COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Thursday, April 25, 2024

The Council met at 9:40 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

In accordance with Rule 11.1 of the City of Winnipeg Procedure By-law No. 50/2007, the Speaker acknowledged that we are in Treaty One Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty Three Territory.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Duncan.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTIONS

Madam Speaker: We have a leave of absence motion, moved by Councillor Sharma, seconded by Deputy Speaker Councillor Eadie that Councillor Orlikow will be away due to a…due to city business. Madam Clerk, will you read that into the record, please?

Moved by Councillor Sharma,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

THAT Councillor Orlikow be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to City related business.

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Speaker: We have two pages here to serve Council today. Please welcome Saylem Meleck from Dakota Collegiate who resides in the Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward, and Taylor Moore from Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau who resides in the Transcona Ward. Welcome. Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Call the question on the leave for City business for Councillor Orlikow.

Madam Speaker: Yes. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Moving to morning announcements. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I too want to echo welcome to our pages. Good to see you both today. Thank you for serving Council. I do want to begin today, Madam Speaker, by on behalf of all councillors expressing our sincere condolences to the firefighter community and especially to the widow and family of Preston Heinbigner for their profound loss. I want to thank Councillor Duncan for including the remembrance of the Heinbigner family in his opening prayer this morning. Appreciate the focus of this council and, you know, I have heard from every…almost…many councillors about their commitment to working to reduce the stigma around mental health issues and to address the need for mental health support for first responders who serve on the front lines. I want to thank the provincial government, Premier Kinew and his cabinet, the government who recently committed funding for more councillors to work with Fire Paramedic and Police as they serve our front line people, residents of Winnipeg. The City has also been making investments in counseling, peer-to-peer support programs and facility design to address mental health challenges that are faced by our staff. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out for help. Help is available. And I know from Acting Chief J. Shaw, the Fire Paramedic Service, that more and more of our staff are accessing the mental health supports and even at times, workers compensation. We want our men and women who serve us to be healthy, and so that's why those supports are in place. Again, I'll reiterate it. If you or anyone you know is struggling, please reach out for help. We also want to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of a political commentator and former City Councillor Bill Neville. Bill served as a City Councillor for Tuxedo through the late 1970s and 80s. My condolences, our condolences to his family

and friends, and I know, Madam Speaker, in a moment, there is a motion coming forward on that. Our city has received some awards lately. I want to take a moment to congratulate our staff. Our office of Public Engagement team won a Communicator of the Year Award for the Canadian Public Relations Society Manitoba Chapter. The team was recognized for its work on the Lord Roberts Community Traffic Study. City of Winnipeg also received…recently took home two awards for the 2024 HR Excellence Awards, winning both the Impact Award and the Vitality Award. Congratulations to our HR team and all of the finalists. Recently, I had the opportunity to travel to Ottawa to see a performance of our Royal Winnipeg Ballet as they perform Snow White in Ottawa to three sold out shows at the National Art Centre. It was my second time seeing the show, and absolutely was once again outstanding. We can be and are very proud of our arts community, and especially the Royal Winnipeg Ballet who are certainly renowned across Canada and in fact, throughout the world. The RWB dancers and staff involved in the show are not only ambassadors for dance, but for our city as well, our province and our country. And during my time in Ottawa, I had the opportunity to meet with, among others, the Mayor of Ottawa. Once again, promoting the RWB and talking about issues related that we share, that are similar issues in our cities. Also met with folks from the Canadian Arts Council and they will be in Winnipeg soon. And again, it's great to be ambassadors for our city and for the RWB. I want to extend my best wishes to the RWB for their upcoming performances of Carmina Burana, and the world premiere of T'əl: The Wild Man of the Woods, which begins tonight at the Concert Hall and it is on until Sunday. Congratulations also to the Manitoba Opera who just completed a very successful run of their most recent performance as well. And the Winnipeg Jets, finally to our Jets, best of luck to the Jets in their playoff run. I was pleased to be able to bring greetings on behalf of the city at the Winnipeg Whiteout Street Party on Sunday. It might have been the shortest speech of my ten-year political career. It was that we want to win the cup and Winnipeg Jets fans are the best fans in the NHL, and then started the chant of "Go Jets Go", and turned the mic over to someone else. But they're just such a fantastic energy and the crowds downtown on Sunday and Tuesday and certainly from our…either our homes or restaurants or lounges, wherever we're going to be meeting the game…watching the game tomorrow, we'll be cheering on our Jets in Game 3 of the series. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And you also installed a very important sign, Whiteout Way. It's great to see you up there on the bucket.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you. I did, Madam Speaker, thank you for noting that. Just kind of a humorous moment. Our City staff was there. They were generous and there was a staff member down below, and I was in the bucket and I was tightening it. He goes, "That's okay, Mr. Mayor." He called up. He said, "Don't worry. We're going to get up and fix it after you are done." And they literally did. So, thanks to our good staff.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Lovely. Next is Councillor Schreyer, followed by Councillor Duncan and finally Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Last night was the annual cleanup, spring cleanup of the Northeast Pioneer Greenway for the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers of the area including Valley Gardens and John de Graff section. And last night I was invited by Daryl Adair, the former Akela of the John de Graff Cub Scouts, and I was there once again with my son Jared. And I just want to thank all those involved over the years that are community leaders and those involved throughout the years and decades of keeping our city clean. Madam Speaker, it happens to be, and I'm going to read my speech this time, which is rare for me. But today marks the 50th anniversary of the Carnation Revolution in Portugal, happens to be right today, and which brought an end to the longest fascist dictatorship in Europe. (speaking Portuguese)

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Schreyer. Next is Councillor Duncan and Councillor Rollins. One minute for morning announcements. Thank you.

Councillor Duncan: I apologize this will only be in English today here. As we were celebrating the end of the hockey season, March 21st through 24th, Winnipeg hosted the final Speedo's Western Canadian Championship at the Pan Am Pool. The competition was national level competition organized by Swim Canada, and a major support from Swim Manitoba. The event was livestreamed across the country and many sponsors were acknowledged, including the City of Winnipeg. Winnipeg was a host to many swimmers including Olympic swimmers from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, and of course, our home province of Manitoba. I wanted to extend a congratulations to all of the 39 swimmers from Manitoba on behalf of the City Council of Winnipeg. Congratulations.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Duncan. Congratulations. Next is Councillor Rollins and final speaker, Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you very much. I was honored to represent Council, Madam Speaker, at the Human Resource Excellence Awards earlier this month. I want to underline that the Public Service had many great projects that they could have forwarded. And I want to note, too, that the great projects that they did forward, whether it was the…you know, were

indicative of all the departments working together, whether it was Community Development, Indigenous Relations Division, Community Services and HR Services along with Public Works on a pilot or for newcomer youth that we know resulted in people being employed at the City of Winnipeg, whether it was the awareness in action series provided insights and trauma-informed harm reduction, decolonization with a variety of departments or whether it was the prize and they took home too that night of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service who created the behavioral health unit with fire paramedic field representing a significant and progressive step forward in addressing mental health concerns of the service, one in which this council last term was proud to invest in and we continue. So I wanted to give my sincere congratulations to all those that were recognized through their work and including the winners, Madam Speaker. I also stand to recognize Lesbian Visibility Week that takes place this week. The…to celebrate the power of sisterhood, uplifting women, non-binary people everywhere from every generation, and I look forward to celebrating tonight with community at the Good Neighbour Brewing Company, Madam Speaker, if we get through Council in a timely way. Thank you.

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

Councillor Mayes: I hadn't meant to speak, but the discussion of mental health services just makes me want to note. The partnership we've had for several years now with the Manitoba School Boards Association and Canadian Mental Health Association. The Mark Dickof Award that we fund every year, or my office funds every year, for students both inside Winnipeg and outside Winnipeg who further work on mental health that the solicitation for nominees just went out yesterday, from the School Boards Association. Hopefully, we'll get lots of good applicants. Our own Jeannine Stotski, her daughter had a terrific portfolio on this some years ago. We've had…it's quite moving actually, to go through these proposals. So, Mark Dickof Memorial Award funded by the City coming through again this year. Secondly, if only I'd had Councillor Schreyer with me when I ran for city council 30 years ago in Toronto with that Portuguese knowledge. That would've helped, but all I can remember is (speaking Portuguese) is all I can remember from that campaign. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Mayes. Next, we have a condolence motion for former councillor William (Bill) Neville. Madam Clerk, will you please read it into the record?

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Duncan,
Seconded by Councillor Dobson,

THAT Council place on record its profound sorrow at the death of former Councillor William (Bill) Neville, which occurred on March 29, 2024.

Mr. Neville served as Councillor in the Tuxedo Heights Ward, Assiniboine Park – Fort Garry Community, from December 4, 1979 to October 1989.

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

Madam Speaker: Please rise for a moment of silence if you are able.

MINUTES

Councillor Chambers moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on March 20 and 21, 2024, be taken as read and confirmed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Madam Speaker: We have two delegations registered to speak virtually. Our first is Jamil Mahmood, Executive Director of the Main Street Project and Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud, Chief Executive Officer, of Siloam Mission in support of Item 2 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee…of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 16th, 2024. It's regarding Garbage Clean Up at Encampments. Madam Clerk, we have the delegations with us? Welcome to you both.

Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud: Thank you.

Jamil Mahmood: Thanks for having us. Really appreciate the time here at Council. We want to thank EPC and folks, Mayor and Council for considering this motion and looking forward to funding creative solutions to challenges we face in our community. We are very excited. I do want to start off by stressing that this is a pilot and also like a temporary step for, you know, the broader solution which is housing. We know that the only way to address these broad social challenges are to build the housing we need and the right kind of housing for people that, once we have that housing, we can definitely do a lot more to reduce number of encampments and the need for people to access riverbanks, this place of safety and housing. So, really want to stress that. I do also want to stress that we appreciate the city taking a human rights-based approach to those living unsheltered and those using encampments. That's really important. And as part of our presentation, we did attach the federal report on the "Upholding the dignity and human rights: the Federal Advocate's review of homelessness encampments" as an attachment to this, and we think Winnipeg is doing a better job than most other jurisdictions at maintaining this and mostly due to previous planning and partnership done between the city and community around the Kíkinanaw Óma Strategy to really make sure that human rights and dignity was upheld in all this. We really applaud Council for the continued commitment to upholding human rights. We know it's not a…we're not perfect yet, and we're not at the point where we are doing this fully, but we think this report from the Federal Advocate's gives a good base for future conversations. We're really excited to engage with Council and the City on broader ways to do that in a great way, specifically on this encampment, we really…you know, I want to thank everybody for considering our proposal and I think this project does a number of things that make sure we can provide solutions to neighborhoods for response to garbage pile-up in bulky waste in the neighborhood in a way that also respects those living in encampments and provides the support and dignity. We also, you know, as I mentioned earlier, the maintaining of the Kíkinanaw Óma Strategy that we developed in collaboration with community and the City. And finally, I think the…the other big things it does is it builds capacity in our city, not only within the Public Works Department to respond better, but also for community and our agencies to be able to provide better response to the needs of both the encampment residents and community members who are concerned about garbage at the…in encampments as well. And then, just a little bit on the pilot, I know you've all seen the document, but just the two phases of the pilot. One is the regular weekly collection at kind of, main locations to provide that opportunity, provide regular collection allows, you know, the…they do give you…we provide to every resident of our city that regular collection to move out garbage from the area, and then, building the capacity to have more bulky waste cleanups. I know in EPC, there were some questions about, would it be available throughout the whole city, like we would love to respond anywhere. So, if councillors outside of kind of core areas or the main encampment area have bulky waste that needs to be picked up and collected or mindful cleanups in encampments, we're always happy to work on those solutions between now that capacity being built with this proposed pilot and also the capacity to build within Public Works to respond collectively, and then our outreach services to be able to provide that intermediary for those cleanups and relation built with community members. So, I'll pause there and let Tessa talk a little bit as well.

Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud: Yeah, I think one of the core things with this project is that we all know that the actual solution as Jamil already mentioned is housing and having adequate housing. But in the absence of that, this encampment cleanup project is really important because it offers people that dignity and respect and compassion that the City has named. It wants to be able to offer folks that are living in an unsheltered environment. Also, by the use of clean slate with DCSP and the M.O.S.T team of Siloam Mission, we are actually solving some of the causes of homelessness for other folks, including maybe folks staying in encampments, and through those processes by ensuring opportunities to barrier-free employment for people who have been experiencing homelessness. So, while this is going to create a safer, cleaner, more beautiful environment, take better care of the forests in which many of these encampments are in, it's also going to provide an opportunity for dignified employment that then people can move on and graduate to other employment and we've had actually a lot of graduations in the last couple of weeks from our M.O.S.T team into full-time employment in other areas, so we know that this is a model that tackles both sides of the issue in terms of what are the symptoms of homelessness, and what are the causes of homelessness. While I understand that, ideally, we'd like to see those investments in housing, the amount of money needed for this pilot project to offer that dignity and that safety and more beautiful forests and parks for, you know, the general public to witness, this…that of the amount of money we need for this particular project would only probably construct about one unit of housing. And so, while that needs to be our focus with the Housing Accelerator Fund to build housing that specifically matches the needs of the community that experiences homelessness and serves those that are having the most struggle to access housing, a project like this is not taking away from that and instead, it's meeting people where they're at today, working with the resources we have available today, as we continue in the long term to address the housing stock shortage of social housing supply in Winnipeg that continues to push people into

homelessness. So we're really excited to be working in partnership with Main Street Project, with DCSP, with other outreach teams, coordinating and making sure that we're collaborating to meet people experiencing homelessness living in an unsheltered encampment environment in the best way possible to meet this need. Last year, I had the opportunity to be foreperson on day three of the cleanup, and it was a beautiful experience. So, we had so many people that were just thrilled that we were there. So excited to have this opportunity there, have their space cleaned up. Really worked collaboratively with us. When we got to the last encampment, they'd done all of the work themselves, they had 28 garbage bags ready for us. You know, so there is a big desire for the dignity and cleanliness that this project is going to bring to people. And I hope that Council sees, you know, in their hearts and in their minds, the need for this and supports it today.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you Madam Speaker, and thank you for our delegates this morning. I live 30 seconds on foot, and my wife and I raised our family 30 seconds on foot from a local encampment, and on five minutes on foot from a couple of others. We're all sooner or later involved with the cleanup including with my local foot patrol. Depending on the type of encampment, I am fascinated by how some these encampments are…they are so clean. They're so…they're well organized already by the people that live there depending on the sort of the type of setup, and I've been always amazed by how clean some of these encampments are kept. I want to know, as Tessa talks about dignity and respect, some of those people actually utilize that when it comes to maintaining their own encampments. I want to know if there's talk about including the people that live in the encampments and being involved in the process of the cleanup and if they could talk about that.

Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud: Jamil, do you want to jump on that or do you want me to?

Jamil Mahmood: Yeah, definitely. I think I can just say definitely all the cleanups we do involve the residents that are living there, you know, our outreach teams are going in to most encampments at least once a day, if not, three times a day between different shifts 24 hours a day. So, we're always going with garbage bags, getting supplies folks need and stuff like that. This just allows to do that at that amount, a bigger scale and so yeah, the residents will be involved fully, they'll be consulted in how it works and make sure that they're kind of leading the process that we use as we do the cleanups.

Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud: And I'll just add, we couldn't do this without the relationships that Main Street Project's outreach team has already established with folks living in encampments. It's crucial to the success of the project. So our experience last year, as the mindful encampment cleanup kind of doing the massive clean at beginning of the season. This year hopefully, with support of this motion, we go in with Main Street Project, Main Street Project says, "Hey, here's your lead at this encampment. They're excited to have you and have agreed to work with you," and then that person helps indicate to us what needs to be taken away and what is, you know, continuing to be useful for the folks living in encampments. They work alongside us in the cleanup and help us understand, you know, where to take proper action and really feel valued and seen in the relationship with Main Street Project's outreach team. And then we get to join in on that triangle of trust as another service provider, to be able to support that encampment process. So, it's a really dignified approach thanks to the outreach team at MSP.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Chair, I just want to thank Jamil and Tessa for all their work and the people they work with. Thank you. Miigwech.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thanks to the work and appreciation of humanity by your organizations. I just…I note, I mean, the amount of money I think was a big concern to the Executive Policy Committee. But I just want to determine, so this will be a pilot. I just wanted to know…it didn't actually say it refers to the downtown safety group or whatever as well. This pilot, are you operating this within the so-called downtown and south Point Douglas area?

