# COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

## Wednesday, December 17, 2025 (Un-audited)

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Hansard begins at the 24:36 minute mark after the start of the meeting.

NICK KASPER: TO ASSIST WITH THE FUNDING OF FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDICS ON THE TRUCKS, BUT MOST CERTAINLY THAT FUNDING IS NOT PROVIDING US THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO CONTINUE DOING THAT WORK. WHEN I STARTED 20 YEARS AGO, WE WERE THE BUSIEST DEPARTMENT IN CANADA WITH TRUCKS RUNNING 4,000 CALLS A YEAR. WE DELIVERED THAT INTEGRATED SERVICE WITH THE CONTINGENT THAT WE HAD. THOSE TRUCKS ARE RUNNING 8,000 CALLS A YEAR TODAY. WE HAVE NOD ADDED A SINGLE FIRE TRUCK IN THAT TIME. IN FACT WE HAVE TAKEN ONE AWAY. WE CAN'T EXPECT THE CITY TO GROW IN POPULATION, FOR ITS CALL VOLUME TO EXCEED -- FOR US TO SAY OUR APPARATUS OF AVAILABILITY HAS DECLINED FROM 95% TO 60%, BUT WE CAN STILL VOLUNTARILY TAKE ON THE ADDED BURDEN OF EMS SERVICE DELIVERY WITHOUT INTRODUCING ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. THAT IS AN ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. I THINK THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED THROUGH CONTRACT WITH THE PROVINCE. AS FAR AS TODAY'S BUDGET GOES, THE WELLNESS OFFICER POSITIONS ARE NOT JUST THERE FOR FIREFIGHTERS. WE DIDN'T FUND 11 WELLNESS OFFICERS TO ADDRESS ONE TENTH OF THE TIME LOSS IN WFPS, BUT NINE TENTHS OF THE TIME LOSS IS BEING COVERED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. THE OVERTIME COST IS BEING COVERED BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, BUT OUR TAXPAYER RESOURCES WILL GO TO THOSE OFFICERS DESIGNED TO GET THOSE PARAMEDICS BACK TO WORK.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU FOR THE RESPONSE. SECOND QUESTION?

COUNILLOR WYATT: FURTHER TO BOTH YOUR PRESENTATIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE SEEING OUT THERE. REALLY YOU'RE ON THE FRONT LINE OF WHAT WE -- THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, AND WE MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT, I CALL IT THE URBAN HEALTH CRISIS TAKING PLACE IN THE STREETS OF WINNIPEG TODAY, MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION ISSUE UNFOLDING DAILY, 24/7 OUT THERE. HOW HAS IT CHANGED IN THE LAST, LET'S SAY, FOUR YEARS OR LAST IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU'VE SEEN AND WHAT MEMBERS SEE? WHAT HAS REALLY CHANGED? AND IT SEEMS IT'S GOTTEN JUST A HECK OF A LOT WORSE, AND THAT'S, YOU KNOW, A WINNIPEGER OBSERVING THIS, BUT I THINK ALL WINNIPEGGERS ARE SEEING THIS, AND I CAN TELL YOU IN THE LAST ELECTION, IF I JUST MAY, MADAM SPEAKER.

MADAM SPEAKER: THE QUESTION HAS BEEN POSED, COUNCILLOR WYATT.

NICK KASPER: THROUGH THE CHAIR, THANK YOU TO THE COUNCILLOR FOR YOUR

QUESTION, YES, THE SERVICE HAS CHANGED. IN 2020, THE WINNIPEG FIRE PARAMEDIC SERVICE PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, FIRST EVER IN ITS HISTORY 2020 STRATEGIC DIRECTION DETAIL COMPRISED OF THE MASTER PLAN, THE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT STANDARDS THAT COVER THE SURVEY. THAT PLAN, THAT DIRECTION IN 2020 OUTLINED A PATH FORWARD FOR THE SERVICE TO COMPENSATE FOR A GROWING CITY AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICES. IT IDENTIFIED THAT WE WERE CRITICALLY SHORT AND UNDERPERFORMING AT THAT TIME, AND, YOU KNOW, WE RISKED NOT BEING ABLE TO DELIVER THE MANDATED SERVICES THAT WERE REQUIRED, AND IN 2020, THIS STRATEGIC DIRECTION DETAIL ESTIMATED WITH POPULATION GROWTH OUR CALL VOLUME WOULD CLIMB TO 133,000 CALLS BY 2040. STRUCTURE FIRES WENT UP DOZENS OF PER CENT. OUR APPARATUS AVAILABILITY CONTINUED TO DECLINE. OUR RESPONSE TIMES CONTINUED TO INCREASE. WE ARE FACING MORE CALLS THAN ANY SERVICE IN NORTH AMERICA, AND WE'RE NOT ABLE TO KEEP UP, AND WE'RE SEEING THAT IN OUTCOMES. HOUSES ARE BURNING TO THE GROUND WITH FIRE TRUCKS TAKING 15 MINUTES TO ARRIVE. FAMILY MEMBERS ARE DOING CPR. ON THEIR LOVED ONE WHILE THEIR CHILDREN WATCH FOR A QUARTER OF AN HOUR BEFORE THE FIRST CREW WALKS IN THE DOOR, AND FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO SACRIFICE, TO BEAR THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSING THAT TRAUMA AND DOING OUR BEST TO HELP, IT'S ONE THING TO WALK IN THE DOOR AND DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN AND GO HOME KNOWING THAT THAT PERSON DIDN'T MAKE IT. IT'S AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ANIMAL TO WALK IN THE DOOR KNOWING YOU ALREADY FAILED THEM, THAT THIS EFFORT IS FUTILE, AND THAT YOU ALSO LIVE IN THIS CITY AND EXPECT THE SERVICE TO BE DELIVERED TO YOUR FAMILY, AND WHAT IF IT WAS MY FAMILY AND WHAT IF IT WAS MY WIFE DOING CPR ON ME FOR A QUARTER OF AN HOUR? IT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE. IT -- PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE KNOWING THAT THEY FAILED BEFORE THEY EVEN ARRIVED, AND THAT'S WHAT'S CHANGED IN OUR SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL. WE HAVE NOT ALLOCATED THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND, AND THE DEMAND HAS EXCEEDED OUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS.

MADAM SPEAKER: FINAL QUESTION?

COUNILLOR WYATT: YEAH, I KNOW THE REALITY IS WE'VE HAD TWO CHAIRS OF FINANCE WHICH HAVE WRITTEN BUDGETS WHICH HAVE ENSURED THAT WE ARE ALWAYS IN A POSITION OF SCARCITY IN THIS CITY RATHER THAN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE, SO I GUESS MY QUESTION, MY FINAL QUESTION IS: HOW DO WE GET OUT OF THIS MESS GOING FORWARD? DO WE START WITH THIS BUDGET? DO WE SAY THIS IS A ONE-YEAR BUDGET, LET'S WORK ON IT STARTING NEXT YEAR? HOW CRITICAL IS IT THAT WE START ADDRESSING THIS NOW IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU'RE SEEING OUT THERE?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU. THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE COUNCILLOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION. IT'S ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL, AND LET ME BE CLEAR. THIS IS NOT MY OPINION. THIS IS NOT MY BELIEF. THIS IS NOT OFFERING SOMETHING I'VE COME UP WITH ON MY OWN. THIS IS YOUR REPORTS, YOUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION, YOUR CONSULTANTS, YOUR CITY OF WINNIPEG AUDIT DEPARTMENT. THIS ISSUE FIRST AROSE IN THE EARLY 2000s WHEN WE HAD OVERTIME NUMBERS BETWEEN 1. 5 TO 2 MILLION. WE BECAME CONCERNED WITH $2 MILLION IN EXPENDITURE. AT THAT POINT WE COMMISSIONED AN AUDIT AND WE SAID HOW DO WE FIX THIS PROBLEM. WE'RE SPENDING TOO MUCH

MONEY. IT'S INEFFICIENT, AND THE AUDIT WAS UNEQUIVOCAL AND REPORTED TO COUNCIL IN 2009 THAT THE ISSUE IS YOUR STAFFING RATIO. YOU HAVE NOT HIRED ENOUGH PEOPLE TO COMPENSATE FOR THE ALLOTMENT OF VACATION, SICK TIME USE, INCREASING DIVERSITY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION, MATERNITY LEAVE, AND W. C. B. RATES, AND AS WE ATTEND MORE CALLS AND ARE EXPOSED TO MORE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRESSORS, WCB RATES CLIMB, AND IN 2009 THEY RECOMMENDED THE STAFFING RATIO TO BE -- ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. TO DATE, THAT RECOMMENDATION HAS NOT BEEN MOVED UPON IN THE DECADES SINCE. THE ONLY CHANGE TO OUR STAFFING RATIO WE'VE SEEN WAS AN INJECTION OF 3.4 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WHICH MOVED US FROM 1.28 UP 0.1%. EVERY REPORT BACK TO FINANCE HAS SAID THE SAME THING FROM THE FINANCIAL COMPTROLLER, WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE STAFFING RATIO, AND UNTIL WE DO, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SPEND MILLIONS AND MILLIONS AND MILLIONS. WE'VE SEEN THE TRAJECTORY. AND I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH MORE CLEARLY IT CAN BE SAID. SO THAT IS THE SOLUTION, AND I WOULD ARGUE THAT THE BEST TIME TO HAVE IMPLEMENTED THAT SOLUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN IN 2009. WE'RE IN A VERY, VERY DEEP HOLE AT THIS POINT, BUT PUSHING IT OFF ANOTHER YEAR IS JUST GOING TO MAKE IT MORE EXPENSIVE AND THE OUTCOMES WORSE, SO TODAY IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. NEXT QUESTION, NOTING THERE'S NO TIME ON THE CLOCK.

