Chambers, whoever you choose to…whomever you choose to believe, we…through the Speaker to Councillor Chambers; thank you to...through the Speaker to Councillor Orlikow for that reminder. So, we have Councillor Eadie's concern addressed, we have Mayor Gillingham's concern addressed about the experts making decisions. If you believe me that the Public Service has said that the way forward on plowing to pavement is to have a pilot. We have the reports that say where the good sidewalks are. This is not a big scope of work. Please support this report, and I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Okay. Thank you. Councillor Lukes to close.

Councillor Lukes: I've got to tell you, this is just an incredible dialogue. I'm reflecting back 19 years ago, when I would come down and stand at that podium and talk to Councillor Swandel and councillor…or Mayor Katz, and the word active

transportation didn't even exist, right? So...so, you know, we've come a long way, and it really warms my heart to hear so many people in here wanting to see improved accessibility on our sidewalks and pathways. 19 years ago, we had $120,000 in the budget for everything; park pathways, sidewalks, whatever. There weren't even line items. We had to come down and fight for line items. And now, you know, there was like seven, eight, nine of us, and now, there's hundreds, there's thousands, and it's just…it's incredible. So, there is…I can say, there's no one in this room that's fought longer and harder to see improved active transportation than me. Jenny Gerbasi was here. When she was here, she had fought longer and harder than I, and I just want to put that on the record. But you know, we have seen public outcry, we have seen a desire that just, again, brings tears to my eyes because if you...if you think about what's happening in our society, and this is from Stats Canada, over the next decades, the demographic trends will fundamentally change the make up of the population served by Canadian emergency departments. In 2031, the proportion of adults aged over 65 will nearly double, and this group will represent more than a quarter of the Canadian population. So absolutely, we need to continue to do better and improve on the way we clean our sidewalks and active transportation corridors. You will recall the reason this motion or this report is in front of us is that we are short, we need 15 more machines just to do what we have right now. We don't have those machines. We're calling on contractors to come out when they can to provide additional snow clearing removal. So, to Councillor Sharma's point, who's been on the committee, the Public Works Committee, probably longer than anyone, I'm sure she's approaching over ten years, this discussion needs to occur at the Public Works Committee. You will note, and we didn't discuss it, but I'll just bring it up, you will note that Report No. 9 – Snow Clearing and Ice Control, in the Public Works Committee we had an extensive discussion on the annual report and how the department was going to trial and pilot different things this winter and bring forward the annual report in June instead of July and give us an update on what they've been piloting, experimenting, looking at. I am not going to support any of these amending motions. I'm going to bring all of this information back to the Public Works Committee, and we are going to talk to the Public Works directors again. I do think to the point about setting expectations, sure, we've some excellent sidewalks in excellent condition, but we have…that the connected…the connectivity of the entire network is not excellent. So, you're going to have some sections that are going to be great, you're going to have some sections that aren't. There's got to be a way to improve what we're doing. I mean, anything is possible with money. Anything is possible. But I think we have to take this back to the department and, I don't want to say talk more because, look, it took me four years to get all the pathways and sidewalks plowed in the city of Winnipeg. Many of you will remember that. I brought that motion forward to have them all done. So, I don't want to see this take four years. I want to see the department come back and tell us how and how much they're going to improve, or what they can do, and I think we need to look at this in the…in our upcoming four-year budget cycle because I think we all know around this table if we want to see improved cleaning on our ATPs and our sidewalks, it's going to…our policy's probably going to have to change and it's going to cost us more money. And then we add that layer of climate change on, when the weather…because every snow event…and the last snow event was dry, this is wet. Thaw, freeze cycle. There's a lot of variables. So, I would really like to leave it to the experts who have won international awards for their snow clearing removal to look at this and to come back with more of a comprehensive approach on how we can improve our ATPs and our sidewalks. So, I won't be supporting either of these motions. I want to thank Councillor Allard for his excellent diligent work over the years on increasing active transportation, trying to increase mode share. It's been incredible. And I want to thank him, but I look forward to continuing working with him, and so many in the room here compared to what it used to be like. So, I guess I'll close on that by saying I'm very, very happy again that the CUPE and Mr. Delbridge has agreed to allow us this one term, this one time, to use private contractors to help clear our ATPs and sidewalks. And I'll close on that.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. With that, I'll call the question. We'll vote in…we'll vote in reverse order. Recorded vote has been called. All in favour of amending Motion 14? It's about the sand and salt, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Santos, Schreyer.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Wyatt, Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 3, Nays 12, with Councillor Gilroy absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Amending Motion 14 is lost. Now, I'll call the vote on amending Motion 13. All in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Allard, Eadie, Santos, Schreyer.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Wyatt, Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma.