Jamil Mahmood: So, there's that two parts to the pilot. One is to provide a regular weekly collection. That'll probably mostly in the downtown core area where there's larger encampments setup. But the bulky waste and mindful cleanup would be something that'd be available throughout the city wherever the encampments need those kind of bigger cleanups, one-off kind of cleanups versus a regular weekly collection. So, if it's both focused on the core area, but also available to anywhere in the city that needs a kind of broader one-off mindful cleanups.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, I'm wondering if I could get a definition of "core area".

Jamil Mahmood: So, you know, we proposed in the pilot three main locations, depending on the money that's available

and the rollout. It could be expanded to a couple other groups, kind of looking at three to five locations. I don't have a…we don't have a firm definition. We're kind of willing to work with the City and where the encampments are to define that weekly collection and what the best locations are for that. We have based on our kind of outreach work and where we know the bigger encampments are that list, but, very open, and as it is a pilot, we want to make sure we're kind of setting it up to be successful and in the right places. So, we're very flexible I think in terms of the rollout and what that looks like and happy to work with Council and City on that.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Seeing none. We appreciate your delegation today. Have a great day.

Jamil Mahmood: Thank you.

Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Next, we have David Grant in opposition to Item 3 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 16th, 2024, regarding By-Law Enforcement Consolidation. Item 6, Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 16th, regarding Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the United Church in Meadowood for Geothermal Project. Item 3, Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services dated March 6th, regarding the Proactive Cleanup of Needle Debris and Weapons in City Parks. Mr. Grant, welcome.

David Grant: Thank you. I feel that I should preface these remarks. I do not believe that I should be considered an enemy. I strongly believe in your role here. I have been a volunteer on election campaigns since the 1960s. I played a small but key role in 19…Ontario's 1967 general election. It was front page news. I've served on countless boards, elected boards and on corporate decision-making teams. The information supplied to you before you decide, sometimes compares poorly with what was typical for those corporate teams. When I see that the narrative provided to councillors is biased or incomplete, I become motivated to help. In other organizations, their governance committees would act to improve processes, and more importantly, the quality of the information provided for decision-making. And I know you have a very active decision-making team. Depending on the occasional delegation to bring up important inputs is far from optimal. On EPC No. 3, imagine giving the power to enforce 700 by-laws to the kind-hearted forgiving folks at the Parking Authority. At first glance, handing all by-law enforcement to the WPA is likely to reap new levels of profit. There are several problems with this. Number one, the WPA's focus on maximizing fine income while increasing its own cost and neglecting service stand in stark contrast to what voters expect. Folks want service far more than they want the WPA empire to grow. By not providing a pay station within sight of every block of spaces, fine income goes up as those seeking to pay wander the streets. It saves money on not providing working pay stations, so there's a little bit of a savings there. Unfortunately, this drives business away from the streets that are under WPA jurisdiction, among the demographic that doesn't have the app on their phone or a phone. Topic two, the WPA decision to punish residents near one and two-hour parking zones, if they have more than one car. This is another example of bad customer service. Topic…Item number 3, there are many by-laws which are archaic and others which are not serving their original purpose. Council has long been asked to correct or withdraw those. Those…the reports that I've seen suggest that no such action has begun. For example, does the City have a comprehensive list of 'noxious weeds'? Are all wildfires on this list? Will City departments with weedy land be granted exemptions? Like WPS grants speeding ticket exemptions to a long list of vehicles? Problem number four, my residents' association still has concerns with rooming houses. The by-laws that we're told that solves the problem do nothing. Although, they do put family dinners, Sunday dinners at risk of ticketing if the driveway has more than three cars in a row. Our association expects to have recommendations to offer soon. Will Council consider fixing these problems by fixing those by-laws? Problem number five. Your OurWinnipeg and other guides oppose your by-laws. You say that the City depends on pollinators, but complying with some by-laws is very bad for those little bees and pollinators. Watering a lawn and cutting it frequently wastes fuel and water, but that's what your old by-laws seem to demand. Before telling WPA to grow to be able to find every time our front lawn is in violation, please update the (inaudible) by-laws to allow new green practices. On EPC, topic 6. Giving City tax dollars to a church for a new heating system violates City rules. Your staff made this clear, that this rule violation has moved up four levels at city hall and councillors have yet to "just say no", makes them operate the City's best practice rules. Efficiency Manitoba has promised to help this group buy a new furnace. There is no need for City to "swerve out of its lane" in this way. The report being used to sell this idea is missing a lot of information. How much will the whole job cost? What are the consequences of the UCIM paying what Efficiency Manitoba does not? And the…all the years that I served on the board of other united church congregations, we funded all our own projects. We never asked city ratepayers to buy us stuff. Have the proponents obtained the position letter from the Integrity Commissioner for this, or any other plan, to spend taxpayer funds in an unusual way to benefit a small to mid-size group of voters? Just a suggestion that maybe that letter should be in hand. On SPC Services No. 3, creating a special team of City workers to pick up needles before daycare kids use a park. That seems like an obvious thing, like a win-win there to pick up the needles. Winnipeg is not alone in funding those who enable the injection of dangerous substances in the name

of harm reduction. That's why we do it. In other places, the rate of return of the most dangerous apparatus is reported. Where is the data for Winnipeg's rate of return of used needles to those who distribute the new ones? Does the City collect this data? Does anyone even care about return rates? I'm not alone in caring very much about the return process. And I would…thank you again for your time.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Were there any questions? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank David Grant once again for his insights and perspective. At least half of the time I agree with him and if not, I still appreciate the insights. In this case, when it comes to Item 6 of the Executive Policy Committee regarding the funding of the United Church for Geothermal Project. Is…like, is Mr. Grant putting into question the process, or how we use the funds? To me, it seems like a decent use of funding. It's only…it's 20,000 dollars. Councillors spend a lot more than that on various types of enhancement projects including for churches, including united churches too, throughout the city. What is it particularly wrong with this? Or is he questioning the use of funding for this type of thing in general? And I have to admit, it hasn't always been the case that Council is allowed to provide funding for churches. I understand this has only been around for the last dozen years or something like that. But having said that, is that what he's questioning?

David Grant: I guess early in this process, when this request was at its lower stages in committee, I had pointed out that, not far, from, or in the same ward, we have a parcel of land which is on TV news last night, that the City would like to contribute to acquiring. And the fund from which this 20,000 dollars or whatever it is being drawn, or proposed to be drawn, is a fund set up by taxing developers of a subdivision, or whatever, to provide some park amenities in that space. So, it would seem that using that money toward buying the Lemay Forest would be exactly what the money was intended for. The City staff report on this…this request said that it does not meet the rules. So that's the primary thing. The other is, that it is generally the job of Efficiency Manitoba, which is created by provincial government from the folks at Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba Hydro was in the business of selling more power and making money from it and helping people not use power, and it was recognized that that's a sort of a conflict. So Efficiency Manitoba was created. Its primary job is to go to places like factories and institutions, like this, the UCIM, and help them to make things more efficient, lend them money to…or give them money to put in more efficient systems. So, help with this heat pump thing is exactly the job that Efficiency Manitoba, and in general, the city government has not had a component of its mandate, that is, to help institutions within the city to buy stuff, and whether it's a furnace or a new lawn or whatever, a new carpet, and that is the primary thing is that it was not the right fund to be taking money from, and it is not our job. Efficiency Manitoba has all the expertise to evaluate and offer good advice on this or that. And really, we in the city, or you guys in the City, do not have that expertise to know whether this is the best way to do it, et cetera. And…so, this is the two bases that it was not the right pocket to take the money from and it was not something that is really a core part of the City business. So, thank you for your question.

Councillor Schreyer: No further questions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Grant. You have a great day. Appreciate your delegation today.

David Grant: Thank you.

Madam Speaker: We'll move on now to the Report of the Executive Policy Committee. Mr. Mayor, the report dated March 12th.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MARCH 12, 2024**

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I introduce Item 3 of the report and move adoption of consent agenda Item 3, but I do understand there's an amending motion on that.

Item 3 - Engage Winnipeg Policy (2019-2024)

**Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes**,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 3 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 12, 2024, be amended as follows:

- *Add the following to the end of Recommendation 1:*

  ", with the following amendment:

  A. In Section 4, delete the words "In addition, elected officials may carry out public engagement for multi-year budget review processes and other projects or initiatives.", and replace with the following:

  "The Public Service must carry out pre-budget public engagement each year prior to the budget being tabled.

  In addition, elected officials may carry out public engagement for other projects and initiatives."

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Your opportunity to introduce the item, and Councillor Gilroy has an amending motion.

Mayor Gillingham: Yeah, I'll wait to hear from Councillor Gilroy, thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to thank my councillor colleagues for actually laying this matter over, so I had a little bit more time to review the policy document, which is really good. I'm very, very impressed with what the Public Service has done and I just want to congratulate them on their…for their award-winning team that the Mayor spoke about earlier. There's a lot of really good information that was done in this policy and a lot of great research. So I just want to thank them for them. One change that I really did want to make sure that we are doing though is, and I want to thank Councillor Lukes for working with me on this, as we kind of talked about this in the Governance meeting, and this kind of came forward is making sure that prior to any budget, that we are really consulting with the communities that we serve, and I think it's critical. We found out that, you know, our Public Service wasn't really involved in the budget consultations this time around. It was the Mayor's office, and we really want to make sure that our Public Service is doing this due diligence and doing this work. We want to make sure that, you know, this is… you know, that there's a fair process moving forward and that…and that the public has an opportunity to go a non-biased approach to making sure that we're handling our budget consultations moving forward. And I think this is a really good mechanism to ensure we now have the policy. Now, we can make sure that this policy is also dictating some of the work around the budget, which I think is really critical and a really positive step forward. So, I do want to thank everybody for the work that they've done on changing the policy. And I hope that my councillor colleagues will look at this as a positive change to make sure that, you know, we are engaging pre-budget, we are really engaging with the communities and really getting them to understand. I think it's good for democracy when the community is engaged. And I feel now we have a strong policy in order to do that work. So, thank you, Madam Speaker. And I hope my councillor colleagues support the motion moving forward…amending motion.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next speaker is Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much. I rise as the seconder of this motion and also want to thank Councillor Gilroy. She's been very good in bringing forward positive ideas on how to improve the budget consultation process. I think many of you know that I have been involved in multiple budgets, and not directly and indirectly. So, I think this is a good adjustment that she's making, putting forward to the policy, and I'm supportive of it. I am very glad to see that we have a policy on public engagement. This is the first time in five years since it was initially set out that we're updating it and are

reviewing it. And it's important because the public, as much as they like…well, they don't really like to come down to city hall, but it's important that…some of them do, I will say. I used to like coming down to city hall but not everyone can. And to have the opportunity to go out into the wards and to talk pre-budget, I think is important because we've all done a lot of work, and I want to commend, even though I didn't vote for it the first time, I've eaten crow on it. I want to commend the Mayor for bringing forward at the time when he was councillor, the concept of a four-year budget, because I think it's worked out really well. And now that we're doing this, I think it's important that, you know, we have folks understand that we're doing this four-year budget. We're aligning it with our strategic action plan. And this provides us an opportunity also to go out pre-budget, talk about our strategic action plan, talk about the budget, the four-year budget where we are in, what year we're in in that cycle, and have some conversations with residents and help them, you know, understand a little more about the budget process. The budget process is really challenging. It is really challenging. So, I want to thank Councillor Gilroy for working on this and bringing up her concerns in the Governance Committee, and I want to thank Councillor Browaty for also offering to have a…and take input on, again, this last budget process. It's…it's always challenging figuring out how much is too much information, too much consultation, and how to really pull it all together so everyone feels satisfied, but I'm pleased that we're working this into the policy and I want to thank Councillor Gilroy for her efforts on this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Lukes. Next is Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yep. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support Councillor Gilroy's motion. I guess, to put perspective on this, this is miles…light-years ahead of where we once were. I remember arriving originally on Council and then arriving on EPC, and I think Councillor Clement was the Chair of Finance, and arguing that there should be public consultations around the budget. I won't say who, but members of the Executive Committee said, well, we did that. You know, in 1996. And it didn't work. Why would we do it again? There was huge resistance before on Council to do any form of public engagement. Any form of public consultations. It was not on. I mean…so the idea…so, you know, constantly recommending, myself and other newer members, I remember Mike Pagtakhan as well was in support of that. It did not occur. And, you know, it was very frustrating, but it's now great to see this, Madam Speaker. I would though point out on page 3 of the report that outlines the policy that we might want to consider greater flexibility. I think this is what Councillor Gilroy is speaking to, really, with her motion, because it adds, public engagement will be undertaken on projects when there is a legislative requirement for public engagement. Two, public engagement has been specified in the approved capital budget. Three, public engagement has been initiated by Council directive or, four, public engagement has been directed by Director of Customer Service and Communications. In addition, elected officials may carry out public engagement for multi-year budget review process and for other projects or initiatives. Now the way I read that statement or that…those four points, specifically after Item No. 3, citing directive or, is that it does not be have to be all four of those items that are required to be in place to trigger the public engagement process. And it could be one of the three or a combination thereof…for the very reason that it says "or", not "and". And so, I just cite that for the purpose, Madam Speaker, if we're to inform councillors that I think…I've had push backs since elected. I've had an open house last fall on my parks and playgrounds. I wanted to get the Office of Public Engagement involved and I didn't know. This is your open house, Councillor. We don't have any directive for this. Well, that's interesting based on what I'm reading here. And I was doing it based on capital budgets approved, for our parks projects, previously by Council, so number two, public engagement has been specified in the approved capital budget. I guess they could argue that it wasn't approved. There has to be greater flexibility or, well, the number four is a catch-all, has been directed by the Director of Customer Service and Communication. So, we've delegated a lot of authority to a non-elected official there. And all I would ask is that, maybe some consideration be given to that in the future. I mean, I…and I don't mind through the CWA. I went through the CWA. I spent the money. I spent the money on all the boards, like 20, 30 boards. I had an open house at East End Community Club. Good attendance from the community outlining future park, playgrounds being done, you know, getting feedback from the public on other ones that are in need. And I had to do it without any kind of support from the Office of the Engagement of Public…Public Engagement, which is kind of unfortunate, considering we have this policy now. So, those are just my thoughts. I think what you moved, Councillor Gilroy, is wonderful. 100 percent support. So, thank you. And, Madam Janice Lukes…Councillor Lukes for seconding it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Mayes.