[INAUDIBLE].

MADAM SPEAKER: OKAY, COUNCILLOR WYATT, THE STANDARD IS FIVE MINUTES, USUALLY WE START WITH, SO COUNCILLOR WYATT MOVES FIVE-MINUTE EXTENSION. CARRIED. IT'S USUALLY DO TWO, BUT WE DO GO TO FIVE.

COUNCILLOR MAYES: YOU SAID SOMETHING THAT STAYED WITH ME WHICH WAS WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THE OVERTIME. I MEAN, I THINK THE COUNCILLOR WYATT, I'VE BEEN HERE A WHILE. WE USED TO GET THESE PRESENTATIONS OF, WELL, HERE'S THE OVERTIME USE AND, YOU KNOW, PERSON A IS CALLING IN SICK ON THE MONDAY SO THEIR FRIEND CAN GET THE OVERTIME SHIFT AND THEN FRIEND CALLS IN TWO WEEKS LATER SICK AND IT'S AN INCOME ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY, BUT I'M STRUCK BY YOUR COMMENTS. YOU'RE SAYING I HAVE A FULL-TIME JOB, I DON'T NEED THE OVERTIME. I DON'T WANT THE OVERTIME. I THINK THIS IS A CHANGE IN -- REALLY A CHANGE IN SORT OF HOW THIS PLACE HAS OPERATED OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. CAN YOU SPEAK A BIT ABOUT THAT? A DECADE AGO I THINK THEY WERE DOING THIS TO GET MORE MONEY AND YOU'RE SAYING I DON'T WANT THE OVERTIME, SO I WANT YOU TO HIRE MORE FIREFIGHTERS, SO JUST IF YOU CAN SPEAK A BIT ABOUT THAT?

ADRIENNE HOBBS: THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION. I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD AND SAY THAT NOTION IS A LITTLE INSULTING TO ALL OF US, QUITE FRANKLY, AT THIS POINT IN TIME. TEN YEARS AGO IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FEASIBLE FOR US TO SAY, YEAH, YOU KNOW WHAT, I WOULD LOVE TO PICK UP AN EXTRA SHIFT THIS WEEK TO BE ABLE TO PAY FOR X, Y, Z FOR MY WIFE AND KIDS, HUSBAND AND KIDS, WHATEVER. WHAT WE SAW ON THE

STREETS TEN YEARS AGO VERSUS WHAT WE'RE SEEING TODAY, LIKE, THE CALL VOLUME, THE BUILDING FIRES, LIKE, BEING ON A FIRE GROUND HEARING A MAYDAY, THINGS LIKE THAT. WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO PROCESS THAT AND ABSORB IT, SO FOR -- LIKE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO SUGGEST THAT I WOULD BOOK OFF TODAY SO THAT MY FRIEND COULD GET OVERTIME AND THEY WOULD BOOK OFF FOR ME NEXT WEEK SO I COULD GET OVERTIME, THAT'S NOT THE CASE. LIKE, OFTENTIMES WE'RE STARTING SHORT WITHOUT BOOKING OFF. LIKE, WE HAVE A CONTINGENT OF 167 FIREFIGHTERS THAT HAVE TO BE ON SHIFT EVERY DAY, AND JUST BECAUSE OF W. C. B. RATES AND THE HOLIDAYS THAT WE'RE ALLOTTED, WE OFTEN WILL START A SHIFT LESS THAN 167, AND THEN YOU HAVE FIREFIGHTERS BOOKING OFF ON ILLNESS BECAUSE OF THE CALL VOLUME OR EVEN JUST GENERAL LIFE. LIKE, I'M SURE -- SORRY -- YOU GUYS HAVE ALL HAD SICK DAYS. YOU HAVE CHILDREN YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF. YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THAT MANNER, AND SO DO WE, AND QUITE FRANKLY WORKING 70 PLUS HOURS A WEEK MEANS THAT, YEAH, WHEN MY SHIFT ROLLS AROUND ON MONDAY, I'M PROBABLY NOT FEELING UP TO THE TASK, AND MAYBE I WILL END UP HAVING TO BOOK OFF BECAUSE MY MENTAL HEALTH HAS SUFFERED OR MY PHYSICAL HEALTH HAS SUFFERED, AND I JUST -- I CAN'T GO TO WORK TODAY.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. NEXT QUESTION.

THANK YOU FOR THAT. THAT IS VERY WELL SAID, SO THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: OKAY. NEXT IS COUNCILLOR GILROY FOLLOWED BY COUNCILLOR ROLLINS.

COUNCILLOR GILROY: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. THROUGH YOU, MADAM SPEAKER, YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT AWARE THAT THERE IS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO ADD 20 FTEs IN 2026. THE COST IS AROUND $700,000, AND CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THAT COST, LIKE, WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN IN 2026, WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN IN TERMS OF, YOU KNOW, US HAVING TO PAY THE OVERTIME? CAN YOU CONNECT THOSE DOTS? I KNOW THAT WE HAD A REALLY GREAT DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT AT THE COMMITTEE LEVEL, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF EVERYONE'S HEARD THAT. THANK YOU.

NICK KASPER: THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE COUNCILLOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION, AND WE'RE VERY PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THERE'S A MOTION ON THE FLOOR. TO PUT THIS INTO PERSPECTIVE, THROUGH THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR, WE WERE SPENDING NEARLY $1 MILLION PER MONTH ON OVERTIME. WE WERE TRACKING IT AS WE WENT. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS PER WEEK ON OVERTIME THAT YOU'RE PAYING SENIOR OFFICERS TO COME IN AT DOUBLE TIME RATES WHEN YOU COULD BE PAYING PEOPLE IN A RESOURCE POOL AT THE LOWEST INTRODUCTORY WAGE TO COME IN AND DO THAT. THOSE SENIOR OFFICERS ARE INCURRING CHRONIC AND ACUTE OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE THAT'S LEADING TO WCB TIME, AND WE'RE PAYING FOR THEM ON THAT END. SO YEAH, YOU HEARD IT NOT FROM MY MOUTH AT SPC, BUT WHEN YOU ASKED THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE FIRE CHIEF AND THE FINANCIAL COMPTROLLER, WHAT IMPACT WOULD WE SEE DOUBLING THE RESOURCES IN 2026, AND THEY SAID THE SOONER WE CAN GET PEOPLE HIRED, THE FASTER WE CAN REDUCE OVERTIME, AND THE

EARLIER WE CAN TAKE THE STRESS OFF OUR STAFF WHO ARE AT THEIR MAX. THEY WELCOMED THAT NEWS. THEY CAME TO YOU ASKING FOR 40 BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY NEEDED. JOHN HALL IS INCREDIBLE AT HIS ROLE. HE'S DONE THE MATH, 40 WASN'T PULLED OUT OF A HAT, AND 40 WOULD ONLY GET US HALFWAY TO WHERE WE NEEDED TO BE FIVE YEARS AGO, SO 20 IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION --

MADAM SPEAKER: COUNCILLOR DUNCAN MOVES EXTENSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED. COUNCILLOR GILROY, SECOND QUESTION?

COUNCILLOR GILROY: THANK YOU, AND CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT MORE SO EVERYONE THAT MAYBE WASN'T AT THE COMMITTEE CAN HEAR ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE COMPARISONS OF OTHER CITIES IN CANADA, COMPARED TO THE CALL VOLUMES WE'RE GETTING, COMPARED TO THE COSTS THAT WE ARE DELIVERING AT? CAN YOU MAKE THOSE COMPARISONS SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR AND UNDERSTAND THAT?

NICK KASPER: THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE COUNCILLOR, THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION, AND WE APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR AT STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ALONG WITH OUR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL COMPTROLLER, AND THOSE FOLKS POINTED OUT, AND IT WAS ASKED BY THE COMMITTEE TO VERIFY THE DELEGATES' INPUT, AND THEY SAID WE ARE SAYING THE SAME THING, AND SO YOUR BUDGET AND YOUR BENCHMARKING RELIES ON MNBC REPORTS COMPARING OUR MUNICIPALITY WITH MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS CANADA WITH SERVICE DELIVERY, AND IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES. NUMBER ONE, OUR FIRE SERVICE IS BELOW COST, BELOW AVERAGE. NUMBER TWO, OUR CALL VOLUME IS THREE TO FOUR TIMES PER CAPITA THE CALL VOLUME OF OTHER CITIES, AND IN FACT, OUR TOTAL CALL VOLUME EXCEEDS CITIES TWICE OUR SIZE. WE SEE THAT WE ARE THE SLOWEST RESPONDING DEPARTMENT IN CANADA WITH A BENCHMARK OF FOUR MINUTES ADOPTED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. FIVE YEARS AGO WE WERE AT EIGHT MINUTES AND 20 SECONDS, AND THAT NUMBER HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE.