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

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Amending Motion 14…13, pardon me, is lost. Now, onto the main item, Item 7. All in favour? Is this a recorded vote? Okay, all in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer, Wyatt, and Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma.

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 15, Nays 0, with Councillor Gilroy absent.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 7 passes unanimously. And now, onto Motion 1 that's been circulated. It's moved by Councillor Allard and seconded by Councillor Dobson. It's regarding ice clearing on sidewalks. It will be an automatic referral to the standing committee. We'll now get into by-laws under this committee, Councillor Lukes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS

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

WHEREAS Winnipeg is a winter city with an average annual snowfall of 117.9 cm over the past 15 years, according to Environment Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Sidewalk Cleaning By-law No. 3422/83 states that no person shall deposit snow, ice, dirt or any other obstruction cleared from a sidewalk onto an adjacent roadway or any other public space;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 180 days on the following:

1. *Changes to the necessary by-laws and policies to allow residents the ability to perform limited snow and ice clearing on sidewalks on residential streets.*

2. *Rescinding existing fines in by-laws and policies associated with residents performing limited snow clearing on sidewalks on residential streets.*

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

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Lukes: I'd like to move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 153/2022 and By-law No. 154/2022.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 153/2022, By-law No. 154/2022.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I'd like to move that By-law Nos. 153/2022 and 154/2022 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 153/2022 and 154/2022.

Councillor Lukes: And I'd like to move that the rule be suspended and By-law Nos. 153/2022 and 154/2022 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 have question period under this committee. Councillor Eadie, followed by Councillor Mayes.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, as we all remember, Madam Speaker, last term, we passed the new Transit Master Plan, and there was a lot of discussion and debate when we established it about getting support. And Councillor Allard did a great job, and many others. We worked together. And there was an amendment, Madam Speaker, that I had put in there, otherwise I wasn't going to vote for the master plan, and that was that, when we go to the more…to the new system where we have more frequent bus service and less…less feeder route possibilities. In there, I insisted that because of the design of the system…and we all agreed at the time unanimously on that thing, and that was that...that snow on the sidewalks and intersections, where you have to transfer buses, because the new system will involve more transferring to get to where you specifically want to go, and that we would clear it much better as well as at certain hub areas that we talked, as well. Which would include, and I just want to know…my intention was, the standard there is, is that the snow is cleared in the path to get from one bus stop to the other. And that there's no snow that slopes you to the curb and so on. So, that means clearing it to the concrete, Madam Speaker. So, my question to the Chairperson is, would she…if our Chairperson would follow-up and check with the Public Service on how Winnipeg Transit and Public Works have working at looking at how to provide that better snow clearing service where route connections have to be made?

Councillor Lukes: Okay. Thank you very much through you, Madam Speaker, to Councillor Eadie. So, I'll actually speak from a little bit of experience here on this; southwest rapid transit corridor that has the feeders that come to the spine which is the concept of the Transit Master Plan. So of course, because it was a P3, there…you know, there is a very high standard of cleaning at the hubs or of the destination where people do change. So, I've actually not had any complaints or any calls about that, but to your point, we need to ensure that this happens going forward on all the other routes that have the feeders that come through to it because they won't be part of the P3 because we'll be using the roads much more as per the transit plan. So, for sure, I'll be discussing that with the department. Thank you