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be voting in favour of the amendment. I don't think it really does any harm. I'm not sure how much good it actually does. One is tempted to say DIY, do it yourself. Go out and consult with the public. I don't really think we need to be telling the Public Service to do this. Councillor Browaty, to his credit, made an offer to go anywhere, have a budget open house. Councillor Rollins had one. I think there was some disconnect with Councillor Browaty (inaudible). Councillor Browaty came out St. Vital. We had a good town hall meeting on the budget. He came out as Councillor Gillingham came when he was Finance Chair, as Councillor Fielding came when he was Finance Chair, as Councillor Morantz, and I think Councillor Wyatt, all had come to St. Vital. So, you're certainly always able to do these budget consultations, but, I don't think any harm can come of it. I am, however, not going to vote for the main report. I just don't have it in me to sit here and read a report extolling our care about the public and our award winning

this and our award winning that, and I was so proud of all of this. Here's what the motion says in part of this. Council's responsibility to consider the public's views and perspectives when making decisions that affect the city as a whole. Well, I just don't have it in me to vote for this knowing we have, very recently, as a council, 13-3 voted for much expanded as of right way to proceed for development procedures. That was in the half motion. Yes, it was. It was right there. We have some councillors putting up publications saying there'll still be public hearings. No, there won't. We'll come to that. There will be a public hearing, we'll be doing it. It will be maybe in the fall and maybe in early spring, but to have a report that talks about our great enthusiasm and award-winning record for public consultation. The motion on half was that half application be amended to legalize four dwelling units per residential unit be permitted as of right city-wide. Remember? This motion talks about when things affect the city as a whole, must listen to the public. What else did we say? The half application be amended to legalize four units up to four stories as of right within 800 meters of high frequency transit, much of the city there. And that half applications allow for as of right development on malls and corridors to facilitate quick approvals. Now, we have some of my colleagues saying, well there'll still be public hearings. Well, maybe don't believe me, but, look at what the Public Service had to say. You do want the Public Service to be doing more consultation with the public, here's what the Public Service had to say in the frequently asked question. Elimination of public hearings is inherent to the meaning of as of right. Elimination of public hearings is inherent to the meaning of as of right. Next sentence. Expanding these as of right entitlements would mean hearings would be eliminated. Hard to read that any other way then, yes, we'll be eliminating some public hearings. The Mayor was explicit in his campaign document, to his credit, I tend to like people who try to implement their campaign documents. I've said that's what I try and do over great opposition from the Public Service. And the Mayor said that he would ask City staff and Council to develop rules permitting residential construction over medium and large retail malls as of right, conditional on setbacks, to minimize impacts on nearby residents. So that's what we voted for as a council. There'll be fewer public hearings. Elimination of public hearings is inherent to the meaning as of right. So, I'd like to celebrate our great public outreach, but it just frankly seems to me impossible to square with our approach. Now, we don't always have public hearings. Councillor Eadie very alertly spotted that we had eliminated these hearings. We used to have on lot…grading by-laws and sewer issues and backyard grates. Why we needed four councillors to hear those for hours at a time? I was never clear on that. Council to its credit took that out. I happen to think that there's a difference in scale if you're talking about putting 1,000 or 2,000 units into a mall parking lot. So, the Mayor was open about it in his platform, so no criticism of the Mayor, but let's be open. We are going to eliminate public hearings and the public's right to have the kind of input we're celebrating. There will be one hearing. It will be here. It will be…Council that makes those decisions about what changes are going to be made to facilitate the half process. So, just remind my colleagues. If we're excited, if we're enthusiastic about the award-winning public engagement, let's remember that when the public comes forward or when councillors come forward, especially people like Councillor Dobson, Councillor Orlikow, myself, others who've had a lot of these controversial lot-splitting situations in their wards. Let's give some weight to that. We are…we're celebrating the need to have public engagement. At the same time, we will be eliminating public hearings on some very large matters. So, what will be left to us? Well, we will be able to define the setbacks as the Mayor's document said. We will be able, as the very well drafted motion from Mr. Kelsey said when we had it in November, we will be able to consider things like, what sort of height limit do we want? What sort of lot size limits do we want? What sort of lanes do we want? All of those will be within our consideration. They're not coming back for multiple hearings despite what some of my colleagues are saying. There will be a public hearing and thereafter, certain entitlements will be as of right. The devil will be in the details I suppose, but we do need to put some weight on the concerns of the public, since we seem to be celebrating that. We do need to put that into the development context as well. So, I'll be voting for the amendment. I know Councillor Gilroy has put some time in on this. I don't mean to belittle it. I do, however, don't have it in me to celebrate that we're having an Engage Winnipeg policy at the same time we're moving forward to…expanding these as of right entitlements would mean hearings would be eliminated. So again, not my wording. That's from the Public Service, so we want to start engaging the public. So, we will have a public hearing. It will be in this chamber, due to some changes made I think by Councillor Wyatt in the half application. And, I guess we'll have a chance to debate some of these issues, but let's listen to the public on those issues as well. Again, the Mayor was open about it in his platform. I can't fault the Mayor. That's what he said. He wanted more as of right on shopping centres, and we should be able to land on something like that, and it wasn't the Mayor's initiative to bring in 48-foot height limits, or four storey or four units everywhere. Wasn't the Mayor's initiative, but those are as of right entitlements that we are allowing the federal government to dictate. For clarity, the 48-foot height limit applies only to fourplexes. Council was extremely clear on that, some good drafting there by Mr. Kelsey. So the 48 feet isn't for six-plexes or…you don't need my single-family home to go 48 feet high. That doesn't help with densification at all. So we will come to these. We should listen to the public in that…in those moments just as much as we hope to listen to the main budget. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise. I am in support of Councillor Gilroy's amendment. I believe it is a very important component, Madam Speaker. And I will say in that…in speaking to that, Madam Speaker, in the month of March, I believe, when we…was that last month we passed the budget? Anyway…February? Anyway…March. So, Madam Speaker, in March, we had a weird year this year, and garbage season started earlier. So, to think that the Mynarski office leading up into the budget and dealing with that to actually put on one's own consultation, Madam Speaker,

is highly unlikely. So, this is why I appreciate the motion that Councillor Gilroy is bringing forward. And actually, even though I worked on the budget working group, Madam Speaker, there was still some things I was unsure about and had to, you know, follow up and make sure to read and make sure what's happening this and that, and Madam Speaker, what did result…what's really important is, you know, if the Public Service we have empowered through providing enough money to do public engagements, I believe. You know, some may disagree or whatever, Madam Speaker. But…there were some, you know, things that would affect the Mynarski Ward, the Old Kildonan Ward, the Point Douglas Ward and everybody's ward. And it's important to go out in that consultation and talk to them. The example I give, I am having a May 2nd public…put on by the Mynarski office, totally staffed by Mynarski, and regarding what to do, regarding some properties when wading pools are closed, which Council voted on a budget that agreed we had this plan and that's the plan we're following, Madam Speaker. But really, you have to go and talk to the community though, what effects are these going to have. So, I just wanted to point that out and that's why I'm wholly in support of Councillor Gilroy's amendment. It's very important. I just wanted to speak to…you know, it was my understanding when we passed the half motion and we agreed with the federal government that we would proceed along, you know, four units as of right. But, one thing I will point out first just to make it clear. It's for right and then whatever we amend the zoning, it's a right to four depending on…meeting some criteria parameters on a lot. Right. So, just to say it's a right. Maybe the developer will disagree with the parameters that we may set on where do you build a four unit, four units. So, we could still have appeal hearings because technically, you know, it's a right, but, you know, you have a right to build a duplex, right now on an R2…

Mayor Gillingham: Point of order, Madam Speaker. The item is about public consultation, not about….

Councillor Eadie: All right.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: So public consultation. So…so, no, because I think…well, you know, public engagement awards. I may disagree with the councillor speaking on that note, but the councillor speaking on that note, the motion that the city council, while there should be engagement, and that city council as a whole consider the amendments that come out of the half. It's supposed to be council whole that was my amending to that particular thing, and I'm concerned in how I see some things coming down the pipe. So, community engagement should be happening first, and we won't get into all that development stuff. There's other concerns. But, this is an important amendment and I…if the amendment passes, I will definitely vote for the report itself. And we've got to stay off the sticky issues I guess, Madam Speaker, when it comes to public engagement, I guess. Anyway, but there has to be public engagement in what I was just talking about. So, Madam Speaker, just clarify things for the public to discuss that issue. Anyway, thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm done.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor…

Councillor Mayes: (Inaudible)…Councillor Wyatt, for something that was actually Councillor Eadie's initiative, so my apologies on that.

Madam Speaker: Noted. Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Indigenous Engagement and the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People that are…that are specific updates to this policy. And Madam Speaker, I want to give some acknowledgment to the Indigenous Relations Division that worked on the policy. And then prompt us to think as a council in a bit of a different matter, hopefully. Madam Speaker, embedded in this, the second paragraph is the acknowledgment that Indigenous peoples are rights holders, and embedded in the new document is the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. What does trouble me a bit is that it is in the context of an engagement policy and not on a second policy, and not pointing to any other policy work that I think we still need to do as a council to understand our rights and obligations as it may flow from the Crown. Now we are a charter city, so we are unlike other cities in some respects, one could argue, in terms of our legal obligations that some may argue, not to me, that they flow from the Crown, i.e. the provincial, federal government. But, in so far as we're a creature of the provincial government, I'm a little uncomfortable with the language. And I'll give you some examples. You know, in the document, it talks about the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, but it doesn't…and it does talk about Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. But the legal duty to consult is a fundamental difference of engagement, and what flows in the attachments, is not…is not falling out of that logic, Madam Speaker. There is a proposed Crown conduct. There is proposed conduct that could have adverse impacts on rights holders. There is a potential establishment of rights in the area and for…to these things, we say we're going to simply go and have folks collaborate with Indigenous Relations Division. And Madam Speaker, this is a different…not than an engagement. So I'm a little troubled, again by the use of Indigenous Relations Division as it pertains to all departments, than going to collaborate. I'm a little troubled by that, Madam Speaker, given the import of our responsibilities. Free prior informed consent arises from the self-determination rights. And that is central, and that falls out of, not under it, that falls out to social cultural rights, Madam Speaker. So we're

in fact a bit pointing at wrong human rights law here, wrong covenants, right? The International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights maybe, you know, a bit of a policy, nerdy point, Madam Speaker, but it's not. And I'm concerned that there is no mention of free prior informed consent in this document. It is a lightly held statement saying, you know, that, you know, this is held differently. It is a good step which is likely up to the last minute while I'll support it, but I want to really make sure that my colleagues know that I don't see it's similar at all the engagement. That consultation differs. And in so far as this document points to the section 35 of the Constitution Act, and in so far as this points to our obligations in human rights law, and covenant law, and the treaties. I'm concerned that it's too lightly held in this document and moreover that it's not pointing to another document with equal processes, with equal attachments, and that part is difficult. We owe any real or constructive knowledge of projects that triggers that duty to consult. We owe some that we start. We owe a duty, and we must provide free prior informed consent and accommodation, Madam Speaker. And none of that is dealt with in this document. And so, when we then turn and say, well, you know, we're going to collaborate with Indigenous Relations Division. We have now a policy document that we passed, Madam Speaker, that doesn't at all speak to the burden done that IRD has that is separate and apart from what we are laying out here. So, it is…it isn't…it is a good first step, perhaps, but I am concerned it isn't seriously held and the rest of the work wasn't done. The rest of the work with respect to the legal obligations, the duty of the Crown, the concepts that differ that are unfortunately held too light because it is in a policy on engagement and it is a square peg, Madam Speaker, and a round hole. I'm concerned…I'm concerned that it is a paragraph within the policy that we're going to pass, but there is, you know, I appreciate that there is specific updates on the recognition of the…within the policy purpose, within the definition. I'm concerned that the definitions, you know, don't expand or point to a different document. I'm concerned that the addition of collaboration with Indigenous Relations Division to policy responsibilities won't be understood in the rest of government. The word collaboration is a little lightly held here too, in my opinion, Madam Speaker. And, you know, perhaps, you know, I will suggest that we need to work on a separate document that we then point to on our duty to consult. Think about that…think about it in light of free prior informed consent as an organization and any accommodations we need to do, and…consider that further. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank my fellow councillors, members of council, for their comments and their insights on this issue. We're taking this rather seriously, and it's serious debate. In reference to Councillor Lukes and her appreciation of our four-year budget cycle, I did vote for the four-year budget cycle. I didn't think there was a reason not to. I just felt that when I looked up previous budget processes, we always had a forecast involved for four years if not ten, if not longer. And that if we took these forecasts that the administration offered us every single budget, that that was essentially part of a forecast. As a matter of fact, I don't know how to look at a budget without looking for…towards the future. Every single…every single thing we do is a forecast. Every single thing we do is for the future. It's not for now. In a sense when it comes to budgets, you have to take a longer-term perspective, whether you're looking towards the future, but including when you're looking towards the past. The only reason I know where we're at budget-wise right now is by a historical perspective, where that history is four years or ten years or whatever. That's the only way I know where we're at. I…we need a reference point in anything we do. That's the concept of perceiving reality. So when it comes to something as serious as a city budget, the only way I can…I can't understand anything if we're looking at it through a one-year perspective. That doesn't tell me anything. Where are we coming from? That's where we're at. Where are we going to? In fact, where we're going to is based on the past, not the present. The only thing the present offers us is the ability to make a decision now, our ability to change something based on the past. So, when we look at these four-year forecasts, that's all very well. I was always looking at that way. But let's face it, Madam Speaker. The reality is, it's all based on the past. We create that past as we create the future. Days of future past is, Brian Mayes might quote a song or an album. But in terms of that future tense, we need to understand that. So, when it comes to budget consultation, public consultation on the budget, when have we explained to people how the budget's changed the most? When have we asked…told the taxpayers, told the public in that consultation process, when have we said what is the major change in their tax increases? Why are there taxes, fines, fees, levies, and rates gone up? Why have we been reducing services? We haven't been reducing every sector. We know that the major increase in our budget has been the capital budget. It's been due to construction. We've known that for years, Madam Speaker. In fact, just to put an extra nail in this, I will remind that last year, I did ask our Finance Chair, Jeff Browaty, if there was an ever a year while he's been on Council, as the dean of this Council, whether there's ever been a year where the inflation of labor costs has matched the inflation of construction, or capital costs? He said he did not recall if there's ever been a time when labor costs have increased the same rate as construction or capital-intensive costs, to be sort of bring another dimension of reality to this. He says he did not recall, and he was right, because there…never happened, not while he's been here.

Mayor Gillingham: I literally don't know if there's anything more that can be talked about on this topic. I could...my colleague, please stick to the matter at hand.

Councillor Schreyer: Public consultation, Madam Speaker. So if we're going to have public consultation, we're going around spending an hour in this chamber talking about public consultation. I want to know when we've had that public

consultation with people about why our taxes, fines, fees, levies and rates are going up, but our services are going down, Madam Speaker. That's the public consultation I want to see to bring it back to reality, Madam Speaker. So when we don't talk about that, I'm a little confused and so are the people of Winnipeg. Why? Because when I talk about it, they didn't know that. I'm glad to ask that question of Councillor Browaty. I'm glad for the answer he gave because he gave an honest realistic answer. I had to ask him, but he gave the answer. He doesn't recall when that happened. That's public consultation, Madam Speaker. That's what I'm talking about.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: Is it the end of my speech?

Madam Speaker: Nearing the end, yeah. Thank you.

Councillor Schreyer: I've got two, three minutes.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, continue. Yeah, speaking to the report.

Councillor Schreyer: Well, I'm talking about what my fellow councillors have mentioned. I'm literally talking about what my other fellow councillors have mentioned, and I want to thank…I want to thank Councillor Mayes for explaining, you know, in terms of…

Councillor Allard: I would like everyone to know that the word "literally" may mean literally, or it may mean the opposite of "literally", since Generation Z has been…made that…that name. But it's just…

Madam Speaker: Okay, Councillor Allard. Thank you for that lesson. Let's let Councillor Schreyer continue and wrap this up. We've got a big agenda in front of us. We always do every month. So please continue and let's get onto the next speaker.

Councillor Schreyer: Again, as I'm referring to the comments made by my fellow members of council, I want to thank Councillor Mayes for giving his insight and explaining the as of right clause, and how we're eliminating public consultation. I want to thank him for his elimination of that elimination, if I may. Now, we need to take a long-term approach. We need to think in terms of what this means to people. This isn't just some sort of academic exercise, people's lives are at stake here. People's quality of life. That's what we're dealing with here, and Madam Speaker, another fellow councillor, Councillor Rollins, talked about the aspect of the various aspects in which we can go into different tangents that relate specifically and realistically to this motion. Talked about the issue of Indigenous Relations. Well, I want to make the point as we go through our public consultations. Guess what race or ethnic community has suffered the most in the last decade or the last generation from our changes in our economy. It's not the most progressive time in the history of our economy in our lifetime kind of thing, and Madam Speaker, that is the Indigenous community. So, why? Well, it's not just because they're Indigenous, Madam Speaker, it's because of their socioeconomic circumstances, and their economic circumstances. Madam Speaker, we live in an era when the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. So guess who…

Councillor Rollins: Madam Speaker, I stand in this council making over six figures as an Indigenous woman. So could he retract that we're all in poverty?