COUNCILLOR GILROY: HE HAS SAID OUR SERVICE IS SLOWER THAN IT SHOULD BE. AND THE OUTCOMES, WHAT MATTERS WHEN SOMEONE CALLS 911, IS SOMEONE GOING TO BE THERE OR WILL MY HOUSE - ALLEVIATE SOME OF THAT. COULD YOU TALK ABOUT THE AVERAGE OVERTIME THAT WE'RE SEEING RIGHT NOW BY THE PARAMEDICS?

NICK KASPER: YEAH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION, COUNCILLOR. I'LL DO MY BEST TO ADDRESS IT. OVERTIME IS DRIVEN BY STAFFING RATIO. THAT'S UNEQUIVOCAL. THIS IS THE -- WHAT WE KNOW TO BE TRUE. AS MS. HOBBS POINTED OUT EARLIER, WHEN WE START OUR SHIFT, WE REQUIRE 167 FIREFIGHTERS ON DUTY TO KEEP THE TRUCKS GOING AND THE LIGHTS ON. OUR CURRENT STAFFING RATIO, 1. 28, AFFORDS US A CUSHION OF APPROXIMATELY 40 POSITIONS. WE ARE -- AND THAT CUSHION IS INTENDED TO COVER HOLIDAY ALLOTMENT, ILLNESS, WCB, MATERNITY LEAVE, YOU NAME IT, EVERY REASON FOR ABSENCE. WE ARE SEEING SHIFTS WHERE WE'RE STARTING 60, 70 PEOPLE SHORT WHEN WE HAVE A CUSHION OF 40 NECESSITATING OVER 30 FIREFIGHTERS BEING CALLED IN PER DAY, AND EACH OF THOSE FIREFIGHTERS ARE TAKING ON ADDITIONAL WORK LOAD,

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INJURY, AND IT'S COSTING THE TAXPAYER DOUBLE TIME. I MEAN, THE UNION STANDING HERE BEFORE YOU WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE DOUBLED THEIR SALARIES ASKING YOU TO PAY OUR MEMBERS LESS MONEY. IF WE HEARD COUNCILLOR MAYES EARLIER, WE DON'T NEED SOME KIND OF SCHEME TO BOOK ONE OFF TO PASS ONE ON. NUMBER ONE, OUR MEMBERS LOVE COMING TO WORK. I KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE RETIRED NEVER USING A SICK DAY. OUR MEMBERS HATE BEING OFF WORK. BUT THE PHONE DOESN'T STOP RINGING, AND WE -- YOU KNOW, IF PEOPLE DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO WORK, THEY WOULDN'T SELL THEIR HOLIDAYS FOR STRAIGHT TIME, BY THE WAY. WE SELL OUR HOLIDAYS BACK TO YOU AT STRAIGHT TIME AND WE HAVE DONE IT THROUGHOUT COVID IN AN ATTEMPT, A GOOD-FAITH ATTEMPT TO REDUCE OVERTIME DEMAND, AND EVEN THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, AND HOLIDAYS ARE REHAB AND RECOVERY FOR OUR MEMBERS. THEY NEED THAT TIME TO DECOMPRESS, OR THEY'RE GOING TO BREAK AND THEY ARE BROKEN.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU FOR THE RESPONSE. COUNCILLOR ROLLINS FOLLOWED BY COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS.

COUNCILLOR ROLLINS: MADAM SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS SIMPLE MATTER OF CLARIFICATION. I WANT TO KNOW, THIS BUDGET, THE QUESTION IS DOES THIS BUDGET GET IT WRONG. DOES THIS BUDGET GET IT WRONG? INSTEAD OF HIRING 10 FTEs FOR THE FRONT LINE, DOES THIS BUDGET GET IT WRONG BY HIRING PSYCHOLOGISTS? DOES THIS BUDGET GET IT WRONG? IS THIS -- IS THE RIGHT ANSWER A CLEAR SWAP FOR THE POSITIONS THAT ARE IN BUDGET DIRECT TO THE FRONT LINE? WHAT'S THEIR ANSWER?

MADAM SPEAKER: TIME ON THE CLOCK? FIVE MORE MINUTES. COUNCILLOR WYATT MOVES FIVE-MINUTE EXTENSION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR? CARRIED.

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION. THE ANSWER IS YES. ONE OF THESE IS NEED-TO-HAVE AND ONE OF THESE IS A NICE-TO-HAVE AND THESE 11 WELLNESS POSITIONS ARE NOT GOING TO BE PSYCHOLOGISTS. THEY WILL BE RETURN-TO-WORK STAFF WHO ARE A DOWNSTREAM APPROACH WORKING WITH EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN INJURED. THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT BE PICKING UP THE PHONE AND ANSWERING OVERTIME. THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT BE ON A TRUCK RESPONDING TO THE CITY OF WINNIPEG WHEN THEY CALL 911 AND HELPING TO REDUCE OUR RESPONSE TIMES OR IMPROVE SERVICE OUTCOMES. THESE POSITIONS WILL REACT TO AN EVER-INCREASING VOLUME OF INJURY AND W. C. B. TIME LOSS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO CLIMB UNTIL WE ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE THAT HAS BEEN IRREFUTED FOR DECADES, AND WOULD WE LIKE TO HAVE BOTH? ABSOLUTELY. ON A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS IS ONE OF MORE VALUE THAN THE OTHER, ABSOLUTELY. WHEN WINNIPEGGERS CALL 911, THEY WANT A FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC ON A FIRE TRUCK AT THEIR DOOR, AND WHAT DO FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDICS WANT? WHAT DOES THE ADMINISTRATION WANT AND WHAT DO THE EXPERTS SAY? WE NEED MORE FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDICS TO DELIVER THAT SERVICE, SO YEAH. IF WE HAD OUR HOUSE TOGETHER AND OUR FOUNDATION WAS STABLE, I WOULD ABSOLUTELY ADVOCATE FOR ADDING AN ADDITIONAL IN OUR POOL, BUT OUR FOUNDATION IS CRUMBLING, AND THAT FOUNDATION IS THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DELIVER THE SERVICE ON THE FRONT LINE WHO ARE BEING ASKED TO DO MORE

WITH LESS.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU FOR THE RESPONSE. COUNCILLOR ROLLINS, NEXT QUESTION.

COUNCILLOR ROLLINS: SECOND QUESTION. DO YOU THINK WINNIPEGGERS CAN UNDERSTAND THIS BUDGET MOVE, IN YOUR OPINION? BASICALLY NOT HAVING TEN ON THE FRONT LINE BUT HAVING 11 ON THE BACK OFFICE?

MADAM SPEAKER: THE RESPONSE, PLEASE?

NICK KASPER: THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE COUNCILLOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION. ONE THING MATTERS MORE TO ME IN THIS POSITION THAN THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING TODAY, AND IT'S THE TRUST THAT MY MEMBERS PLACE IN ME AND THE TRUST THAT WINNIPEGGERS PLACE IN MY MEMBERS, AND AS FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS ON THE FRONT LINE, WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE EARNED THE TRUST OF WINNIPEGGERS THE HARD WAY, AND WE KNOW THAT THIS TRUST RATING ON THIS ISSUE IS 98%. WE COMMISSIONED A 15,000 DOLLAR PROBE SURVEY, AND THAT SURVEY REACHED OUT TO WINNIPEGGERS AND SAID ARE YOU AWARE OF THIS ISSUE, WHO DO YOU TRUST ON THIS ISSUE AND WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS, AND THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE TO WINNIPEGGERS. THEY KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING. THEY WOEFULLY DISAGREE WITH CONTINUING TO UNDER-STAFF THE DEPARTMENT, PAYING MONEY FOR OVERTIME. THEY COMPLETELY AGREE THAT OVERTIME IS NEGATIVELY AFFECTING THEIR FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS' MENTAL HEALTH. THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH WHAT THEY SEE IN THIS BUDGET. THEY EXPECT IT TO BE CHANGED, AND THIS ISSUE WILL MATTER TO THEM IN 2026.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU FOR THE RESPONSE.

COUNILLOR ROLLINS: LET'S SAY THERE'S A MOTION RIGHT BEFORE ME THAT ADDS FIREFIGHTERS, 20 TO 15 FTEs. WOULD YOU WANT COUNCIL TO HAVE AN UNANIMOUS VOTE ON THAT AND AMEND THE BUDGET?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION, COUNCILLOR. I DON'T THINK IT'S ABOUT WHAT I WANT AT THIS POINT. YOU GOOD FOLKS ARE ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE CITY OF WINNIPEG, THE PEOPLE THAT I'M IN A POSITION TO SERVE, AND MY MEMBERS ARE IN A POSITION TO SERVE, AND THEIR POSITION ON THAT QUESTION IS -- WE KNOW THE ANSWER, AND THE ANSWER IS YES. WE WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS THAN COUNCIL TO APPLY A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH TO THIS, DO THE RIGHT THING AND SEND A MESSAGE TO THEIR FIREFIGHTERS THAT IN YOUR TIME OF NEED WE HAVE YOUR BACK AND TO WINNIPEGGERS THAT IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS WE'RE MAKING FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS WITH YOUR INTERESTS IN MIND, SO I WOULD HOPE THAT TO BE THE CASE.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS FOLLOWED BY COUNCILLOR SANTOS.

COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. MADAM SPEAKER. THROUGH YOU TO THE DELEGATION. HOW MANY MEMBERS WOULD YOU CURRENTLY HAVE ON ACCOMMODATIONS WHERE THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR WORK?