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Eadie: Second question, Madam Speaker. Try not to do a preamble. Jefferson will have a route, Salter will have a route. People coming down Jefferson will have to transfer to the Salter route to get somewhere. That is an intersection that needs to meet the same very good standards of crossing that intersection to get to the direction you want to take that bus that's running down Salter. And did you know, I'm wondering if the Chairperson knows that there's many intersections like that in our old neighborhoods of Winnipeg, not our new neighborhoods where the rapid transit corridors go to?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Through you, Madam Speaker; thank you very much, Councillor Eadie. I, personally, envision that when we're implementing these new routes for the transport…for the transit corridor, that our snow clearing policy will be modified to ensure that we've got the best snow clearing routes, the best snow clearing on the routes connecting to transit. So, thank you for bringing that up, and again, we'll…I'll mention that with the department

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Final question.

Councillor Eadie: Last question. Madam Speaker, I'm wondering if the Chairperson could find out from the Public Service and let us know at what stage they're planning for snow clearing policy changes when the new transit system comes into being in the next, I can't remember how many...I think another two years or less? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Excellent, excellent points, Councillor Eadie. For sure, I'll find out and report back to all the Council on that

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. At the recent I...I don't want to say IRPW, at the recent Public Works meeting, Councillor Lukes tried to ask some questions that I wanted ask. Perhaps I was too detailed in my…probably was, in my paperwork. But I want to thank Councillor Lukes for at least trying to ask some of the questions on Transit Plus contract, sole source. One of the questions she asked on my behalf was about this van contract and how this would relate to our current study of bringing work in-house. And the answer was, the van contract isn't part of the in-house study. Well, that's true, except the statement was then made, and we've talked about in previous reports how we're going to have these…we're going out of the minivan business, but we're still going to have vans. Well, that is, to say the least, I'm pretty on top of this file. I haven't seen any of those reports. What I have seen, and what was in DMIS and what was presented in front of IRPW in July of 2021, when Councillor Allard was the Chair, from Transit, this is what was presented July 2021. Transit Plus is currently transitioning from a mixed-use of buses, vans, and cars to using only 27-foot buses and cars. To using only 27-foot buses and cars. I did not take from that that vans would be a part of the mix. Sorry if I misinterpreted that, but it's a little hard to ask questions like when you're told it's only 27-foot buses and cars, is the next question, are cars included? Are there other buses than 27-foot buses? That appears to be the challenge in front of us. That doesn't lead me to think vans are still part. So, no, vans aren't part of the in-house study because we were told that there wouldn't be…we wouldn't be in the van sector anymore. So, my question to Councillor Lukes is, could she verify with the staff what is it we will be using for Transit Plus, which we might study? Is it cars? Is it buses? Is it chartreuse microbuses? Is it vans? Is it...what is it that will be our mix because when I'm told it's only 27-foot buses and cars, and then told publicly, well, no, of course, we're going out of the minivan business, but we're staying in the van business. One has…one wonders why one is asking questions at that point. So, could Councillor Lukes, who was good enough to ask some of those questions at the committee, follow up with staff? I want to thank Catherine Kloepfer who is at least trying to answer some of these questions as CFO, as well.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Sure. For sure. You know, we…you know, Councillor Mayes, you've been very diligent on this file and you've been on it for a long time, and you're in the…in the literally the weeds and roots of the file. So, I will confirm again. At the committee meeting, we were explained that it would be a bus, like...no, sorry, a van. A van. A different kind of van than the other kinds of vans. But I will confirm it again. And what I would recommend you do, because there seems to be some big communication challenges with the Transit Department and your office is, you know, I understand the CFO is helping you, but you know, the CAO oversees all of this. So, I encourage you to speak to him too, because there truly does seem to be some communication problems. So, I will report back to you on bus, van, what it is. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Seeing none, I also want to echo the Mayor's remarks from earlier today and wish everyone a restful holiday season. I hope you take time to rest and recharge and spend time with your families, but also, I know you'll be out in your wards because it's a busy next two weeks with many, many events scheduled. So, with that, Councillor Chambers, will you move adjournment? All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Please be seated for roll call.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Madam Speaker Councillor Sharma, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Dobson, Duncan, Eadie, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 4:46 p.m.