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, I wasn't referring to everybody. In fact, it's impossible to refer to…I said, guess what group, as a whole. By virtue of their socioeconomic circumstances, that happens to be the majority of the case. And if I gave the wrong impression, that I was talking about 100 percent of any group, I certainly didn't mean to give that impression because that never applies to reality, Madam Speaker. I didn't know I had to explain that, but that has to…that is the case. Madam Speaker, after all, how do we explain the fact that people's purchasing power is less than it was a generation ago. And to whom does it apply the most? And applies most to those who are poorest, and guess why we have Indigenous, you know, Relations, Madam Speaker. It's not just for social, but it's also for economic. That is my perspective. That's what I believe in, because it…that's the reality of our lives, Madam Speaker. So I cannot give up on this, if I care. So I have to ask…I have to relate to how this relates to our budget, budget consultation, Madam Speaker. We need to talk. Thank you. Miigwech.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I want to remind everyone to choose our words carefully as we proceed in the day. Words matter. Intention matters. Next speaker. Seeing none, Councillor Gilroy, do you wish to close?

Councillor Gilroy: Yes, please. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I just…I do…I do want to…I do think we can do some changes along the way if…I know that Councillor Rollins raised some concerns that, I mean, that's of interest to me. But

I think this is a huge step forward that we've never done before, and in particular, my ward where I know there is a lack of engagement. And in order for us to make important decisions that is really equitable among everybody, important engagement needs to happen in all parts of the city, which isn't…which isn't really happening. And the types of engagement matter. Me standing up in front of my community with just a projector talking about numbers, that's not the engagement they want. And quite frankly, even just me as a City Councillor, that's not the engagement I want. So, in here under 6, concerning equity, traditional public engagement methods have often failed. And inclusive representation of the entire community leading to lack of diversity and inclusion of equity groups. So we are changing this, and we're really going to look at how we're going to engage people, and I want to commend Councillor Santos in her ward. They are under the secondary plan. They're actually going out to the cleanups in her ward that's taking place on Saturday and engaging with people where they're at, meeting people where they're at. And I think those are critical steps that we need to take and this policy is putting that forward. So, I want to do that…my amending motion is looking to do that kind of work with the budget as well. So I'm hoping you'll support the amending motion and I'll hope you support the work that has been put here today, because it is a huge start in something we really haven't had before. I'm looking forward to these changes happening at the City. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to close.

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

Madam Speaker: All in favor of amending Motion 1? Contrary? That's carried. Councillor Rollins noted in opposition to the amending motion. All in favour of Item 3 as amended. Contrary? There will be a recorded vote. Just or no…not for three, just three in opposition. Okay, noted. And that item is carried. Mr. Mayor, next report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DATED APRIL 16, 2024

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to introduce the report of April 16th and move adoption of consent agenda Items 1 to11.

Madam Speaker: Item 2, Garbage Clean Up at Encampments. Councillor Eadie. 3, By-Law Enforcement Consolidation. Councillor Wyatt. 1, City Representative Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation Board. Subdivision and Rezoning, 1065 1069 Notre Dame Avenue. Okay, call the question on the remaining, 4 through 8, 10 and 11. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk, Item 1.

Item 1 - City Representative - Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation Board of Directors

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is a motion that Moira Geer be appointed as a City's representative to the Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation Board of Directors. I look forward to hear from my colleagues.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with Miss Moira Geer on the board, who's been appointed and thank the Winnipeg Housing for doing such a good job. They've made applications to the HAF funding stream, we've been working actively with them as a board, supporting them in that effort. They're very credible organization and hope that they can secure funds for their initiatives and projects to build affordable housing. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, as I said at EPC and I really would love to say it one more time. I'm looking forward to working with Miss Geer on the Board of the Winnipeg Housing Rehab Corp. I think it's very important we put in place a very senior public servant in this role to work with us on the board to achieve the goal of trying to build a lot more affordable housing, whatever style it is, as well as housing that has supports for the citizens that live in it, and one example of that project is one on Toronto where we built a brand new building under the rapid housing initiative, and it's working really well. It's housing for women, and I understand it's getting great results. So, looking forward to Miss Geer. Good selection, Mr. Mayor.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to close on the item.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to echo my colleagues, councillors Wyatt and Eadie on their praise of Deputy CAO, Moira Geer, and the work that she has done and will do, and so I invite you to call the question, please.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 2 - Garbage Clean Up at Encampments

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor to introduce the item if you wish.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was good to hear from Jamil Mahmood and Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud today, and I know that Siloam Mission as well as Main Street Project in partnership with Downtown Community Safety Partnership have brought forward an idea that Executive Policy has supported. I know that every councillor on this council is concerned about the need for cleanups of encampments. I think it hits every ward to some degree, but I know that councillors Santos and Rollins and Gilroy and Eadie, among others, have been certainly affected by the need for cleanup. And so I think we have a solution here, at least a pilot project solution, I hope that everybody supports it, but I look forward to hearing from others.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the question, Item 2. Oh, pardon me. Mayor just introduced it, yes. Councillor Schreyer. I saw a hand up here. No, Councillor Santos. Thank you.

Councillor Santos: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand before you today to discuss an ongoing issue that touches our basic human dignities and environmental responsibilities. The cleanup of large bulky waste and debris from encampments throughout our city. I believe that addressing the issue effectively requires compassion, understanding and respect for both our environment and the individuals impacted by chronic homelessness. Last year, I wrote a motion that proposes a compassionate approach to cleaning up debris and bulky waste at encampments. This involves regularly scheduled garbage cleanup from these sites, possibly providing bins or other waste disposal methods directly at encampments and ensuring that these services are carried out with respect and dignity for the residences and their belongings. In implementing this initiative, we are calling it a mindful cleanup. It is vital that we engage directly with those affected. This means not only the unsheltered residences, but also community organizations that work with the homeless population. Their insights and cooperation will be invaluable in making this pilot project a success. So I want to quickly provide several reasons why we should be supporting this pilot project. First and foremost, it is important to remember that the mandate of the City of Winnipeg includes garbage collection throughout our communities. This responsibility is not only about maintaining aesthetic standards, but also about preserving public health and ensuring a livable environment for all citizens regardless of their living situation. But we also know that the provincial government should be responsible for social housing and providing the necessary wraparound supports. These are essential components in the larger framework designed to address homelessness, but these are long-term solutions. And do not free us from our immediate responsibilities. Secondly, as stewards of the land and water, we have a duty to prevent pollution and protect our natural resources. Large bulky waste and debris that was not managed properly over the last few years ended up in our rivers and eventually into Lake Winnipeg. We know this is a threat to wildlife and water quality and contradicts our commitment to sustainability and environment protection. I also do not want to overlook the important benefit of our proactive approach to consistently removing large bulky waste needles and potential fire hazards. By doing so, we will be reducing the calls for service to our emergency service responders, of course, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedics and the Winnipeg Police. Each intervention that we undertake, not only enhances the safety and well-being of those living in and around encampments, but also reduces the operational strain on our emergency services. This strategic reduction in emergency services and calls allows our dedicated personnel to allocate their resources more effectively and focuses on other critical areas that require attention. Lastly, the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to housing has stated that individuals living in encampments have the right to live in a clean environment. They are also recognized as right holders. The rapporteur strongly opposes forced evictions without appropriate legal safeguards and alternatives. I certainly do not support punitive measures as a solution to homelessness. Arresting or displacing the unsheltered population will not solve the underlining issues. So, good conversation with the community. I was recently reminded of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, a theory that emphasizes the importance of understanding human motivational patterns. What motivates us to do good things and be good contributing members of society? Individuals must fulfill lower level of basic needs, such as food, air, water, shelter, sleep, before they can attain a higher level of growth needs, such as personal security, financial security, health and well-being, safe from being illness. Recognizing this will help us understand why our first job is to make sure that everyone, especially our unsheltered neighbors, has access to basic life necessities. It's not just about doing the right thing. It's about creating that foundation, by ensuring that they have things like food, water and shelter. We help pave the way for their journey towards stability and self-reliance. This theory underscores that securing these basic necessities is the very foundation of healing trauma and fostering human potential. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, hopefully I can finish in two

minutes if not, I may need a suspension of the rules for extension. I am deeply driven by a simple principle. I've said this in these chambers before. It continues to resonate deeply with me both personally and professionally. Treat others how you want to be treated. This guiding rule alongside some wisdom from my dad who has always said to me, "You never know a person's true story until you've walked a mile in their shoes", which continues to steer my approach towards advocacy and policy changes here at City Hall. While I always will continue to advocate for more solutions like the Housing First model and building more rent geared to income housing, we must also, in the short term, address the need for cleanliness and safety in our encampments. I am really, really excited, Madam Speaker, for the very first time on this job. We find ourselves at a juncture where we have leaders in our community such as the Mayor and the Premier, are aligned together on this issue. The development of a housing first protocol which prioritizes providing unsheltered residences with stable housing as a preliminary step together with holistic wraparound support is…I am eagerly anticipating this report and this protocol. This initiative cannot come soon enough. So our commitment to these long-term solutions, it doesn't mean we don't overlook the immediate needs of our community. So the lessons that I spoke of earlier in my speech should remind us that empathy, understanding and patience are crucial in addressing the complexities of homelessness. Our commitment today, Madam Speaker, I hope it's a unanimous vote in cleaning up encampments in a mindful and in a compassionate manner is just one step on this journey. As we press forward, our solution must incorporate the immediate needs of the homeless population together with creating continuous care system that addresses all aspects from safety, security, to health and well-being. With Council's support in our collective efforts, we can ensure that the dignity of every city resident is upheld and that we lay a strong compassionate foundation for healing, growth and stability across our community and Winnipeg as a whole. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: That was Councillor Santos, and…but I would gladly accept that speeches, ma'am.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy.

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just…I want to rise and I want to thank Councillor Santos for her work on this. Of course, this is something that's impacting my ward as well, not only the residents of my encampments, but the residents that are living in around my encampments. I do, you know, I support this, but it's hard to support it because I've been working a lot with the people living in my encampments. I took a lot of last year and I've visited and I got to know people, and housed some people, and found out why they're hard to house, and really, really I'm understanding that this is a much complex issue, and most of these people do not want to be housed. I mean most of these people do not want to be homeless. And so, we are actually…some of our policies are kind of keeping people unhoused. So I struggle with that a bit. I do believe we need to look at our shelter system and look how it needs to be more of a longer-term stay than a one-night fix, and where people can bring their belongings and keep them there. Those are sometimes reasons why people want to stay out on the street because they have belongings and those are very important and valuable to them. So, we need to look at the space that we have available and we might need to add more space in order to do that kind of work. We also need to look at licensing facilities that are fully funded through EIA. That's critical. We can build all the housing we want right now, but it's not going to be able to house people unless we have supports inside those buildings. And I have proof of that within my community where people are really struggling even inside these buildings and it's hard for them to even stay housed and that even filters out onto the streets and to the back lanes. So, we got a lot of work, Madam Speaker, and so I rise supporting this because I do think it's something that we need, but I really want to challenge us to look at finding mechanisms right now to help deal with the issues that people are living on our streets, in our parks, and it's not safe for them, Madam Speaker. And for many of them, they don't want to be unhoused. For many of them, they can't make the right decisions in order to stay housed, so they need supports to…around that, Madam Speaker. And for many of them, they're not safe. They're not safe in the encampments. I have had a gentleman burned. I've had people die. And I've had women abused in our…that…are in these encampments. So, I do support the cleanup of them, it's important, but I really want to challenge us to keep moving the needle forward and us for looking at alternative ways while we build the housing that we need. I think there are some ways that we could be doing to protect some of the most vulnerable people we have in our community. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I of course will be voting for the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee in regards to this issue of solid waste garbage around...around encampments, Madam Speaker. But I just want to put something on the record here. To make it very clear, there are people who are housed, and there's garbage problems related around those people living in areas of the city. And there's garbage problems. There's garbage problems. We have people who are living rough, living out and they...for whatever reason, they struggle. We have them going up and down back lanes, dumping garbage bins put out for the day, and then the garbage ends up out in the back lanes, and we don't actually have a service to deal with that. Saturday, April 27, that's this Saturday, William Whyte neighborhood and the Point Douglas Residents Committee and North Point Douglas and my ward are having their community cleanup,

annual. But there's a certain amount you can only expect residents and volunteers to deal with. And the garbage in these two neighborhoods, even along the riverbanks where there are encampments as well, it's just unbelievable. It has been that way. I continue…we received a whole chain of e-mails of people who continually be frustrated. And they say, Eadie, you're not doing nothing yet. Well, Councillor Santos, Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Eadie, and other councillors have been working hard at trying to resolve the garbage problem, but then, I looked at this report. So if we were to attack it from a certain perspective, 4 million dollars, the cost. I don't know what model you look at, Madam Speaker, but there's...there's different ways that you might be able to try to do something, Madam Speaker, in terms of garbage. But, so, I don't want anybody in the city of Winnipeg to get the idea that it's just people who have no choice, but to live in encampments are causing a garbage problem. It goes far beyond that, Madam Speaker. You have property owners who…somebody can't pays the rent, whatever. They have to go. Landlords pile-up everything and they dump it in somebody else's yard, give them a problem. Make note of a motion I have, because this kind of stuff is happening all over the place in my ward, in...even to some degree, in Elmwood. We heard Councillor Schreyer speak about encampments. The ones he's talking about I think most of them are across the, you know, a minute across the Harry Lazarenko Bridge over into my ward and along the river but there have been encampments as well in Elmwood, Madam Speaker. And housing is the long-term option. I'm not going to speak to housing. I'm working on that with Winnipeg Housing Rehab and there's others who are working really hard like Councillor Rollins and everybody else, trying to get this housing thing going, and supportive housing because we have housed some people from encampments. They go into an apartment block say on Sutherland, and they're not...nobody is dealing with the solid waste garbage problem in an appropriate manner. Some people need supports to explain this is how you deal with garbage in the city of Winnipeg. And so, there's all kinds of different issues related to it, but I appreciate the policy here, a pilot, I mean. But I think I'm going to have to undertake a pilot myself as Councillor Schreyer mentioned. Many of those people living in the encampment, they don't want to live around a bunch of garbage. I'm thinking of doing, I don't know how I'm going to pay for it, maybe I could use some of my rent money for office, maybe I could use some of that to do a pilot where, once a week, there's a bin placed there, give those people living in the encampments the tools, the garbage bags and the pickers or whatever it takes to clean up that garbage, and also if they got an old piece of furniture that they're using and they want to get rid of it, once a week, there's a bin there. It'll be gone at the end of the day, but, because you know what? A lot of those people understand they have rights, but they also understand that they have a responsibility to keep things clean and tidy and they don't want to live amongst a lot of garbage. So, Madam Speaker, I guess I'll have to try that because the 4 or 2 million dollar options, doesn't sound like they're on it. And you know, I don't know why we have to have not-for-profit groups having to do this. We have to find a model that works, Madam Speaker, that is a little more predictable and because pilot's just not enough. We'll have encampments for at least the next 10 years I'm sure. By the time, all the proper housing or, actually, Manitoba Housing, you know, the minister has...there's a lot of renovations coming, there's a lot of investment coming from the Manitoba Government to provide housing. But, you know, even with the Winnipeg Housing Rehab, we've got a bunch of suites that need renovation but we don't get enough subsidy from the provincial government to do those ongoing renovations that need to be done. But, you know, we have a whole bunch of suites that people could be living in, so does Manitoba Housing. So hopefully, you know, those kind of things will happen, but even Manitoba Housing in my ward has a garbage problem. A garbage problem. They pile up a bunch of garbage by the back lane, and their funding was reduced so they didn't pick up the garbage, okay. They went to every two weeks, and then what happens in that particular neighborhood it's pile on, or a landlord comes driving, oh, there's a pile of garbage. I'll just throw this garbage there. And that's what happens. So, the previous CAO did...spoke to the provincial government about it. Hasn't been quite the problem, but even Manitoba Housing has solid waste issues that they need to deal with so that the neighborhoods and where they exist don't have this problem. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise this morning in support of the motion before us in terms of cleaning up the encampments. Earlier this month, April 15th, Councillor Santos, in my office, got together and worked on a project with Al Wiebe who has lived experience around homelessness. And I want to thank the other councillors that were also involved including Councillor Rollins, Councillor Gilroy, Councillor Sharma yourself, Councillor Lukes, Councillor Allard, Councillor Dobson and Councillor Eadie. And special thanks to Mayor Gillingham who attended and shared a few words with regards to the City's approach and action on homelessness including the establishment of an office. Jarred Baker is the person that is taking the lead on homelessness and how it is impacting our city. It's fair to say, Madam Speaker, that homelessness is not just a local issue in our wards, in our city. I would feel very confident saying that, you know, homelessness impacts every jurisdiction across this nation, and indeed, here in North America. Having spoken with superintendent from the Vancouver Police Department who was here in Winnipeg, mentoring our chief, having a conversation with him about the struggles of Vancouver and East Hastings District. He also made mention to me that the city of San Francisco is at the point where they're almost ready to throw in the towel, in terms of what they're facing as a crisis in that city, and Portland, Oregon is facing similar challenges. So, we have to have a strategy. We have to have a plan in place. It's great to hear the announcements that have been made by the federal government in terms of their commitment towards homelessness and the building of new homes to bring down the affordability aspects. It's great to hear the provincial budget that announced 160 million dollars in new housing supports and initiatives. And the ongoing