NICK KASPER: YEAH, THANK YOU, THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE COUNCILLOR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION. I ASKED YESTERDAY WHAT THE TOTAL LEAVE WAS ACCOUNTING FOR ALL REASONS. THAT'S WCB, LTD, MATERNITY LEAVE, AND I BELIEVE THE NUMBER PROVIDED TO ME WAS 70? 76. THANK YOU. I APOLOGIZE, AND YEAH, 76.

COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS: WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WOULD BE ON LEAVE BECAUSE OF A PHYSICAL INJURY VERSUS A MENTAL HEALTH INJURY?

NICK KASPER: FANTASTIC QUESTION. SO WCB STATISTICS, AND I'M NOT PRIVY TO THE CITY OF WINNIPEG SPECIFIC STATISTICS, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT PHYSICAL INJURY RATES OCCUR FAR MORE FREQUENTLY THAN PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY RATES. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN AT A MUCH HIGHER PROPORTION. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WORK A VERY PHYSICAL JOB. WE RUN INTO BURNING BUILDINGS. MY LAST SHIFT I WENT TO THREE SEPARATE FIRES AND AT TWO OF THOSE FIRES TWO OF MY CREW MEMBERS FELL THROUGH THE FLOOR. THEY FINISHED THEIR SHIFT AND CONTINUED THEIR TOUR AFTER FALLING THROUGH THE FLOOR OF A BURNING BUILDING. WE HAVE A VERY PHYSICALLY DEMANDING JOB. INJURIES OCCUR, BUT PSYCHOLOGICAL…

MADAM SPEAKER: THE CLOCK.

COUNCILLOR WYATT: ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES.

MADAM SPEAKER: COUNCILLOR WYATT MOVES MOTION, EXTENSION OF FIVE MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED.

NICK KASPER: WHILE PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURIES OCCUR AT A LOWER VOLUME, THE COST OF THOSE INJURIES AND THE DURATION CAN OFTEN BE LONGER AND COST MORE, SO IT IS A GROWING ISSUE OF CONCERN FOR THIS DEPARTMENT, FOR WCB, AND OUR UNION ON RECOMMENDATION OF WCB HAS DONE A SURVEY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP, AND WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE 13 PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT THAT SURVEY DEMONSTRATES A WORKPLACE IN CRISIS. WE UNDERTOOK THAT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF W. C. B. BECAUSE WE ARE A SYSTEM IMPACT EMPLOYER. WE WENT AND GOT CREDENTIALED AT RED RIVER, AND WE HAVE NOW FUNDED TO THE TUNE OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FROM FUNDS THAT OUR MEMBERS HAVE RAISED, MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES. WE JUST SENT NINE MEMBERS TO RESILIENCY TRAINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. THEY DESCRIBE IT AS THE MOST PROFOUND EXPERIENCE OF THEIR LIFE. WE SEND MEMBERS DOWN TO THE STATES AT A COST OF $50,000 AMERICAN FOR RESIDENTIAL INPATIENT TREATMENT, AND THESE ARE THE TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS, ALONG WITH OUR BHU STAFF, THAT ARE KEEPING PEOPLE NOT ONLY AT WORK BUT KEEPING PEOPLE ALIVE. AND THOSE RESOURCES ARE WHERE WE NEED TO FOCUS OUR ENERGY.

MADAM SPEAKER: OKAY, THANK YOU. THERE'S ANOTHER QUESTION HERE. COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS? NO? NEXT, COUNCILLOR SANTOS FOLLOWED BY COUNCILLOR WYATT AND COUNCILLOR DUNCAN.

COUNILLOR SANTOS: JUST SOME QUESTIONS JUST FOR CLARITY. WOULD YOU AGREE THAT THE CHALLENGES FACING FIREFIGHTERS TODAY, INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, ADDICTIONS, ENCAMPMENTS AND SOCIAL COMPLEXITY, ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THE ISSUES WE WERE RESPONDING TO FIVE OR EVEN ACTUALLY TEN YEARS AGO?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUESTION, COUNCILLOR. WE'RE FIREFIGHTERS. WE'RE NOT POLITICIANS. WE'RE NOT PUBLIC HEALTH. UNFORTUNATELY THE REALITY IS WE ARE NOT A PREVENTATIVE UPSTREAM SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL. WE ARE AN INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY. WE ARE CALLED WHEN CRISIS HAS OCCURRED, AND SO WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE'S MANY SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH. WE ALL KNOW THAT WINNIPEG HAS MANY FACTORS THAT CAUSE THE OUTCOMES WE SEE, BUT FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS, THE CALLS WE'RE RESPONDING TO ARE FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME. WE -- THE OUTCOME IS NO DIFFERENT. A HOUSE IS ON FIRE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE. WE RESPOND AND WE PUT IT OUT, BUT WHEN IT DOES COME TO PREVENTATIVE UPSTREAM MEASURES, LIKE FIRE PREVENTION, WE ARE 11 POSITIONS SHORT FIVE YEARS AGO. WHEN IT COMES TO INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF FIRES, OUR FIRES INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH WAS HALF THE SIZE THAT IT NEEDED TO BE 11 YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN, FIRE CALL VOLUMES HAVE INCREASED HUNDREDS OF PER CENT. PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICERS WERE SHORT. SINCE THEN, CALL VOLUMES UP HUNDREDS OF PER CENT. WE ARE FAILING NOT ONLY IN PREVENTING THE CAUSE AND WORKING TO ADDRESS IT BUT ALSO IN RESPONDING TO. SO WE'VE HEARD PROJECTIONS AND ESTIMATES HOW WE CAN REDUCE OUR CALL VOLUME. IF A COUNCILLOR CAN WAVE A MAGIC WAND AND TAKE US BACK 50,000 CALLS, WE WOULD STILL BE SHORT ALL OF THOSE POSITIONS IN 2020. WE'RE JUST THAT MUCH DEEPER TODAY, SO PREVENTION IS IMPORTANT, BUT SO IS BEING REALISTIC AND DELIVERING SERVICES THAT ARE REQUIRED.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. SECOND QUESTION?

COUNCILLOR SANTOS: YES, LAST WEEK AT COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE YOU EMPHASIZED THAT FIREFIGHTERS NEED TIME OFF OR NEED THEIR VACATION TO DECOMPRESS AND RECOVER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE'VE ALSO HEARD THAT SOME MEMBERS ARE SELLING NUMBERS OF WEEKS OF VACATION AND WORKING OVERTIME. CAN YOU HELP COUNCIL UNDERSTAND HOW THOSE TWO REALITIES ALIGN?

NICK KASPER: YEAH, ABSOLUTELY. IT'S A GREAT QUESTION. THANK YOU FOR IT. THIS IS THE CHALLENGE WE FACE DAILY. WE ARE HERE BECAUSE WE ARE GIVERS, WE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, AND WE HAVE A CLOSE BOND WITH THE PEOPLE WE STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH, WE NEED TO HAVE THEM PULL US OUT OF A FIRE IN A MAYDAY SITUATION WHEN OUR LIFE IS ON THE LINE. OUR MEMBERS, WE KNOW THROUGH THE SURVEY, THEY ARE COMING INTO WORK BROKEN. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP, AND THE REASON THAT THEY ARE ANSWERING THE PHONE, THE REASON THAT

THEY ARE SELLING THEIR HOLIDAYS AT STRAIGHT TIME WHEN THEY COULD TAKE THEIR HOLIDAYS AND WORK OVERTIME THE WHOLE TIME, BY THE WAY, IS BECAUSE THEY FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO THE WINNIPEGGERS WHO CALL US AND THEY FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE THEY RIDE ALONGSIDE IN THE TRUCK. IF ADRIENNE DOESN'T SHOW UP TO WORK TOMORROW, THAT TRUCK GOES OFF-DUTY AND THE TRUCK BESIDE THEM TAKES TWICE THE CALLS AND DOESN'T HAVE ANY BACKUP, AND SOME WINNIPEG FAMILY WAITS 15 MINUTES FOR US TO ARRIVE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CONTINUE TO GO IN DESPITE KNOWING THAT IT'S BAD FOR OUR HEALTH, THAT IT'S HURTING US AND HARMING US, BECAUSE WE'RE SELFLESS. WE ARE GIVERS. WE ACCEPT THAT BURDEN SO THAT OTHERS MAY FEEL SAFE, AND EVEN WITH THAT EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT, WE ARE DROWNING HERE.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. COUNCILLOR SANTOS, YOU'RE MOVING EXTENSION, ARE YOU? FOR FIVE MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED, AND YOUR FINAL QUESTION, COUNCILLOR SANTOS?