work that we're doing here at the city, not only to deal with the homelessness, but to deal with the root causes of homelessness, the impacts that it has on our local community. In terms of the cleaning of encampments, I just want to make sure that as that work is being carried out, that there's a safety component that is added to that in terms of some of the materials and debris that would be left at these sites, recognizing that some of it will be biohazardous and ensuring that the proper safety protocols would be in place and enforced to ensure that those that are attending to the sites are not adversely impacted in terms of those materials that are left behind. But I do support this. It's about taking pride in our city. It's about having some solutions in place. And I recognize some of the push back or feedback that will take place in terms of...it's encouraging homelessness or it's enabling homelessness. I don't think homelessness is something you encourage or enable. It's a result of people's situations and something that we have to acknowledge that individuals don't want to be homeless. They don't want to be unhoused. It's a situation that they're facing, and we have to work with communities, we have to work with individuals, we're working with the non-profits. As a matter of fact, as a result of the symposium that took place on April 15th, we had a great breakout session lasting well over an hour where we challenged those not-for-profits to provide responses, actionable responses, to each of the three levels of government. We're in the midst of collecting and compiling that information and we'll provide a summary report that each of the levels of government can review and formulate policies around and hopefully, we can put an end to homelessness, if not, moving towards reducing homelessness in our communities and providing dignity to those that are unhoused and finding it a challenge to set their lives back on the course of being homed and providing back to our community. So thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Chambers. Councillor Wyatt, and then Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Wyatt: Yeah, Madam Speaker, I rise...I thank Councillor Santos for her words. I want to speak about the function of the actual fact that we actually have encampments, because I think it's directly related to the motion at hand and the issue at hand and what we have to deal with today. Housing, the federal parliament voted that housing is a right through the National Housing Strategy. They did that, what...over five years ago. With that, came no requirements on them to actually live up to that obligation. No requirements whatsoever. We now see in the last federal budget 18 billion for housing. By the time that money starts to flow through their various means and mechanisms and bureaucracy of the federal government, the reality is, this government will probably not be in power by the time it actually, potentially, starts to hit the streets. In reality then, it's a nice announcement. Unfortunately, at a 50 billion dollar deficit, they're driving up the pressure fiscally on the monetary policy. Next year, 25 to 50 percent of people's mortgages come up for renewal. Many of them are not going to be able to renew. You want to talk about homelessness? Wait 'til next year. And ironically, it's being done in the name of building more housing, a lot of it, 18 billion of the 50. And the money will probably not be hitting the streets in time to actually make a difference if the government changes. We choose, Madam Speaker, as a society, not to house people. We choose to do that. We today in Winnipeg do a better job of looking after feral cats than we do human beings. We know that because we've heard the delegations about the feral cats at our standing committee in the last six months. Now what does that say? That's just not Winnipeg, by the way. I want to be fair to our city, it's not just us. Montreal has 30,000 people who are living in a state of homelessness. Toronto even more. Vancouver. Right across this country, we've decided to be American and live with these encampments. We tear down one encampment, another will go up, or they'll go up in places that you don't see. I ran into a fellow who was homeless. He told me where he's living in his tent on the border of Councillor Schreyer's ward and mine. We choose not to house these folks. I would suggest, Madam Speaker, there are models out there. This is not rocket science. If we want to say as a society that housing is a right, dignified housing, a very good friend of mine and many of yours who about a year and a half ago went to visit family in Holland. Winnipeg Free Press called him the greatest mayor we never had. He ran for mayor twice, Peter Kaufmann. Came back and said, "You know, I looked around, Russ. I didn't see anybody living in the streets, and I asked my family." He said, we as a society, his family told him, chose not to tolerate that. We ensure that every human being has nothing fancy. If they need a place 250 square feet, a bed, a little washroom, something to cook on and the mental health, addiction services to be plugged in nearby to help people get back upon their feet. A gentleman in Councillor Browaty's ward I spoke to at the corner of Chief Peguis and Henderson, in his late 60s. He told me, he said, "Russ, I was once a long-haul truck driver. And some things happened in my life and look where I am now." And some people have the supports from family and others, and some don't. And I say, Madam Speaker, there by the grace of god go I. So, let's address this. But let's galvanize ourselves to do what...it doesn't have to reinvent...we don't have to reinvent the wheel. What's been done in Scandinavia and western European countries to properly house people, so we don't have this scenario where we look after cats better than human beings, this is what we are doing today here. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank Councillor Santos and as Councillor Chambers have made, those other councillors that have been involved in the process of conversation, educating themselves and those involved in getting us to this point here on this issue of what I like to think is the right for people to live in clean and safe environment. On my block, on my street across where I live, just where exactly where I live, we can see it from my window. I want to thank members of my community. I want to thank Lorraine Kehler who used to run the Elmwood Bear Clan walk that I would walk with. And with our hands and our feet, the cleanups that we would do, including, you know, it's just the

reality of what we do with needle pickup and the safe process by which we dispose of needles. That was an example I mention it because it's really, really important to our community. How do I know this? Because they tell us. But I want to thank Lorraine Kehler and the Elmwood Bear Clan for building trust in our community, for building trust with those that live in these encampments along the river in my block, in my neighborhood, in my ward. Councillor Wyatt mentioned mortgages and the relationship between well, economics and homelessness. Well, yeah, it's...there's certainly a direct cause and effects. It's more complicated than that, but that is truly part of it. Let's not kid ourselves. And he talked about mortgages. He mentioned mortgages. I'm going to mention rent because the majority of the people that are going to...it's obviously related. We're talking about housing costs going up. But when it comes to those that are homeless and those that have the potential to become homeless, the majority of those people, we know, are paying rent. But it's all related, but let's just not forget that. I don't want the public to think that…that reality isn't being discussed here in this chamber. That's how real it is. And Councillor Wyatt says just wait until the interest rates on renegotiated mortgages are coming up. Well, I've been mentioning this for years, that interest rates are part of the disparity, the increase in disparity between the rich and the poor. And if you want to know that disparity, walk with me in my neighbourhood, walk down the street with me in my neighbourhood on my street, on my block where I live. Councillor Santos says you don't know what it is to…another person (inaudible)…unless you live...walk a mile in their shoes. I'm not pretending I walk a mile in their shoes. I'm just saying I'm walking with them in my neighbourhood on my street, and because I'm Johnny on the spot given where I live, sometimes as Councillor Eadie made the point, well sometimes it's coming up on me to search for the garbage and recycling bins because that's where I live. So, I'm the Councillor, so. Hey, Jason, where is my garbage and recycling bin? So, I'll go look for it. You know, who else is supposed to do it, I suppose. I don't know, but I'm glad that here at City Council, we're talking about this in a more larger scale structured way. We do things in my ward and my community, and I don't take credit for it. I'm very grateful for the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation. I'm very grateful for Brittany and Kendall and Leilani for creating the new unity walk in Elmwood, which obviously walks right down my street of course, and for the work they do and continuing to build that trust within our community. When I mean my community, I mean my neighbors, when I mean my neighbors, I'm including those that live in the homeless encampments because they're my next-door neighbors, eh? So, this is very realistic to me. This is how you call that…bringing it back home. What are we bringing back home? I mean literally, I can see it from my front window. So I'm glad for the realism here. But if you want to know what I mean by the disparity, growing disparity between rich and poor, mention…consider again Councillor Wyatt's concept…forecast about wait for the new interest rates to come up. Who is going to suffer the most? Who's at a greater…when it comes to the economic reasons for one become...for why one becomes homeless, who is going...who's at greater risk? Those who are poorest. Is it disproportionately Indigenous? Yes. I don't know how else to put it. There's not just Indigenous. And there's different way it's going to express itself. And you can't solve this merely as an Indigenous issue because it's not. It's a socioeconomic issue as well. The poor are getting poorer regardless of race, but let's not forget how it interplays. That's our job, we're the leaders. It's complicated, but it's our job to deal. Today we're doing something constructive. And I'm glad to be part of something that's not merely just on my street what we do in Elmwood, working with the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, working with the Elmwood Bear Clan, working with the unity walk, working with the Glenwood Neighborhood Association, working with my neighbors. That's something that we're doing on a mini scale on a regular basis, on a weekly basis in my neighborhood, including a neighbourhood that I do share with Councillor Eadie because I do live just a half a block from Councillor Eadie's ward and, therefore a block from further, on foot, a walk on foot from other encampments of which Councillor Eadie speaks. This is my neighborhood, and I share it with a lot of different kinds of people. But this is dealing, and I'm grateful. Miigwetch.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. I want to thank my colleagues on this issue and recognize that we have a long history of garbage, bulky waste and encampment dispositions that we've gone through the years. Some dating last term, but just this term, we had an item titled, Update on Downtown Revitalization Projects, that included garbage, bulky waste and encampment dispositions, solid waste collection, another item that included a report back in conjunction with a garbage management plan. We had multi-family waste diversion and management strategy. We had a demolition site debris one where the Public Service was to report back on a problem properties task force consolidating City garbage services where the Public Service is to report back. Hoarding task force update, and information sharing agreement. We had a garbage cleanup at encampments motion, and public and private overview of garbage and recycling collection. So, Madam Speaker, we have no shortage of dispositions, but it is Passover, Madam Speaker. And so, we say in Hebrew, *Ma Nishtana*. Why is this night different from all other nights? And to that end, I want to, you know, acknowledge all the folks that have come together in community to make, you know, this item a different outcome for the city of Winnipeg. I want to, in particular, thank Tessa Blaikie, Jamil Mahmood for coming today, and coming always to encourage Council to separate the symptoms and the causes of poverty and to remind us to do so in act, in policy, in...at every step in line with our Kíkinanaw Óma strategy. Everyone is conscious of the focus of housing, including me, as your housing chair. We are working on the shortage of housing including social housing, and Councillor Eadie, Madam Speaker, spoke of the Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation. We continue to work on HIZ zones, the Affordable Housing Now, the Housing Accelerator Fund and continued federal, provincial, Indigenous government work as Councillor Santos, the mover of this motion spoke so eloquently about when she talked about the alignments of the Mayor and the current Premier's

offices. May 4th, Madam Speaker, the Clan Mothers Downtown Community Safety Patrol, O.P.K., Community Unity, Main Street Project, many...the Clan Mothers Healing Village, all are coming together for a downtown cleanup, Madam Speaker. So the people power continues. It continues in my ward. It continues in Councillor Santos' ward. It continues in many of our wards as people in Councillor Lukes' ward start cleaning up from spring. May 4th, everyone's invited to 38 Maple, Clan Mothers Healing Lodge, for the cleanup in the downtown. Madam Speaker, I'm hoping this is a unanimous motion today, but I want to acknowledge everyone that got Council to this point of disposition that I think will be a human rights centred outcome. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Gillingham: You can call the question. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: All in favor? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 3 - By-Law Enforcement Consolidation

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I'll wait to hear from my colleagues, please.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll try to be quick. I know my colleagues didn't expect all the speeches. Madam Speaker, I will be voting to receive this as information, but as I spoke at EPC, Madam Speaker, I have some concerns about what I'm reading in this report, and you know, the standardization of how by-laws are enforced. That's really good. I mean that's fine, but I'm not thinking that that's going to resolve all the issues. Now there are entities within the City who have expertise such as the Parking Authority, so those by-laws are already being dealt with. And they've had other by-laws added to their portfolio. I won't be critical today, but I'm pretty critical of how they develop policy around some of these by-law things and very concerned, Madam Speaker. But aside from that, and they are the ones who you can appeal to on other by-laws that are outside related to parking, Madam Speaker, which is good under the new…the Province, I don't know how new it is anymore, but it's been around for a while, and that's fine. I don't see a special operating agency becoming the City's main by-law enforcement on everything. That…I don't think that's appropriate. And what won't be appropriate is the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service are the experts in the fire code and in anything related to the substance of those matters. So those by-laws that pertain to fire are important to stay there. It's the rest of the by-law enforcement, we have the neighborhood liveability, we have the vacant derelict buildings thing, we…there's some other ones, Madam Speaker. That's the ones that I was hoping to see a consolidation happen. And they're all property related, Madam Speaker, which, you know, technically falls under P and D, Property, that's what's in their name. So, Madam Speaker, wherever the consolidation happens, you know, this report, I don't know where it's going to end up at, alls we know is at the end of '24, we're going to see some standardization, which is good. There's nothing the matter with that. Madam Speaker, but...and hopefully, you know, like our solid waste, I think they have the odd inspector to deal with issues that end up with garbage, right? Here we go. Garbage, solid waste again, and that's in the Neighborhood Liveability By-Law as well. So…but consolidation is important because, you know, we can have by-law enforcement officers who can understand both vacant and derelict and whatever, and I know that at certain times of the year, By-Law Enforcement on Neighborhood Liveability and other matters. They can't keep up at all, at all, Madam Speaker. All of William Whyte, all of North Point Douglas, all of Dufferin need a blitz. Every property needs to be inspected. Do they have the people power to get it done? It's almost too late, like it's crazy out there, crazy. So, I'd like to see consolidation. One department of these property-related issues, and let's get on with it. We've amended many of these by-laws to supposedly improve our ability to deal with things, but there's more that we need to do. There's other councillors around the table who have some good ideas. Hopefully, we see them happen, but, you know, all of this...it's taking too long and we have it. This is a huge problem, not just in my…everywhere, Madam Speaker, everywhere. If you live in the suburbs, you haven't the foggiest idea if you don't come around, but I get calls from people living in the suburb, how awful it looks when you come into the North End. And they put it on me. What are you doing about it, Councillor Eadie? You've been there for how many years? What are you doing about it? Let's get something done here, really, please. I'll leave it at that. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I'd like to rise and support Councillor Eadie and his comments. I've read the report, very disappointed. I want to thank first of all the Chair of our standing committee who we've been talking about, Councillor Duncan, and Councillor Santos, myself, Councillor Eadie on this issue of the consolidated by-law enforcement unit. But the, you know, I read the report, and we…and the last line…second last line says, that this will allow for results to be achieved in the short term across the organization. What does short-term actually mean? One year, two year, five years? And it's interesting.

The by-law compliance activities are fair, transparent and consistent. This is one of the four of the core goals. Consistent, consistent to what, to what we have now, which is not proactive? We need proactive enforcement. And I will draw attention to the last page. There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report. You got to spend a bit of money folks to pull this together, I'm afraid, to make it work. Ironically, it actually could pay for itself, if we did proactive enforcement. Right across the board, we have a scenario where right now in parts of our neighborhoods not far from…we can walk out of here right now at lunch and take a look, where we have slum landlords, many of them not even residents of this city. We have absentee landlords. You go to suburban neighbourhoods like mine or Councillor Lukes' or Councillor Duncan, 80 to 90 percent of the homes are owned. You go to neighborhoods like Councillor Eadie, 80 to 90 percent are rented. And there's no enforcement on those landlords to do certain things. There's…commercial property. Simple things. The sign in the stand up pylon sign is missing, you see the ugliness of the city. You know, simple little things that could beautify our city if we enforced our by-laws like other cities do. Yes, it does take a bit of money to do that, but if we did a business plan over five or 10 years, and we show the enforcement levels, and we show that maybe we don't create a massive by-law enforcement unit on a permanent basis, but we ratch it up for a period of time, and then once we get the by-laws being enforced, we can pull back. We have done that before, Madam Speaker. We had a floating permits department before it was made permanent based on growth, based on the need, and then that was incorporated to be permanent. Some of us didn't like that because we knew we needed that extra capacity when we need it based on the market. Same thing with by-laws. We could do this, but it has to...this has to…I would encourage EPC, I would encourage the Mayor, not EPC. Let's…let's make this a real effort because this one item alone could do wonders to beautify, to improve morale in our city to make people feel safe in their neighborhoods again. What Councillor Eadie is talking about and the frustration he feels, I could only imagine representing his ward and having to deal with these things because I'm a perfectionist. I would go crazy. I mean it would be, and I…and right now, we all have in suburbs. We all have the one person who's…won't clean their shrubs, won't cut their grass, won't, you know, collect garbage in the backyard, and we have to get by-law enforcement, but even that's a struggle for us. Now could you imagine what councillors Eadie and Santos and Gilroy must deal with at times with regards to the inability for us to enforce our by-laws proactively. Get proactive in this document. Find out when this will be delivered and what would it take to do it financially. And what can we receive potentially in terms of the fines and the enforcement of by-laws, because that will go hand in hand. Sure, it may cost more than the actual revenue coming in fine but the reality is, there are right now the majority of property owners and the citizens in the city are living up to the by-laws of the city. And if they're going and they're doing this on their own as good citizens maintaining their properties, maintaining at…based on what our by-laws require, I think it's fair and right that the City should enforce those that choose not to for whatever reason, because of the fact that everyone else is doing it basically because they're good citizens, but those like slum landlords, absentee property owners, property owners from Vancouver or wherever they are, they don't care. They don't see it. They don't care. It's time to enforce our by-laws, Madam Speaker, and I hope EPC can take this back. I hope I…EPC can take another run at this. I would really encourage them to do so, and anything I can do to help, please let me know. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further speakers? Mr. Mayor to close.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the comments from my colleagues. Just a reminder today that what we're looking at is that a corporate efficiency or corporate, pardon me, enforcement strategy which should be completed by the end of this year that will be a standardization resulting in an increased enforcement, improving consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of the various City by-law enforcement programs. And so, I appreciate that our staff is working on making a better by-law enforcement strategy, bringing it to us as Council, presenting it so that there's consistency and standardization. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Call the question on Item 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: (inaudible) opposed actually given that closing. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Seeing the hour, it's time to recess and…and reconvene at 1:15. Thank you.

**Reconvened meeting of
Winnipeg City Council of
April 25, 2024, at 1:29 p.m.**

Madam Speaker: Let's get ready for the countdown, Travis. Thank you. Good afternoon. I'd like to reconvene our Council meeting of April 25th, 2024. Next speaker is Councillor Wyatt has a statement to make to the citizens of Winnipeg and Council. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you. I rise Madam Speaker to make an apology. My use of the term bicycle Nazis was meant, by me, to mean militant and or demeaning. In other words, authoritarian in nature. However, the term bicycle Nazis could be interpreted differently, and therefore, at this time, I would like to extend my apology to anyone offended by its use including Bike Winnipeg. Thank you very much, and thank you for the time in the chamber.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Wyatt. We were on the report of the Executive Policy Committee, Item 9. Councillor Wyatt's going to leave the chamber. He's declaring a conflict on the item. Mr. Mayor to introduce Item 9, which is…Madam Clerk.

**Item 9 - Subdivision and Rezoning - 1065 and 1069 Notre Dame Avenue and 1090 Winnipeg Avenue
File DASZ 2/2024**

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I…if I'm correct, I think it was Councillor Wyatt who stood the matter down so he'd have opportunity to recuse himself, which I appreciate, and so, I'll wait to hear from others if they have any comments.

Madam Speaker: No speakers. Mr. Mayor to close if you wish. Call the vote?

Mayor Gillingham: Call the question please, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Call the vote on Item 9. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

**EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS**

Madam Speaker: Okay, we have motion…Motion 3. Okay, Motion 3 is moved by Councillor Eadie and seconded by Councillor Schreyer. This is on the topic of establishment of a property tax credit program, and it's an automatic referral to the standing committee. Next, we'll just wait for Councillor Wyatt here. It is Motion 4. Moved by Councillor Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Eadie. It's regarding whiteout street party venues. Councillor Wyatt.

**Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,**

WHEREAS many properties are being abused by owners and renters from other properties dumping solid waste on lots without proper fencing to protect the victims' properties;

AND WHEREAS this dumping of solid waste is most prominent in low income areas of the city where owners cannot afford to build six-foot fences around their back yards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 120 days on the following:

1. *A cost estimate for constructing a six-foot fence that is not easily destroyed around the back yard of a 25-foot-wide lot in order to determine a possible property tax credit program.*

2. *A list of neighbourhoods in need of a property tax credit program to protect from solid waste dumping such as the William Whyte Neighbourhood and Dufferin Neighbourhood.*

3. *The establishment of a property tax credit program to assist properties that are susceptible to others dumping*

garbage on their lots to avoid constant need for By-law Enforcement to inspect and order victims to clean up the solid waste.

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

Motion No. 4
Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Jets Whiteout Street Parties are great for the City, for the downtown, and for the fans;

AND WHEREAS the Whiteout Street Parties are selling out in minutes, meaning that there are many other fans who would love to attend, but are unable to secure a ticket to the street party due to the great response from fans;

AND WHEREAS many fans also cannot afford seats inside the Canada Life Centre or are unable to purchase due to limited capacity inside the arena;

AND WHEREAS in the last year's playoffs, with two Whiteout Street Party days, the City of Winnipeg covered $15,000 toward the cost of street closures, permits and special duty policing, which Council supported unanimously.

AND WHEREAS we could make the Whiteout Street Parties so much bigger and better, by working with The Forks to include a large Whiteout Party at that venue, thus opening a new great location for Winnipeg Jets fans who want to attend an official Whiteout Party;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg immediately work with the True North Corporation, the Province of Manitoba and with The Forks, for the purpose of securing The Forks as an official Whiteout Party venue for the next Winnipeg Jets home playoff game on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, in addition to the existing Whiteout Street Party venue at the Canada Life Centre.

Councillor Wyatt: Madam Speaker. I'd like to move suspension of the rules to deal with this item presently and vote recorded if possible.

Madam Speaker: Okay, suspension of the rules has been requested to deal with the item today. It's time sensitive in nature. All in favour? Contrary? Okay, we'll call for a recorded vote. All in favour of dealing with the item today, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Eadie, Schreyer and Wyatt

Nays

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

Madam Speaker: Councillor Gilroy, are you opposed?

City Clerk: The vote Madam Speaker, Yeas 3, Nays 12.

Madam Speaker: Motion 4 is lost for today, but it'll be an automatic referral. Next is by-laws for Executive Policy Committee. Mr. Mayor.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READINGS

Mayor Gillingham: I move that By-law No. 39/2024 be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 39/2024.

Mayor Gillingham: I move that By-law No. 39/2024 be read a third time and that the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – THREE READINGS

Mayor Gillingham: Madam Speaker, I move that the following By-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 50/2024, By-law No. 51/2024, By-law No. 52/2024, By-law No. 53/2024.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 50/2024, By-law No. 51/2024, By-law No. 52/2024, and By-law No. 53/2024.

Mayor Gillingham: I move the By-laws No. 50/2024 to 53/2024 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 50/2024 to 53/2024 both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 50/2024 to 53/2024 both inclusive be read a third time and that the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Madam Speaker: We'll now have Question Period for the Mayor. Any questions for Mayor Gillingham? Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, yesterday Mr. Mayor, or last night, forwarded an email to the CAO regarding a planned protest for May the 1st, that's taking place regarding the ongoing issue happening in the Middle East. It's happening at 5:30, which is a Wednesday, May 1st, and I just wanted to raise it to stress the importance of security in the campus. There's many employees who work past 4:30 including members of Council, just to ensure that steps are taken to ensure the safety and security of everybody here in the campus, so I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

Mayor Gillingham: Through you Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the Councillor for his apology. I really do appreciate that. The other matter on the protest, thank you to the Councillor for forwarding the information and certainly for forwarding the information to the CAO as well. That's really good to ensure that our...you know, the team on the campus is ready. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Second question.

Councillor Wyatt: And I know the Mayor is a friend of Israel and one of the issues that has risen but Toronto is addressing now with their police services in terms of dealing with language relating to hate language and anti-Semitic language, taking

steps to enforce the hate laws of the country, and it's something else that I passed on in the email as well. I don't...I'm assuming the Winnipeg Police Service are doing that already, but it's just something to highlight to ensure that steps are taken because apparently at some of these demonstrations that has been going on, so.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: I want to thank the Councillor for passing that information on. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Santos.

Councillor Santos: Yes, thank you. I was wondering if the Mayor could give a bit of an update on what his conversations with the Minister's office, specifically Minister Bernadette Smith's office, with respect to the housing first model protocol, and some form of update would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Through you Madam Speaker, I want to thank Councillor Santos for the question and her ongoing work and advocacy. My office and I and my staff, Mr. Jarred Baker, are having good dialogue and we've established, I think, a good working relationship with Minister Smith and her Deputy Minister…deputy ministers and her staff and the Premier as well. What I'm really pleased to see is that, you know, at City Hall many years ago, we adopted…started promoting a housing first model. You know, we have been consistent advocates of that. We know that individuals we heard from today, you know, the good folks that are doing work at Siloam Mission, Main Street Project and others, and many others in the…I'll say the sector agencies, working with unsheltered people, have a housing first commitment as well. I know that Minister Smith has told me, and she said it publicly that she too believes in a housing first approach. It's one of the reasons that we are working so hard as a Council to get housing built, because to have a housing first approach, you need the housing for individuals so that we can get people into housing with the wrap around supports. You know, I certainly won't speak for Minister Smith, but just simply to say we have a good working relationship. What I would like to see is what all…with everyone else around here would like to see as well, and that is action. Actually, putting a model in place. There's some models right now, but putting one model in place where it's a coordinated approach, that every entity and agency, including levels of government, including First Nations and Indigenous governments, are involved in a coordinated plan including housing providers, the private sector. I mean, just, there's a role for everybody in the City of Winnipeg really to play, and they have so many agencies really need to be part of a coordinated effort. There is some coordination happening within our sectors right now. We appreciate that. But we need everybody involved. To use an illustration I've used, perhaps even over-used but I'll keep using it, you know, it's the difference between kayaks in a river, or everybody in a boat, in a dragon boat or a York boat might be more appropriate. Each had an oar so that we're moving together, and so that's the kind of conversation we're having with Minister Smith and she certainly reciprocates that, and we want to move towards, you know, some sort of action to make sure that we're coordinating our plans together. I have to keep in mind that this government, this provincial government has only been in power for six months, so, and Minister Smith's portfolio is very expansive. It's a big portfolio. The Premier brought a lot of really important ministries under her purview, and so good work is happening, regular dialogue is happening, and I appreciate the question. Thank you.

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

Councillor Chambers: Thank you Madam Speaker, and I probably should have approached the Mayor beforehand and just to give him a heads-up, but in speaking of updates, I'd like to know, Mr. Mayor, if you could comment on the Community Service Officers and the impact that they've had in our downtown community just over a month and a half of the implementation.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Through you Madam Speaker, I want to thank Councillor Chambers for the question. The early feedback on the establishment of the Community Safety Officer program has been very, very positive. I think, you know, Mr. Bob Christmas is providing excellent leadership of this work and the work of the Community Safety Officers to address issues around transit stops and on transit as well. I know there...one of the things, I think, we'll be looking forward to is, that there's good coordination but increased coordination. For example, the Downtown Community Safety Partnership. We fund that organization. They do excellent work as well. Community Safety Officers do great work. Our downtown police, foot patrol, are doing good work. We have the Downtown BIZ, and the West End BIZ, and the Exchange District BIZ, all whom have foot patrols, so similar to my previous comment related to coordinating so that we have good cooperation but reduce the duplication when it comes to homelessness and serving our unsheltered population, we need to do the same related to community safety. Two final things I would say is that we want to get results back on data and the types of incidents that are being addressed by the Community Safety Officers and we look forward to getting that

information sometime hopefully soon from Mr. Christmas. He's just kind of gathering that information so we'll get that information out so we can see, you know, where our team, our Community Safety Officer team has been really effective and what kind of incidents they're responding to. But the second is, it's a campaign commitment that I made, and it is something that was in…as part of a recommendation in the review of The Police Services Act that was conducted by the previous government, and that is that every municipality would move toward the establishment of a community safety plan. I want to see us move toward a community safety plan, and I'll be talking more about that and hopefully (inaudible) will be asking us to take action on that in the coming months, and the community safety plan is that, where we look at coordinating all the entities and agencies, including the Winnipeg Police Service, Community Safety Officers, Downtown Community Safety Patrol, Bear Clan, BIZ Zone, agencies as well that are working in safety. Planning and coordination so that we reduce the overlap but we make sure we have an effective plan for safety in our city, and I'm excited that we're, you know, that we're going to get a chance to look at that, so more to come on that, but the Community Safety Officers would play a key role in the establishment of that overall plan.

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

Councillor Gilroy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise just to ask, through you Madam Speaker, some questions to the Mayor and I know he probably won't have the answer so he might have to get his staff to get back to me, but one of the questions I had, there's changes in the last budget that really impact our Poverty Reduction Strategy. One of the biggest change was the movement of the Poverty Reduction Strategy to the CAO's Office, and I've made it known, I don't believe this was the right choice. We did that with the climate change and it really didn't work out. Not to say that our CAO isn't quite capable. I just think he's got a lot of things on the go and I think within our community committee structure, and within the councillors, is where it should be housed, so I have concerns over that. So, I want to kind of know the numbers of the staff that moved over. I also want to know, there's some key members of the poverty…people that wrote the Poverty Reduction Strategy and have been working on it, that has now moved to the Province. I want to ensure that those people are being replaced. I am concerned how this is going to warf…the numbers of staff will warf into the CAO's Office and not really be working on what I think is indeed a really important policy for Winnipeg, especially in lieu of all the stuff we're doing around homelessness, garbage, is just to really understand where that staff is going to be placed. You know, is that staff going to be taken in by doing other work, or is it going to be just on the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and I guess the loss of the staff that's there now, when are they going to replace it. And kind of the overall plan for the CAO's Office to carry this work out. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Through you Madam Speaker, I want to thank Councillor Gilroy for the question. Yes, what I'll do is maybe meet with Councillor Gilroy to get, you know, those questions and the details of those questions and more. Work with my staff and the CAO's Office as well to get a response, and then I'll distribute this response by email to all of Council.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. In the past, in the Mynarski ward, safety plans have been part of, in some neighbourhoods, housing but the residents' associations have played an important role in providing the people who know, put together a plan to deal with it as well as in North Point Douglas, I personally worked, and we went door to door on a safety plan for that neighbourhood with the North Point Douglas Women's Centre, and so Madam Speaker, when I hear about, you know, the higher level, we talk about the bigger groups, the Bear Clan, actually the Mama Bear Clan comes out of the North Point Douglas Safety Plan that was coordinated by Miss Bishop who was the Director at the time, and so I just want to know how are we including residents' associations and so on who know, because they're living the problems every day. Are they going to be included, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Gillingham: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you Madam Speaker, thank you to Councillor Eadie for the question. The answer is yes, and again, not to get too far, you know, in front of ourselves here, but one of the thoughts would be certainly do, every councillor I envision would be involved in the establishment of the community safety plan in one way or the other, because as Councillor Eadie points out, every councillor understands within their own ward, the individuals, the groups, whether it's the Block Parents, the residents' association, a local business group, whatever it might be, that really has some manner of plan or coordination for safety in place, and so neighbourhood watch groups for example, I mean, it's far reaching so I'm looking for really ultimately it would be the input and participation of every councillor who could feed into this dialogue or this discussion, that the people of the groups in their community who are doing that work. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That closes off Question Period for the Mayor. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development. There's no reports, no motions today. We'll get right into Question Period for our Chair. Any questions for Councillor Browaty? Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development. Councillor Rollins, the chair.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED MARCH 13, 2024

Councillor Rollins: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish to move the adoption of the consent agenda Items 1 all the way through 19 with thanks to the committee, the standing policy committee.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. We will have two pulled down, that will be 13 and 16, 12.