COUNCILLOR SANTOS: THANK YOU, AND FROM THE UNION'S PERSPECTIVE, HOW DO YOU BALANCE THE IMPORTANCE OF FIREFIGHTERS TAKING TIME OFF TO PROTECT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH WITH THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF SELLING VACATION AND WORKING ADDITIONAL SHIFTS?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU. I WANT TO MAKE ONE THING ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, AND THAT IS OUR MANDATE AND OUR NUMBER ONE DRIVING FORCE IS TO BE THERE FOR WINNIPEGGERS WHEN THEY NEED US. WE WILL -- REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME TODAY, JUST AS IT'S BEEN THE OUTCOME FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR ABSOLUTE BEST AND GIVE EVERYTHING THAT WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE THERE WHEN WE ARE NEEDED, AND THERE ARE 130 NAMES ON A WALL BLOCKS FROM HERE OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN ANSWERING THAT CALL, AND THAT IS UNPARALLELED ACROSS ANY PUBLIC SERVICE, AND SO YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT YOUR FIREFIGHTERS WILL BE THE ONES GIVING EVERYTHING. ALL WE'RE ASKING FOR IN RETURN FOR THAT SACRIFICE IS TO GIVE US THE TOOLS WE NEED TO BE THERE FOR YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS, COUNCILLOR DUNCAN?

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MADAM SPEAKER, AND FIRST OFF, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE CITY AND THE MEMBERS THAT ARE HERE TODAY. APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK THAT'S BEING DONE THERE. IT'S NOT EASY OUT IN THE FIELD. OBVIOUSLY IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE CHALLENGING. MY QUESTION IS MORE OF A POINT OF CLARIFICATION HERE AROUND A CONVERSATION THAT'S TAKING PLACE. SOME COUNCILLORS HAVE ASKED QUESTIONS. I DON'T BELIEVE THEY ARE ACCURATE IN THEIR NUMBERS, BUT ARE YOU AWARE THAT ON PAGE 56 -- I APOLOGIZE -- OF THE SERVICE-BASED BUDGET OVERVIEW 2D, THE FIRE PARAMEDIC SERVICE ESTABLISH A WELLNESS CLINIC OF NINE FTEs PRORATED TO 5. 5 IN 2006. I BELIEVE THE NUMBER THAT YOU MAY HAVE BEEN REFERENCING AND THAT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE REFERENCING IS THE 11. 5 THAT IS FUNDED STRICTLY FROM SHARED HEALTH THAT

ENHANCES THE LOW ACUITY TRIAGE REFERRED TO AS ACRONYM ELAT AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC INITIATIVE PROGRAM, ALSO FUNDED FULLY BY SHARED HEALTH. ARE YOU AWARE?

NICK KASPER: THROUGH THE CHAIR, THANK YOU, FIRST, COUNCILLOR FOR YOUR COMMENTS, AND COMING FROM YOU, I THINK WE ALL APPRECIATE THOSE KNOWING YOUR BACKGROUND. I BELIEVE THEY ARE GENUINE, AND WE APPRECIATE THE WORK YOU DO AS WELL. TO YOUR POINT, I APOLOGIZE, I MAY HAVE MISSPOKEN. I THOUGHT I READ 11 WELLNESS POSITIONS. OBVIOUSLY IT'S NINE. I WILL SAY MY INPUT ON THOSE NINE WELLNESS POSITIONS BEING FUNDED BY THE TAXPAYER STANDS. I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE COMMUNITY PARA-MEDICINE AND ELAT POSITIONS THAT ARE, OF COURSE, FUNDED 100% BY THE PROVINCE, BUT I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CORRECTION ON THAT AND I APOLOGIZE FOR MISSPEAKING.

MADAM SPEAKER: SECOND QUESTION?

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. YOU HAVE YOURSELF THERE CLEARLY ADVOCATING FOR THE FRONT LINE, ALSO YOUR COLLEAGUE HERE ADVOCATING FOR THE FRONT LINE. HOWEVER, EXPLAINING TO US THE DAMAGES THAT OCCUR TO THE FRONT LINE WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS. MY CAUTION ON THIS WOULD BE THAT IF WE ARE TO NOT ESTABLISH A WELLNESS CLINIC THAT WHEN THERE ARE THE NEEDS FOR THOSE SUPPORTS THAT THEY WON'T BE THERE. IF YOU COULD PROVIDE A COMMENT ON THAT AND HOW WE COULD BALANCE THAT, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMERGENCY IS AT THE FRONT LINE, NOT THE BACK END.

NICK KASPER: YEAH, THANK YOU, AND I -- YOU KNOW, I WILL BE HONEST, COUNCILLOR, I DON'T KNOW THAT ANY OF US HAVE RECEIVED A REALLY DETAILED EXPLANATION ON WHAT DOES WELLNESS CLINIC MEAN. WHAT DO NINE WELLNESS OFFICERS IN HEADQUARTERS MEAN. NOBODY'S CONSULTED THE FRONT LINE ON WHAT THE PEOPLE USING THE SERVICE REQUIRE. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT OUR PERCEPTION OF WELLNESS OFFICERS IS. WE HAVE A BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH UNIT THAT WAS FUNDED BY THE CITY, AND IT'S BEEN INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE. THAT'S A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST WHO OVERSEES A TEAM OF MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS WHO HAVE SEEN HUNDREDS OF OUR MEMBERS, WHO OUR MEMBERS RAVE ABOUT. THAT'S A $300,000 A YEAR CONTRACT THAT WE JUST SENT TO THE LOWEST BIDDER AND SEVERED TIES WITH OUR CLINIC. WE ARE TRANSITIONING EVERY PATIENT FROM THE PERSON THEY BUILT A RELATIONSHIP WITH TO A TEAM THAT OBJECTIVELY DOES NOT MEET THE SAME THRESHOLD, WHICH IS A GRAVE ERROR, AND WE HAVE REACHED OUT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND CEO AND COUNCIL TO ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS THAT. THAT IS YOUR WELLNESS CLINIC. THAT IS YOUR EFFECTIVE INPUT. THE WELLNESS OFFICERS THAT ARE GOING UPSTAIRS ARE FOCUSED ON RETURNING PEOPLE TO WORK. THEY ARE WORKING WITH WCB, THEIR CASE MANAGERS. THEY ARE ACCOMMODATING PEOPLE INTO POSITIONS. THEY ARE CALLING OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE OFF -- THEY ARE NOT CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS OR PROVIDING TREATMENT OR THERAPY. THEY ARE FINDING A SQUARE HOLE TO FIT A ROUND PEG, AND THAT'S THE PERCEPTION FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP, AND THAT'S THE EXPERIENCE WE RECEIVE FROM THE CURRENT STAFF IN THAT BRANCH, AND SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE

INPUT, I SUGGEST YOU WOULD PUT YOUR MONEY INTO THE B. H. U. WHO IS INCREDIBLY EFFICIENT.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. THE CLOCK, PLEASE. COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW MOVES EXTENSION OF FIVE MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOUR? CARRIED. COUNCILLOR DUNCAN, ANYTHING FURTHER AT THIS TIME?

COUNILLOR DUNCAN: SO LOOKING AT THESE NINE POSITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, WOULD YOU SUPPORT -- I DON'T WANT TO PUT WORDS IN YOUR MOUTH. I'LL LET YOU ANSWER, BUT WOULD YOU SUPPORT ELIMINATING THEM, TRANSFERRING THEM OVER TO THE FRONT LINE WITH WINNIPEG FIRE EXCLUSIVELY? AND WITH THAT, THEN ADVOCATING TOWARDS HAVING YOURSELF AND YOUR MEMBERS GO TO THE PROVINCE AND ADDRESS CLEARLY WITH THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR MEMBERS?

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. THE RESPONSE?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR. I THINK I HEARD TWO QUESTIONS. I'LL DO MY VERY BEST TO ANSWER BOTH OF THEM. TO THE FIRST, I WOULD ABSOLUTELY UNEQUIVOCALLY ADVOCATE FOR CUTTING ALL CITY FUNDING BEING PROVIDED TO THOSE WELLNESS POSITIONS AND PUTTING YOUR MONEY WHERE YOU WILL RECEIVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL, THE HIGHEST RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT, THE MOST VALUE FOR THE LIMITED $WE HAVE, AND THAT IS IN AN -- OF MORE STAFF TO STOP OUR MEMBERS FROM GETTING SICK AND INJURED IN THE FIRST PLACE. IF WE'VE GOT EXTRA MONEY LEFT OVER WHEN WE FOLLOW OUR RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE DECADES OLD AND WE HAVE A HANDLE ON THINGS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ADD IN NEW RESOURCES, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, LET'S PUT WHAT WE HAVE WHERE IT'S MOST NEEDED, SO YES, I WOULD BE THRILLED WITH THE IDEA OF RE-ALLOCATING THAT FUNDING. SO YOUR SECOND QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO THE SHARED HEALTH AND THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA AND THEIR FUNDING MODEL, I THINK, AND PLEASE CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, IN TERMS OF THE INTEGRATED SERVICE MODEL WE'RE DELIVERING, YEAH, I THINK WE NEED TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CONTRACT AND SEE WHAT RESOURCES ARE BEING PROVIDED WHERE BECAUSE THE STRAIN THAT'S PLACED ON CITY OF WINNIPEG MUNICIPALLY FUNDED RESOURCES HAS OUTWEIGHED THE CITY'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE IT. WE NEED TO BRIDGE THAT GAP, AND IF WE'RE TAKING ON ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH PROVISION OF A SERVICE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE MEETING OUR CORE MANDATE FIRST, AND WE WOULD STAND SIDE BY SIDE WITH ANYBODY WHO WOULD ADVOCATE FOR THE SAME.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. NEXT IS COUNCILLOR BROWATY.