Councillor Eadie: Madam Speaker, when report from a previous agenda...

Councillor Rollins: Oh, did I start on the wrong item? Sorry. Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes, let's do the March 13. Thank you.

Councillor Rollins: …let's do the March 13th meeting first. Thank you, Councillor Eadie. I move Item No. 1 on the item dated March 13th pertaining to Golf Services Special Operating Agency, the golf plan.

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

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED APRIL 11, 2024

Councillor Rollins: Now Madam Speaker, with the exception of Items 12, 13, and 16, so moved the whole item, 1 through 19.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: I need to stand down Madam Speaker, 13 and 16.

Madam Speaker: We have those, yes.

Councillor Wyatt: Oh good.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Schreyer, 19.

Councillor Rollins: Was 12 stood down, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Rezoning, Nairn Avenue. Yes, 12, 13 and 16. Any others? Okay, I'll call the question on Item 1 through 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Madam Clerk.

Item 12 - Subdivision and Rezoning - 193 McGregor Street
File DASZ 4/2024

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor...

Councillor Chambers: It is uncomfortably warm in here. Would it be breaking protocol to remove our jackets?

Madam Speaker: Councillor Chambers is requesting a motion to allow members of Council to remove your jackets. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Yes, that is something we've done by motion, thank you. And I agree, it is hot. Madam Chair, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Okay, Madam Speaker. So to introduce the item of subdivision and rezoning on 193 McGregor Street, I want to note that the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development really supported the subdivision proposed under the development application to be approved by Council. There was care and attention taken to the subdivision, including that there's a servicing agreement with the City of Winnipeg including that the zoning agreement with the City of Winnipeg be entered into...to continue to show location and design of the buildings, et cetera. as we often do. So, you know, looking forward to hearing from my colleagues with respect to what the standing policy committee and Executive Policy Committee confirmed. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Next speaker. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, Madam Speaker. Thanks for the introduction from the Chairperson. Madam Speaker, as you know, we voted on this in community committee. And Madam Speaker, I just wanted to rise...and I just...I don't know how to express my gratitude that this multi-family housing project is going to move ahead in the William Whyte neighbourhood. This is the first like, multi-family effort in this particular neighborhood in a very, very, very long time. And it is so needed in the William Whyte neighbourhood and the Dufferin neighbourhood where we need renewal, because as you all know, the houses are old, they're burning. It's not worth the cost to renovate them any more. And so, I'm glad that this is the first one in this particular neighbourhood moving ahead. So, I just want to express my gratitude to the developer for moving forward with this project. And yeah, that's it. It's…it's a great thing. I can't believe it. Right on.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins to close.

Councillor Rollins: Yes. I want to concur with my colleague and really extend the thanks too to our planners, Simi Jerez, really excited to pass this RMFL on…at McGregor and Pritchard and I share the enthusiasm of Councillor Eadie, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. I'll call the question on Item 12. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Item 13, Madam Clerk. Councillor Wyatt, you wish to speak, you're declaring?

Councillor Wyatt: Declaring conflict.

Madam Speaker: Conflict on this item? Well, leave the chamber, thank you. It's Item 13 and 16. So I'll note that so we can deal with both items while he's out of the chamber. Madam Clerk.

Item 13 - Zoning Agreement Amendment - 1021 and 1029 Court Avenue
File ZAA 1/2024

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

Councillor Rollins: So moved, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers on 13? Okay, I'll call the question. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Madam Clerk, Item 16.

Item 16 - Rezoning - 744 St. Mary's Road
File DAZ 200/2024

Madam Speaker: Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: So moved, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Okay, Item 19. Madam Clerk.

Item 19 - Rezoning - 1131 Nairn Avenue
File DAZ 224/2023

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: So moved, Madam Speaker. I can introduce it if you'd like.

Madam Speaker: Any further speakers on 19? Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. I just want to stand this down to make a few comments on what was being resolved last week at community committee regarding a brand-new building. It will be the tallest building in east Elmwood I believe, certainly in that section. There's six-storey moved to a mixed use multi-family use six-storey building at 1131 Nairn at the corner of Nairn and Stapleton, the northeast corner. It is good for our community. We need more housing. It is essentially in the right place and very close to amenities, Kildonan Place, et cetera. We did have a notable discussion during the process of the community committee to tweak it to see what we could do to optimize the circumstances. I'm pleased for my...pleased with the support from my fellow councillors. Councillor Wyatt and Councillor Browaty, and specifically mentioning in the process we've tweaked the roof to a...in the process of dealing with the developer through Landmark Planning and Design to optimize sunlight on the east, on the west side of Stapleton for the long-term residents and taxpayers that have been living there for decades on that site to optimize the shape, primarily the roof. And we've got also which is on record Councillor Browaty's assurance that in the planning approval at the upcoming community committee that he would...he would...he is going to...it will...the process will necessitate tweaking the roof to optimize a few dozen extra hours of sunlight for those people living on Stapleton. Grateful for my…the support of my fellow councillors and for Councillor Browaty's statement on that. And look forward to this development for east Elmwood, for our residents, for our future residents and the business that it will bring to east Elmwood. Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins to close.

Councillor Rollins: Sure. What once was commercial only is now mixed use residential, how wonderful. Let's keep going on building housing for Winnipeggers, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Okay, next we'll get into...

Councillor Rollins: Let's get into by-laws, Madam Speaker. Want to?

Madam Speaker: Yeah, we'll do...yeah. We do have a motion first. Yes, that's what I'm just getting here. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Motion 2 is moved by Councillor Mayes, seconded by Councillor Dobson. And the topic is Amendments to the Development Procedures By-law and this will be an automatic referral to the standing committee. And now, by-laws. Madam Clerk. Madam Chair.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
MOTIONS

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

WHEREAS s. 275(2) of The City of Winnipeg Charter previously gave the City the authority to refuse to accept a development application if Council had rejected the same application or a substantially similar development application within the previous year;

AND WHEREAS on September 1, 2023, Bill 34 amended s. 275(2) so that the City no longer has the authority to refuse a previously rejected development application;

AND WHEREAS the result of the Bill 34 is that applicants can resubmit the same development application over and over, even if it has been recently rejected by the City;

AND WHEREAS some development applications are approved administratively but are then rejected by Appeal Committee following an appeal by affected residents;

AND WHEREAS following Bill 34 residents are now having to be vigilant and appeal the same development application over and over;

AND WHEREAS to enhance democracy and increase transparency, different hearing bodies should consider development applications that are the same or substantially similar to previously-rejected development applications and those hearing bodies need to know that the development application before them is the same or substantially similar to a previously-rejected development application;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. *That the Public Service be directed to prepare and report back within 60 days with amendments to the Development Procedure By-law in respect of a new development application submitted to the City that is the same or substantially similar to a development application that was rejected within the previous year as follows:*

    A. *Where the approving authority for the previously-rejected development application was the Director:*

        i. *A public hearing must be held in respect of the new development application;*

        ii. *The hearing body and approving authority for the new development application is the relevant Community Committee;*

    B. *Every administrative report in respect of a development application must include a discussion of any previously-rejected development application.*

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

Councillor Rollins: I actually thought there was another motion from my committee Madam Speaker, but I could be wrong.

Madam Speaker: No.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 1ST READING ONLY

Councillor Rollins: Okay. Then I'll move...

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: My apologies, Madam Chair. I have to declare conflict on By-law No. 82/2023.

Madam Speaker: Okay, thank you. We'll do that momentarily if you want to stay at the moment, yeah. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Okay. I move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 54/2024, By-law No. 55/2024, and By-law No. 56/2024.

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

Clerk: By-law No. 54/2024, By-law No. 55/2024 and By-law No. 56/2024.

Councillor Rollins: …Yeah, unless you want me to actually go (inaudible) and I'll exclude it, Councillor Wyatt.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Rollins: It was on By-law 82.

Madam Speaker: If you can just stay back, just deal with the 82, that's right. And come back, Councillor Wyatt and...very shortly.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – 2ND AND 3RD READINGS

Councillor Rollins: We're good.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Rollins: I'll move that the following by-law be read a second time: By-law No. 82/2023.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 82/2023.

Councillor Rollins: And then if I can just move, Madam Speaker, that By-law No. 82/2023 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Rollins: Now, we'll invite him in?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Rollins: Okay.

Madam Speaker: Go ahead. He needs his ice skates on coming back and forth. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Yes, I move that the following by-laws be read a second time: By-law No. 81/2023, By-law No. 86/2023, By-law No. 17/2024, By-law No. 27/2024.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 81/2023, By-law No. 86/2023, By-law No. 17/2024, By-law No. 27/2024.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Rollins: I move that By-law No. 81/2023, By-law 86/2023, 17/2024 and 27/2024 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

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

Councillor Rollins: Okay. Madam Speaker, I move the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law 57/2024, By-law 58/2024, By-law 59/2024.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 57/2024, By-law No. 58/2024, By-law 59/2024.

Councillor Rollins: I move that By-laws No. 57/2024 to 59/2024 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 57/2024 to 59/2024 both inclusive.

Councillor Rollins: I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws No. 57/2024 to 59/2024 both inclusive be read a third time and that the same be passed in order to be signed and sealed, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We'll now have Question Period. Councillor Wyatt.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, Madam Chair, through you to the Chair of Property and Development, I just want to rise to take this opportunity. I know I have to pose a question, but I'll preface the question by saying thank you for the hearing the other day on the 22nd, the Monday pertaining to 24-290 Shady Shore Drive West, Mr. Grant Weber, and I know I have to ask questions, but first of all thank you for yourself, for your work that you did on that matter, Madam Chair, as well as the members of the committee. I know Mr. Weber was grateful and maybe as a question is next steps on that matter, since I have to ask a question, but thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Thank you Madam Speaker. I appreciate the question with respect to being able to speak to permits. Often times we don't speak at all as we don't, with respect to public hearing matters, Madam Speaker. But in public hearings and in matters pertaining to the permit office, it is the case that I, along with this Council, want to see improvements, and it was a very good piece of case work that Councillor Wyatt brought forward to the…with a resident who had concerns. Over 1,700 dollars in related permits and appeals of the permit were heard by the committee, and some very key process concerns that were heard by committee. In the public hearing, Councillor Wyatt was a protective ward Councillor, Madam Speaker, and his ward resident, Mr. Weber, who, matter of public record, had some deep troubles with the department in issuing a permit for a backyard deck. It is the season for backyard decks Madam Speaker, and so while this Council can feel somewhat proud that we did a goodly amount of red tape reduction with respect to what I call backyard fund, the common permits that we ask residents to get on fences and pools and hot tubs and gazebos and more. It's with some seriousness that a constituent of Councillor Wyatt's had some trouble, and it's worth putting some words on the record because residents can come forward and appeal, but it does come at a cost to them, both time consuming and a cost Madam Speaker, and so as a committee, the Appeal Committee decided to reduce the fees associated with that permit to zero because of what we saw in terms of confusion, in terms of varying prices for permits Madam Speaker, so I think it's always important to, number one, talk to the Public Service that you need to, and there is a phone number for permits. I think it's 5140…986-5140, but it's also sometimes important that when you're having conflicts with the City, that you involve, you make use of the conflict resolution system that you have, but occasionally it's really great to reach out to

your ward councillor, and in this case, Councillor Wyatt deserves some praise for being that protective ward voice and supporting his residents in a public hearing, and while we listened with an opened mind to both the Public Service as well as the resident, in public hearings, you know, Madam Speaker, it was an interesting case and I would encourage all of Council to review it and to see somewhat of my ambitions as Chair of Property and Development and the work ahead for us as Council, to clarify, make it easier and have some, you know, really good information to provide residents on permitting that is clear, that is consistent, and really gets projects out and working, and projects permitted, so if you read it, it acts in some way like a deterrent, and we don't want that as a city. We want permitted work, so it was important mirror to hold up to me as Chair, Madam Speaker, and important mirror, I think, to hold up and I do have my work cut out for me as Chair of Property and Development as it pertains to the ease in which the permitting office services, Winnipeggers and anyone who comes to develop, and that was very good, at the end of the day, it was just very good City Council work by Councillor Wyatt, Madam Speaker, so I appreciate the opportunity to talk about it.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions for our Chair? Seeing none, let's move to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste and the Environment. Councillor Mayes.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER, WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT
DATED APRIL 8, 2024

Councillor Mayes: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll introduce the report and move adoption of the consent agenda Item 1.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Okay. We have no by-laws, no motions. Any questions for our Chair, for Councillor Mayes? No questions. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services. Our Chair, Councillor Duncan.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED MARCH 6, 2024

Councillor Duncan: Thank you very much. A few reports to go through. We'll start with report of March 6, 2024. I'd like to introduce Item No. 3 of the report and move for adoption and consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Next, Councillor Duncan.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED MARCH 11, 2024

Councillor Duncan: Thank you. Reports of March 11th, I'd like to move for adoption and consent agenda of Item No. 1.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Final Report.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATED APRIL 10, 2024

Councillor Duncan: Report of April 10th, two items here, I'd like to move for adoption and consent agenda of Items 1 and 2.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? That's carried. Question Period under this committee. Any questions for Councillor Duncan. Okay, seeing none. Next is the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works. Councillor Lukes, our Chair.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
DATED APRIL 9, 2024**

Councillor Lukes: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to move for the April 9th meeting Items 1 through 5 consent agenda.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Okay, No. 3 is pulled. I'll call the question on 1, 2, 4 and 5. All in favour? Contrary? That's carried.

Councillor Eadie: …in opposition to the Winnipeg Parking Authority Business Plan.

Madam Speaker: Noted. That's Item 2. Item 2, two councillors noted in opposition. Madam Clerk, Item 3.

Item 3 - Speed Limit Increase on Reenders Drive and Installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Crossing on Transcona Boulevard (Transcona Ward)

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

Councillor Lukes: Sure. I'll listen to what my colleague has to say.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much, Madam Chair…Madam Speaker. I'm just surprised to see this here and the recommendation is to refer it back to the Public Service. This was a request from the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee. The advice of our professional Public Service was to increase the speed limit on Reenders Drive. So I'm just really curious. I apologize I didn't bring this up at EPC or even earlier. Not sure why this would not be going forward. Reenders is a four-lane divided roadway with very limited driveways on the north side. I would say the average speed based on what I witnessed down that street regularly is well above 60 kilometers an hour even. So I do believe that, you know, the percentiles and all that makes sense for it to be 60. So I'm just curious as to why we're playing politics with speed limits when this ability was moved from the Province to us. This is what I feared, and it's coming to fruition here, so I'm just curious to hear what happened.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I could shed some light on that question Councillor Browaty just to…I was the...I believe I was the one who initiated the process to have the speed limit increased. And the reason that...and it…we were assured by the Public Service they can get back to us in short order, was the confusion caught that could be potentially caused, and I was able to chat with Mr. Patman about this about the 170 metres east of the eastern boundary of Lagimodiere that that's where the speed limit…and if you actually go and look at that location, there's a nice little off-ramp or an approach going into the loading dock of the taxation data centre, nicely forested, that could easily be a speed trap. And my concern is the confusion. I think it's simpler just to have the speed limit from...based from the intersection of Lagimodiere to Peguis, and…rather than this kind of transition. And so that's why, and they felt it makes sense. They're going to look at it again, bring it back. And that was really the main reason that that part of the report should be...that's the only section of the report that should be going back actually. The only…the parts two, three are going forward as it stands, the way I read it right now, but maybe the Speaker can...and that's regarding the rectangular flashing lights on Transcona Boulevard at that crosswalk there, so.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Lukes to close.

Councillor Lukes: I think that answers Councillor Browaty's question so that's all I have to say.