COUNCILLOR BROWATY: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR THERE WAS A FIRE AND YOU WERE IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA SAYING THIS IS THE FIRST CLOSEST TRUCK WAS ATTENDING TO A MEDICAL CALL. AT THE TIME, YOU WERE IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA SAYING THIS IS PROOF THAT WE NEED MORE FIREFIGHTERS, WE NEED MORE FIREFIGHTERS, BUT THE REALITY WAS THE FIRE TRUCK WAS TIED UP THERE FOR MULTIPLE

HOURS DUE TO THE DELAY IN GETTING AN AMBULANCE. WHY DOES YOUR SERVICE NOT GO OUT THERE AND SAY, HEY, WE NEED TO FUND -- THE PROVINCE, MANITOBA NEEDS TO FUND THE PARAMEDIC SERVICE PROPERLY. AS YOU'VE MENTIONED THIS MORNING, THE NUMBER OF ABSENCES AND THE NUMBER OF SHIFTS MISSED FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS, IT'S TEN TIMES HIGHER ON THE PARAMEDIC SIDE. THE IDEA OF A WELLNESS CLINIC, EVEN IF IT IS WINNIPEG DOLLARS, IT SHOULD BE PROVINCIAL DOLLARS, THERE'S ONE TAXPAYER AT THE END OF THE DAY, WOULD THAT NOT HELP YOUR MEMBERS BE ABLE TO BE AVAILABLE ON CALL, AND HELP THEIR MENTAL INJURY CLAIMS BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DEALING WITH CALLS THAT ARE NOT NECESSARILY IN THEIR PURVIEW? I MEAN, PRIMARY FIRE PARAMEDICS ARE GREAT TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO A FIRE, TO A HEART ATTACK, TO A STROKE, A PATCH, LIKE IF I GET STABBED WALKING TO THE PARKADE, HAVING A FIREFIGHTER THERE IN MOMENTS WITH A PATCH, TREMENDOUS SERVICE, AND I THINK A GREAT STORY ABOUT OUR MODEL. BUT AGAIN, YOU WERE COMPLAINING THAT WE NEED MORE FIREFIGHTERS, BUT AGAIN, TALK ABOUT SQUARE PEGS AND ROUND HOLES, DON'T YOU THINK THAT THE BIGGER CHALLENGE WE FACE AS A CITY IS OUR PARAMEDIC SERVICE?

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION. THE RESPONSE?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR. I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER. I DON'T MEAN TO COMPLAIN. I'M REITERATING YOUR FACTS, EVIDENCE AND DATA THAT FOCUS ON THE SERVICE DELIVERY THAT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR. THAT IS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE PROVINCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY. THE PROVINCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AMBULANCE FUNDING, AND THAT CONTRACT IS NEGOTIATED. I DON'T SPEAK FOR PARAMEDICS ON THE AMBULANCE. I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR MY COLLEAGUES. WE STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH LABOUR, AND WE ADVOCATE FOR RESOURCES FOR THEM AS WELL, BUT IT'S -- YOU AS COUNCIL HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE. WE DIDN'T AGREE TO IT. WE DIDN'T ASK FOR IT. WE'RE WORKING IN THE BUSIEST FIRE DEPARTMENT IN CANADA. BECAUSE OF THE SERVICE MODEL THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN ON, AND YOU HAVE TAKEN IT ON AND SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH SHARED HEALTH WITHOUT RECEIVING THE RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR US TO PROVIDE THAT SERVICE, AND SO EVEN IF WE ELIMINATED MEDICAL CALLS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THEIR ENTIRETY, WHICH WILL NEVER HAPPEN, WE WILL ALWAYS ATTEND MEDICAL CALLS TO SOME INCREMENT, MAYBE NOT AS PARAMEDICS, THESE RECOMMENDATIONS STILL STAND. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT BASED IN MEDICAL CALLS OR CALL VOLUMES. THEY ARE BASED IN TIME MEASURES.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. THAT CONCLUDES OUR TIME ALLOTTED.

COUNCILLOR WYATT: ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES?

MADAM SPEAKER: COUNCILLOR WYATT MOVES FIVE MINUTES.

COUNILLOR WYATT: I'LL MOVE TEN MINUTES.

MADAM SPEAKER: ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED.

NICK KASPER: AM I ABLE TO…

MADAM SPEAKER: YES.

NICK KASPER: YEAH, THANK YOU. TO DRIVE THAT POINT HOME, TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE, WE HAVE AREA LADDER TRUCKS IN THE CITY OF WINNIPEG THAT DO NOT RESPOND TO MEDICAL CALLS. THEY DON'T ATTEND. YOUR MASTER PLAN STRATEGIC DIRECTION, YOUR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS HAVE TOLD YOU WE HAVE LESS THAN 50% OF THE LADDER TRUCKS ON DUTY THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR A CITY OF OUR SIZE. OKAY? YOU KNOW, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THE FACT THAT WE'RE UNDER-SERVICED IN FIRE BUT SHIFTING THE BLAME AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT TO THE PROVINCE AND SAY, WELL, YOU KNOW, ONCE YOU FUND MORE AMBULANCES, THIS PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED. WELL, NO. IT WON'T BECAUSE I'LL SAY AGAIN IF WE WENT BACK FIVE YEARS IN A TIME MACHINE AND ELIMINATED 50,000 CALLS, WHICH WILL NEVER HAPPEN, OUR CALL VOLUME INCREASE IS 10% A YEAR, THESE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE WOULD STILL STAND. THE CITY OF CALGARY HIRED 150 FIREFIGHTERS TO KEEP UP WITH GROWING DEMAND OF THEIR CITY. THERE'S THERE POPULATION. THEY DON'T HAVE PARAMEDICS ON FIRE TRUCKS, OKAY? SO WE'RE NOT, YOU KNOW, IN ANY DIFFERENT SITUATION. WE'RE NOT A DIFFERENT FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT PUTS OUT DIFFERENT FIRES. WE NEED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE RESOURCED APPROPRIATELY, JUST AS THE AMBULANCE NEEDS TO BE RESOURCED APPROPRIATELY. AND WE HAVE SEEN YEAR AND YEAR AGAIN INCREASES IN FUNDING AND INCREASES IN AMBULANCE ON DUTY, AND THEY HAVE THEIR OWN CHALLENGES, AND I WON'T SPEAK TO THOSE, BUT NOT ONCE HAVE WE SEEN ANY INCREASE IN FIRE STAFFING, AND THAT'S CONVENIENTLY THAT WE HAVE SEEN A DECREASE. WE HAVE LESS TRUCKS ON DUTY TODAY THIS YEAR THAN WE DID LAST YEAR. THAT IS SHOCKING. THE NORTH END, STATION SIX, HAD THREE FIRE TRUCKS AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR. THIS YEAR THEY HAVE TWO. THE CONSEQUENCE OF THAT IS THAT THEY ARE OUT AND OTHER CALLS ARE RESPONDING AND GETTING THEIR FIRST IN. WE ARE SHRINKING THE SIZE OF OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AN UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND. SO NO, HIRING MORE AMBULANCES WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF AUSTERITY IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, COUNCILLOR BROWATY? NOT AT THIS TIME. GOING FOR A SECOND ROUND OF QUESTIONING, COUNCILLOR WYATT FOLLOWED BY COUNCILLOR ROLLINS.

COUNCILLOR WYATT: SHOCKING TO HEAR THE NORTH END IS DOWN THREE FIRE TRUCKS DOWN TO TWO, AND COUNCILLOR EADIE VOTES TO SHUT DOWN DEBATE. WHEN I WAS ON CHAIR OF FINANCE, I GOT TO SIT IN INTERESTING BUDGET MEETINGS OFTEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN 2013-2014. AT THAT TIME WE HAD A CHIEF BY THE NAME OF REID DOUGLAS WHO WAS QUITE FRANK SOMETIMES IN HIS RESPONSES AND ANSWERS, WHICH WAS REFRESHING. AND HE ANSWERED A QUESTION ALONG THE LINES THAT IN THE EVENT THAT WE WERE NOT HAVING TO RESPOND AS PER THE CONTRACT YOU MENTIONED TO EMS CALLS, WHAT WOULD BE THE SIZE OF THE SERVICE, AND HE SAID, COUNCILLOR, I COULD PROBABLY REDUCE THE SIZE OF SERVICE ANYWHERE FROM 700 TO 800 FIREFIGHTERS. NOW IF THAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE SERVICE THAT WE'RE PROVIDING

TODAY, WHY ARE WE GIVING THIS MASSIVE FREEBIE TO BROADWAY WHEN IT COMES TO FUNDING THEIR SHARED HEALTH SERVICES? BECAUSE THAT'S REALLY WHAT WE'RE DOING, IS WE'RE PROVIDING -- BECAUSE HOW MANY MORE AMBULANCES, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT ON THE ROAD IF WE STOPPED RESPONDING IN THE WAY WE DO TODAY WITH REGARDS TO PARAMEDICS AND FIRE SERVICE TO EMS CALLS?

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU. THROUGH THE CHAIR, YOU KNOW, I WANT TO -- TODAY IS OUR BUDGET. THE SERVICE PURCHASE AGREEMENT COMES UP FOR RENEWAL IN 2027, AND THAT WOULD BE OUR OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL WE HAVE AGREED TO HERE IN WINNIPEG, THE INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL THAT WE'RE ALL DISCUSSING. I DON'T THINK THAT'S UP FOR DEBATE TODAY. I DON'T THINK WE CAN CALL THE PROVINCE AND IMPACT THEIR BUDGET. I DON'T THINK WE CAN BREAK OUR CONTRACT WITH THE PROVINCE TO DELIVER THAT SERVICE MODEL. I WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME BACK AND PROVIDE INPUT INTO THOSE IMPACTS. BUT TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, I WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR. YOU COULD TURN OFF EVERY MEDICAL CALL TODAY. YOU COULD TAKE AWAY 50,000 CALLS, 60, 70, 80. OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS SMALLER THAN IT WAS IN THE '70s. OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS STAYED THE SAME SIZE FROM THE '90s THROUGH THE 2000s, 2010s. CALL VOLUME IS NOT THE MEASURE IN WHICH A FIRE DEPARTMENT IS FUNDED. WE RESPOND TO ALMOST TWICE THE CALLS OF THE CITY OF CALGARY WITH HALF THE FIREFIGHTERS, HALF THE FIRE TRUCKS, ET CETERA. THE MEASURES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO A FIRE DEPARTMENT AND TO YOUR RESOURCING ARE THE ABILITY OF A FIRE TRUCK TO RESPOND FROM ITS STATION TO THE ADDRESS AND PROVIDE A POSITIVE OUTCOME, REDUCE FIRE AND LIFE LOSS, AND IN THOSE MEASURES WE ARE FAILING. OUR FIRE TRUCKS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN STATION ENOUGH AT THE TIME. THEY ARE SPREAD TOO THIN. YOU NEED TWICE THE AERIAL TRUCKS. I WOULD COUNTER CHIEF DOUGLAS'S STATEMENTS AT THAT TIME. WE WOULDN'T HAVE A FIRE DEPARTMENT IF WE TOOK AWAY 800 PEOPLE.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. THAT CONCLUDES. MR. MAYOR, MOVE EXTENSION? OKAY. THAT CONCLUDES -- YOU KNOW, I THINK WE'VE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS.

COUNCILLOR WYATT: IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER, MADAM CHAIR.

MADAM SPEAKER: WHO IS MOVING EXTENSION?

COUNCILLOR WYATT: I AM.

MADAM SPEAKER: OKAY. COUNCILLOR WYATT MOVES EXTENSION FOR FIVE MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOUR? OKAY. THAT CONCLUDES OUR QUESTION PERIOD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENTATIONS TODAY.

[INAUDIBLE].

NICK KASPER: THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR, AND THANK YOU ALL YOUR COUNCILLORS FOR YOUR HARD WORK, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF TODAY'S DECISION, WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU DO AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE A VERY

CHALLENGING ROLE. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU, NICK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROFESSIONALISM TODAY.

[INAUDIBLE].

MADAM SPEAKER: OKAY, WE'LL NOW MOVE INTO THE REPORT OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD DATED DECEMBER 5, 2025. MADAM CLERK?

CLERK: ITEM NO. 1, WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD PRELIMINARY 2026 BUDGET UPDATE.

MADAM SPEAKER: COUNCILLOR DUNCAN TO INTRODUCE THAT FIRST REPORT?

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I'LL INTRODUCE THE REPORT AND MOVE ADOPTION OF ITEM NO. 1. YES, AS IT'S OUTLINED TO RECEIVE AS INFORMATION.

MADAM SPEAKER: ANY SPEAKERS TO THIS ITEM? OKAY, SEEING NONE, COUNCILLOR DUNCAN, DO YOU WISH TO CLOSE OR WE'LL CALL THE QUESTION?

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: PLEASE CALL THE QUESTION, THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? THAT'S CARRIED. WE'LL NOW MOVE INTO THE REPORT OF EPC DATED DECEMBER 16. MADAM CLERK?

CLERK: ITEM NO. 1, EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE, FINAL RECOMMENDATION PRELIMINARY 2026 BUDGET UPDATE.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. MR. MAYOR? COUNCILLOR BROWATY? OH, YES. MR. MAYOR, YOU'LL INTRODUCE THE ITEM AND THEN WE DO HAVE AN AMENDING MOTION, ONE, MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GILROY, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DURANT-WOOD. WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT IN SEQUENCE. MR. MAYOR.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: OKAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THIS IS MY OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE THE MOTION AND COMMENT ON IT AS WELL. I'LL WAIT TO HEAR THE AMENDING MOTION AND THEN RESPOND TO THE AMENDING MOTION IN MY CLOSING COMMENTS. I DO WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING ALL INVOLVED IN PUTTING THIS BUDGET TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY TRACY GRAHAM, OUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND HER ENTIRE TEAM IN CORPORATE FINANCE FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THAT THEY HAVE DONE ONCE AGAIN IN PREPARING THIS YEAR'S 2026 BALANCED BUDGET UPDATE. I ALSO WANT TO THANK MEMBERS OF OUR BUDGET WORKING GROUP, OUR FINANCE CHAIR, COUNCILLOR -- FOR ALL THE COUNTLESS HOURS THEY PUT IN AS WELL. THIS BUDGET IS VERY MUCH A GENERATIONAL BUDGET. IT MAKES LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS THAT WE NEED TO GROW AND ESPECIALLY IN OUR CAPITAL PROGRAM. WHEN WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING THAT ARE REFLECTED WITHIN OUR POPULATION GROWTH, THE INVESTMENTS IN THIS BUDGET ARE FULLY ALIGNED WITH COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN, WHICH STRENGTHENS OUR

INFRASTRUCTURE, MAKING NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFER, CLEANER, IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICE AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. THERE'S REALLY ACTUALLY NO MAJOR SURPRISES, I DON'T THINK, IN THIS BUDGET, AND I BELIEVE THAT'S A GOOD THING. WE'RE FOCUSED ON STABILITY, ON SOLVING PROBLEMS AND MAKING PROGRESS ON THE PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN IN MANY CASES STALLED FOR YEARS. AT A HIGH LEVEL, THIS BUDGET TODAY FOCUSES ON THREE KEY THEMES. FIRST, GENERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS, INCLUDING THE LARGEST CAPITAL PROGRAM WE'VE EVER DELIVERED AT THE CITY OF WINNIPEG AND THE LARGEST ROAD RENEWAL PLAN IN OUR CITY'S HISTORY. THERE'S MORE POLICE, MORE FIREFIGHTERS, MORE PARAMEDICS, EXPANDED LATE-NIGHT TRANSIT SERVICE, MORE SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY, AND THIRDLY, WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN IN THE MIDST OF ALL THESE CHALLENGING DEMANDS TO TRY TO PROTECT AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS. WINNIPEG CONTINUES TO HAVE THE LOWEST MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES OF ANY MAJOR CITY IN CANADA, AND THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE THAT IS BEFORE US TODAY AT THE TIME OF INTRODUCING THE BUDGET WAS THE SECOND-LOWEST AMONG MAJOR CITIES SO FAR IN THE BUDGET CYCLE THIS YEAR. OUR WATER AND SEWER RATES ARE ALSO BEING HELD DRAMATICALLY BELOW THE UTILITY'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. THIS BUDGET POSITIONS WINNIPEG FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS BY SUPPORTING HOUSING, SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPROVING CITIZENS -- THE SERVICES THAT CITIZENS RELY UPON EVERY DAY. THE CENTREPIECE OF THIS CAPITAL BUDGET THIS YEAR IS THE NORTH -- CONTROL CENTRE, AND THE CITY'S INVESTMENT IN THAT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN WINNIPEG'S HISTORY. COMPLETING PHASE THREE, PROJECT THREE OF THE NORTH END PLANT, IS ESSENTIAL TO MEETING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS, SUPPORTING CONTINUED BUSINESS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMING DECADES. A FEW OTHER KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR CAPITAL PLAN. $1.1 BILLION FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD RENEWAL, THE LARGEST ROAD PROGRAM THAT WINNIPEG HAS EVER UNDERTAKEN. $239 MILLION TO PURCHASE MU TRANSIT BUSES AN MODERNIZE THE FLEET. $79 MILLION FOR NEW AND RENEWED RECREATION FACILITIES ACROSS THE CITY AS WELL. EARLY DESIGN WORK FOR ROUT 90 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, A MAJOR TRADE CORRIDOR, LAND ACQUISITION FOR CHIEF PEGUIS TRAIL EXTENSION. ALL OF THESE INVESTMENTS ARE KEY TO WINNIPEG'S FUTURE. THEY SUPPORT GROWTH. THEY STRENGTHEN TRADE AND POSITION WINNIPEG FOR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC SUCCESS. ON THE OPERATING SIDE, WE ARE ADDING FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT RESOURCES IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS. I MENTIONED A FEW MOMENTS AGO THAT WE'RE ALSO EXTENDING LATE-NIGHT TRANSIT SERVICE ON 11 FIXED ROUTES AND 10 ON-REQUEST SERVICE AREA AS WELL. AND THOUGH THERE ARE INCREASES IN THE -- INCREASES IN PROPERTY TAXES PROPOSED HERE, THIS BUDGET DOES MAINTAIN THE CITY'S AFFORDABILITY AND CERTAINLY IN COMPARISON TO OTHER COMMUNITIES AS WELL. EVEN WITH THE SUGGESTIONS THAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY, AS I SAID, THE CITY OF WINNIPEG MAINTAINS THE LOWEST MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES OF ANY CANADIAN CITY, ANY MAJOR CANADIAN CITY, AND THE LOWEST MUNICIPAL REVENUE PER CAPITA. WE'VE ALSO HELD THE COMBINED WATER AND SEWER RATE CHANGES TO 2. 8% INCREASE IN 2026 AND 4. 2% IN 2027, WHICH IS DRAMATICALLY BELOW WHAT THE ORIGINAL -- WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE'RE ALSO IMPROVING EFFICIENCY ACROSS OUR DEPARTMENTS THROUGH A NEW CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT UNIT LED BY EMPLOYEES

TRAINED SIGMA. THIS WILL HELP REDUCE WASTE, STREAMLINE PROCESSES AND IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR DISCUSSION ON THIS BUDGET AND LOOK FORWARD TO SAYING MORE AT THE TIME OF CLOSE. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR. NEXT IS COUNCILLOR GILROY. YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO THE BUDGET AND YOUR AMENDING MOTION ONE.