Madam Speaker: Call the question on Item 3. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. We have a notice of motion that's been circulated, moved by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Schreyer. It's regarding portable asphalt equipment. It'll be a notice of motion appearing on our next agenda, May 30th.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
MOTIONS

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

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is presently at the mercy of the private sector for access to asphalt plants and asphalt material, impacting the City as it attempts to address the numerous complaints we have been receiving for pothole repairs;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg originally had its own asphalt plant that was decommissioned at the time of the construction of the Virology Lab, with promises then made that a new plant would be constructed by and for the use of the Public Works Department, City of Winnipeg, but that promise has gone unfulfilled;

AND WHEREAS since that time, the technology has dramatically improved, in terms of asphalt plant costs, the ability to now build and operate smaller asphalt plants, as well as mobile and portable asphalt plants (see Appendix A), all of which would increase the City of Winnipeg's ability to efficiently address both pothole and road repair complaints;

AND WHEREAS the ability as a City to fix and conduct timely road repairs has been dramatically affected by the City's 100% reliance on the private sector for asphalt, including, but not limited to, exorbitant inflation costs that have risen far above existing rates of inflation (Consumer Price Index, CPI), as well as by the fact the private sector builds in significant profit margins, while at the same time prioritizing their own access to asphalt over the city's need to access asphalt;

AND WHEREAS the private construction industry in Winnipeg has been subject to consolidation that has reduced the number of actual companies available to compete, placing the City of Winnipeg in a poor strategic position in terms of being able to contain future road repair costs, while concurrently negatively affecting the City's ability to address the service needs of the citizens of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg re-establish its own asphalt making capacity by the purchase of an asphalt plant and/or by investing in portable and/or mobile asphalt equipment (see Appendix A), allowing the Public Works Department to end its 100% reliance on the private sector for asphalt.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – THREE READINGS

Madam Speaker: We'll now move into by-laws. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Okay, I'd like to move that the following by-laws be read a first time: By-law No. 47/24, 48/24 and 49/24.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Lukes: I'd like to move that By-laws No. 47/24 and 49/24 both inclusive be read a second time.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Lukes: And I'd like to move that the rule be suspended and the By-laws No. 47/24 to 49/24 both inclusive be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Madam Speaker: Mr. Clerk, that was the...

City Clerk: Yeah, we missed the reading of the by-laws by the Clerk there.

Madam Speaker: Yes, we missed a section.

Clerk: So for the first time that By-law No. 47/2024, By-law No. 48/2024 and By-law No. 49/2024. And then for the second time, By-laws No. 47/2024 to 49/2024 both inclusive.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. That concludes...thank you. Councillor Lukes. Any questions for our Chair of Public Works?

All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Eadie, question for Councillor Lukes, no? Councillor Rollins.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Rollins: Thank you. Through you Madam Speaker to Councillor Lukes, well over 200 days ago, Councillor Lukes and I authored a motion to have the Public Service look at a pedestrian prioritized pilot for Osborne Village. There were two components with respect to the pedestrian prioritized pilot, a slip lane and a scramble crossing that we wanted the Public Service to look at. What resulted this month at the standing policy committee was neither looking at a scramble crossing, nor looking at the elimination of the slip lane, but my first question, Madam Speaker, is why not the Council-directed motion to the standing policy committee to look at a pedestrian prioritized pilot for Osborne Village?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Right. All right, so I'll address the slip lane first. In our discussions…we had quite a lively discussion period over the slip lane in Osborne Village. I want to thank Councillor Wyatt for coming forward and giving us a bit of history on the quite-involved discussion that occurred when the Safeway and that complex went in, and how Councillor Gerbasi at the time was very concerned about pedestrian accessibility, vehicular accessibility, and safety, and that I believe I looked it up, it was 10 years ago I think. No, maybe a little longer than that. I looked it up. Anyways, what was decided on the slip lane is for now, not to proceed because we're going to wait 'til the bike lane…there's a bike lane that's going in, there's construction that's occurring and there are some adjustments being laid to the curbs and the slip lane, so we thought, the bike lane project's underway. It's...construction's occurring. Let's deal with the slip lane and look at it and see how the bike lane functions with all of that. Transit also came forward, and it had some incredibly valid points about them having priority signalization requirements in that area and that they really needed to have folks on that island for the flowing of transit and the priority signalization, because if the slip lane changed and the dynamics of that intersection changed, then the priority signalization wouldn't work and it just was a domino effect. So, I'm actually very pleased to say that all of the committee unanimously supported the studying of a scramble. Now the Public Service suggested what they do is, which we supported too, and I don't know if we suggested it or they suggested it in retrospect, but we wanted to look at a few sites in Winnipeg for a scramble, Osborne being one of them. So that is being studied for a scramble along with other areas. The department will come back and tell us, this is good and bad about this intersection, good and bad about that intersection, good and bad about Osborne, so it may not have come across clear, but we're studying multiple intersections for a scramble, including the Osborne and River intersection.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Rollins, second question.

Councillor Rollins: So, Madam Speaker, will…the scramble was supported. Can Councillor Lukes explain why when a pedestrian-prioritized pilot was requested by Council, why she feels that with respect to a Council-directed motion, that now studying it in one, if not, many areas, is in following and keeping with Council direction when Council's recommendation was a pedestrian-prioritized pilot for Osborne Village.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Well, I guess it's the committee's interpretation and I felt it even more positive that we were going to be studying others, so we are studying a project in Osborne Village, at River and Osborne. It is being studied along with others. As a big advocate of active transportation and looking at other intersections and maybe having the possibility of a couple scrambles, I felt why not, the committee thought why not. So, the Osborne and River one is being studied and other ones are being studied. The department supported that, we all supported that. I don't know if there's any other intersections in the City of Winnipeg that have more population coming back and forth. We did comment, or pedestrians, we did comment that we would like to have seen some pedestrian numbers, which they will come back with in their next report, but the other thing I want to mention is, what we did discuss in quite a bit of detail about a pedestrian scramble is, the City of Winnipeg has never done one, so there's a lot of things to take into consideration. To change the infrastructure at an intersection is costly. It simply can't be done in 30, 60, 90 days. They have to look at it. They have to…they have to look at the synchronization of the lights throughout the area, because when you change the synchronization at an intersection, it's a domino effect elsewhere. You also have to take into consideration accessibility and the curb cuts and access points for a scramble. It's not just the 90-degree curb cuts for the sidewalk, so I don't know, I'm happy they're studying it and I'm thrilled they're studying a couple others.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Your final question, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: Will Councillor Lukes commit to re-look at the issue of the slip lane following the bike lane construction this summer? The BIZ zone…and following, sorry, following the bike lane construction. It took 180 days to not come up with a…

Madam Speaker: The question, Councillor Rollins.

Councillor Rollins: …pedestrian prioritized pilot, so will she also commit to meeting with the BIZ zone and letting them know she's re-looking at the issue of the slip lane, the sequence and the timing, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: That's lots of questions. Okay. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Well, it is on the record that we will be looking at the slip lane after the bike lane goes in. We didn't write it into a motion or anything which maybe we should have, but it's definitely on the record. We definitely discussed this, that once the infrastructure goes in for the bike lane, we'll see how it unfolds, and we'll look at it again. It was a very dynamic meeting and some of you may recall if you've watched it. You may have missed that, it's understandable. But that's what we said.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Lukes: No, it was dynamic. We used the gavel six times, so I…you know, I don't do that that often, so.

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

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Chair acknowledge…

Madam Speaker: Councillor Wyatt. Question to Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Wyatt: By yourself to Councillor Lukes out, will the Chair of Public Works acknowledge that often there's many comparisons made to Winnipeg to other cities when it comes to the on-street bike paths that are being created, taking lanes away from vehicles, comparisons to Calgary, Ottawa, Edmonton, however, Calgary has an extensive LRT system throughout their city. Ottawa has an extensive BRT system with dedicated corridors and now LRT and subway in their city. Edmonton has LRT lines throughout their city. Vancouver has extensive sky train lines throughout the city. Winnipeg has none of it, other than one BRT line to the U of M. We have…what do we have? We have our regional streets. That's our main corridors. That's how we move people both on buses and on trucks for goods and people, and that we...would you acknowledge that we're trying to do everything with one transportation network as a growing city with growing demand and congestion and demand for the use of our regional streets, and that there is a frustration out there…

Madam Speaker: Question, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: …a general frustration. Would you acknowledge that frustration by many citizens of Winnipeg who are getting frustrated by a policy of taking lanes away for one group and affecting all these other individuals including transportation of goods and services that need these regional streets. Will you acknowledge this frustration exists?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I will acknowledge what I've been hearing a lot on my phone lately, and what I will acknowledge is residents are frustrated, far, far more than bike lanes about the potholes. And I got an answer for you on that. So honestly, one or two, if that, emails that I get. Maybe I'll get inundated, but I'm not hearing it.

Madam Speaker: Second question.

Councillor Wyatt: I did. Yeah, but I…and my second question is related to the potholes because, like other members of Council, we've been getting calls, and could you tell us what's happening in terms of that with Public Works? I'm playing phone tag with the Director, and I almost took my front end off of my truck the other day so could the Councillor just elaborate on what's happening with regards to that? Thank you.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I would love to, and I would love to ask, Madam Speaker, for support from our council colleagues on this. So, as you know, we've…and I sent an update out I believe of what's going on with the pothole season. We've got 10 to 14 crews out filling potholes, but here's the scenario. Many, many, many of our streets are old. Many of our streets

are in bad condition. So when you're filling a pothole on an old street, it's like filling a cavity in a rotten tooth. I mean it really is, right? Now the other thing I'd like to suggest is, and make you aware of, and I think you are, you know. We've heard a lot about the new deal, but I would like to articulate, and this isn't Janice making it up, this is the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Out of every 1 tax dollar that we spend, that you spend, that we all spend in taxes, 10 cents comes to the city, 40 cents goes to the province and 50 cents goes to the federal government. So, we have this 10 cents that we are using to deliver services to build fire halls, to build rec campuses, to try and allow people to flush the toilet and have sewer capacity and to patch our roads. And it's just not cutting it. So, I throw out the offer as has Chris Lorenc, as has former mayor Glen Murray, as has former mayor Brian Bowman and current Mayor Gillingham saying, look, this funding model doesn't work. We're going to have potholes forever in perpetuity. People have asked me, when does pothole season end? Doesn't end. It goes on and on and on because we're filling a rotten tooth. So, I encourage you all to speak to your provincial and federal representatives and in a very nice manner and the right timing, to really, really encourage a new funding alignment.**Madam Speaker:** Thank you. Final question, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: It's more the British North American Act than the Constitution that we got to be brought into and then we'll get report, but anyway, to your point. Is it possible for Public Works to at least, in light of the fact that we got crews but we don't have, you know, probably enough to cover all the potholes right away? Could at least somebody go around and mark and barricade the ones that are dangerous until they can be repaired, based on the calls? And they would have these based on the 311 calls. Is that something that could be referred to the Director to consider please?

Councillor Lukes: So, I hear you. I'm going to make the analogy in South Winnipeg. We have a lot of geese crossing the road. We've seen really, really horrific collisions and results of that when people stop to let the goose cross the road. So I'm envisioning a barricade on Kenaston, and another barricade on Kenaston and another barricade on Kenaston, and I really don't think that's a good thing, but I will take it back to the department and ask.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Next is Councillor Schreyer.

Councillor Schreyer: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Is Councillor Lukes saying that our ability to fill potholes is getting worse?

Councillor Lukes: No, I think our ability to fill potholes is stellar. I think the challenge is we have hundreds and hundreds…I don't think, I know…we have hundreds and hundreds of potholes and back to the filling analogy. Just because we fill it doesn't mean it's going to stay. A little shift in weather, hot day, cold day, rain, water. Pop, out comes the filling. So then we're back two weeks later at that same pothole filling it again.

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

Councillor Schreyer: Okay, so just so we're on the same page, we're back filling them again because we're not doing as good of a job at filling these potholes? I don't mean to be trite about this. Just so we're all on the same page on this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: Certainly. So, I'll just make an analogy here. I'm working on a project with Councillor Gilroy in her ward. We were on Wolseley on the weekend. We had a wonderful discussion, so then I proceeded to get in my vehicle because I had to go to Roblin Boulevard. So I drove down one of the streets in Wolseley. Oh my god. Oh my goodness. When you have a street that's, I'm going to say 50 years old, that's full of patches already, and you're patching the patches, it just really doesn't last. It's like, again, taking a really nice filling and putting it in a rotten tooth, and then the tooth, you eat, you know, a piece of candy, and a part of your tooth falls off and then the filling falls out. Like, it's really difficult to fill broken things and we have a broken road, an old road, and we're trying to fill it. I don't know, are you sort of getting the analogy here?

Madam Speaker: Band-aid solution. Thank you. Councillor Schreyer, final question.

Councillor Schreyer: Oh thank you. So are we saying our ability to renew our roads is getting harder?

Madam Speaker: Our Question Period has actually ended.

Councillor Schreyer: Extension?

Madam Speaker: Extension of time. Councillor Eadie will be our last speaker. Councillor…two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Noted.

Councillor Schreyer: Madam Speaker, may I repeat my question? I'm sure if it was heard.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Councillor Schreyer: Sure. So are we saying our ability to renew our streets, so that we're not constantly re-bandaging our streets. Is our ability to renew our streets getting harder?

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: A hundred percent, our ability to renew our streets is getting worse because that 10 cents on the dollar that we're getting is going to sewer capacity, building fire halls, building rec campuses. It's going to fixing other old infrastructure. It goes back to the 10 cents on the dollar. We're a growing city, and all of this housing and growth is great, but we can barely keep up with what we have, so yes, our ability to repair roads is going down hill.

Madam Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thanks, Madam Speaker. It's a...I guess a "do you know" because I know that the Chairperson, and this is for all my colleagues on Council. When it comes to establishing a new type of intersection called a scramble intersection, you know, it's taken like probably 50 years for people who are blind to figure out how to cross Osborne and River at the moment. So I just want to let my council colleagues know that we need to actually have a public consultation with persons with disabilities about what they're going to do to make it a scramble intersection, because people who are blind are still going to cross at 90 degrees. We are not going to cross diagonally, and if they open up the curb cuts that…even wider, how is somebody who's blind going to know whether they landed on the sidewalk or walking down the bike path, that was a mistake and error that they made when they re-did the Queen Elizabeth and they put a cycle trail over it, and I got yelled at because there was no way of me knowing whether I was on a sidewalk or a bike path, and the bike cyclists come yelling at me, I was on my way to go rowing at the Winnipeg Rowing Club on Lyndale Drive, and they're yelling at me so, please, let's not move too fast on going with scramble intersection until we've had a universal design look at what's going to happen.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Schreyer moves extension of two minutes. All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Councillor Lukes, answer the question please. Yeah. Thank you.

Councillor Lukes: Absolutely, Councillor Eadie. This was a discussion or this was a consideration also and that's another reason why we can't do something like this in 90 days, and...or 30 or 20 or however many days. We need to do public consultation on this.

Madam Speaker: Thank you.

Councillor Eadie: One last question, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure if the Chairperson is aware of this, but I heard some comments. You know, I have an incident…potholes that aren't in the path of cars necessarily are used by cyclists, and cyclists get injured through potholes and their bikes get wrecked by potholes as well, so every pothole needs to be filled when they're there to fill a pothole. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Lukes.

Councillor Lukes: I could just respond to that. Mr. Cantor and I, the road maintenance oversight person, Mr. Cantor and I had good discussion about this and he assured me that they would be also prioritizing for the vulnerable road user, the potholes in the bike lanes and the potholes in the bike corridor on roads that don't have protected lanes. He also, and I sought for a fact and actually I've received more emails on that than the confusion with bike lanes and vehicles. I've received many emails from the cycling community thanking us for being proactive on sweeping the bike lanes this year because we've all really stressed and I have stressed to the department to prioritize the vulnerable road user first.

Madam Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Chambers moves adjournment.

Councillor Chambers: I...so moved.

Madam Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried. Please stay for roll call. Madam Clerk.

ROLL CALL

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

Madam Speaker: Meeting adjourned.

Council adjourned at 2:34 p.m.