COUNCILLOR GILROY: OKAY, SO JUST TO BE CLEAR, I HAVE TO SPEAK TO THE BUDGET AS WELL AS?

MADAM SPEAKER: THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO EVERYTHING, YEAH, THE ITEM AND YOUR AMENDING MOTION.

COUNCILLOR GILROY: I GET TO CLOSE TOO.

MADAM SPEAKER: THAT'S RIGHT.

COUNCILLOR GILROY: ALL RIGHT, AND IS THE CLOSING TIME 10 MINUTES? JUST SO I CAN . . . OKAY. ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I'M GOING TO REFER TO THE OVERALL BUDGET IN MY CLOSING. I AM GOING TO ENCOURAGE MY COUNCILLOR COLLEAGUES TO LOOK AT THE MOTION THAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU THAT IS ADDING 20 ADDITIONAL FTEs IN 2026. IN ORDER TO MEET THE DESPERATE NEED WE HAVE IN OUR FIRE AND PARAMEDIC DIVISION, AND WE ALL HAVE HEARD -- WE HAD A REALLY GREAT LENGTH OF DISCUSSION HEAR ABOUT THE CRISIS THAT WE'RE SEEING IN WINNIPEG AND HOW WE REALLY NEED TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF STAFF THAT WE HAVE. WE KNOW THAT WHERE WE'VE HEARD THAT WE ARE THE BUSIEST STATION IN I THINK THEY SAID IN NORTH AMERICA. NOT ONLY IN CANADA BUT IN ONE OF I THINK -- STATION ONE IN NORTH AMERICA. WE NEED -- WE HAVE CLEARLY NEEDED MORE FIREFIGHTERS SINCE 2009, MADAM SPEAKER, SO WE ARE REALLY BACKFILLING WHAT WE ACTUALLY REALLY NEED. WE ARE HEARING THAT OVERTIME HOURS ARE SUBSTANTIAL, SOME GETTING 38 HOURS OF OVERTIME. LIKE, THIS IS INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF OVERTIME THAT WE ARE HEARING AND SEEING WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE LONGER WAIT TIMES BEFORE, MADAM SPEAKER, AND THIS IS REALLY CRITICAL BECAUSE WITH LONGER WAIT TIMES WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE AREN'T GETTING THE CARE THAT THEY NEED RIGHT AWAY. MADAM SPEAKER, THAT CONCERNS ME AS SOMEONE WHO IS LIVING IN THE INNER CITY WHO HAS SEEN A LOT OF THESE ISSUES PLAY OUT IN HER NEIGHBOURHOOD, AND SO I'M VERY CONCERNED THAT OUR WAIT TIMES ARE FALLING BEHIND, MADAM SPEAKER, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE STAFF AND THE EQUIPMENT COMPLEMENT IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE GETTING THERE IN A TIMELY MATTER. AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT WE'RE SEEING THAT -- CALL VOLUMES ARE THREE TIMES HIGHER, MADAM SPEAKER, THAN ANY OTHER CANADIAN CITY, SO CLEARLY THERE IS A NEED FOR WHAT WE ARE HEARING FROM THE FIREFIGHTERS THAT ARE COMING OUT AND TALKING ABOUT THIS. AND I ALSO WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT WE ARE NEEDING TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE PROVIDING THE SUPPORTS TO WINNIPEG, MADAM SPEAKER. OVERALL, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE A CRISIS HERE AND THESE ARE THE FRONT-LINE STAFF THAT ARE DEALING WITH THE CRISIS. IT'S NOT GOING AWAY ANY TIME SOON. QUITE FRANKLY, WE DO NOT HAVE A PLAN AS A CITY

OF WINNIPEG TO DEAL WITH THIS, AND SO THIS IS WHERE WE'RE AT, MADAM SPEAKER, NEEDING THE STAFF COMPLEMENT IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE MANAGING CRISIS. I'M ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE -- WHAT I'M HEARING ABOUT OUR VACANT AND DERELICT BUILDINGS AND THE INCREASE THAT WE'RE SEEING DUE TO THESE FIRES THAT ARE HAPPENING, AND PARTICULARLY, MADAM SPEAKER, IN OLDER NEIGHBOURHOODS LIKE MINE THAT CLEARLY NEED REVITALIZATION. MADAM SPEAKER, THE REQUEST IS $700,000 OUT OF THE STABILIZATION RESERVE. THIS IS VERY LITTLE IN A LARGE BUDGET THAT WE HAVE, VERY LITTLE AMOUNT, AND QUITE FRANKLY, MADAM SPEAKER, WHEN DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE DEPARTMENT, IT ALSO -- WE'RE OVERSPENDING IN THE OVERTIME SO MUCH THAT REALLY WE WOULD BE BREAKING EVEN, MADAM SPEAKER, BY ACTUALLY ADDING ADDITIONAL STAFF. WE ALL KNOW THAT BURNOUT IS REAL. WE FEEL BURNOUT IN OUR OWN JOBS. MAKING SURE THAT WE ARE OUR LEADERS AND MAKING SURE THAT WE ARE CARING ABOUT OUR STAFF I THINK IS CRITICAL, AND WHAT WE'RE HEARING FROM THE STAFF IS THERE IS BURNOUT, MADAM SPEAKER. AND SO FOR VERY LITTLE MONEY IN THE BIG SCHEME OF THINGS, I THINK WE COULD BE LESSENING THE PRESSURES AND ABLE TO INCREASE THE STAFF COMPLEMENT THAT WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS THAT WE'RE SEEING OUT THERE, AND REALLY BE ABLE TO TACKLE SOME OF THOSE HIGH CALL VOLUMES THAT WE'RE HAVING, MADAM SPEAKER. SO I URGE YOU, WE ALL KNOW THAT THIS IS COMING OUT OF THE STABILIZATION RESERVE. IT'S 700,000, BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT WHERE WE'RE PROVIDING THE FUNDING WHEN IT'S OVERTIME, MADAM SPEAKER. SO IT REALLY IS QUITE A BREAK-EVEN ISSUE BECAUSE BY THE TIME THEY HIRE AND EVERYTHING, THAT WOULDN'T GET STARTED UNTIL WELL INTO APRIL OF 2026, SO IT'S NOT A HUGE COST, MADAM SPEAKER, BUT IT SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE STAFF THAT WE SUPPORT THEM. IT ALSO PUTS THE SERVICES THAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW, FEET ON THE GROUND, MADAM SPEAKER. SO I URGE YOU ALL TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ADD THAT AS PART OF THIS BUDGET AND HOPE THAT YOU'RE HEARING WHAT WINNIPEGGERS ARE SAYING IN TERMS OF THEY WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE FIRE PARAMEDIC SERVICE COMPLEMENT, AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE'VE NEEDED FOR A LONG TIME, AND THIS -- AND EVEN THIS AMOUNT DOESN'T DEAL WITH THE AMOUNT THAT WE NEED, BUT IT'S A START, MADAM SPEAKER. IT'S PROVIDING A START, SO I HOPE THAT YOU SUPPORT AMENDING THIS BUDGET TO INCLUDE THAT. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. NEXT IS COUNCILLOR BROWATY.

COUNCILLOR BROWATY: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MADAM SPEAKER. IT'S MY PLEASURE TO RISE HERE TODAY TO SPEAK TO THE 2026 BUDGET UPDATE. THIS IS THE THIRD YEAR OF OUR MULTI-YEAR BUDGET. IT'S VERY CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE AS A COUNCIL CAME TOGETHER FOR IN OUR FIRST COUPLE MONTHS OF OFFICE. WE SAT DOWN AND CAME UP WITH OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN. I REMEMBER THAT EXERCISE. THERE WAS A LOT OF BACK AND FORTH, A LOT OF DISCUSSION. UNIVERSAL REALIZATION THAT WE ALL WANTED TREES IN OUR ELECTION PLATFORMS, THE ONE MOST CONSISTENT ITEM, BUT ALSO RESPONSIBILITY AND THE RECOGNITION THAT WE ALL CARE ABOUT WINNIPEG AND WANT TO MOVE WINNIPEG FORWARD, WINNIPEG GOING FORWARD. THIS BUDGET RETURNS TO A 3. 5% PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. WE RECOGNIZE RIGHT NOW THAT COST OF LIVING IS A TOP-OF-MIND ISSUE FOR WINNIPEGGERS. YOU KNOW, PEOPLE GO WHY ARE

YOU RAISING PROPERTY TAXES? WELL, THE COSTS OF EVERYTHING HAS GONE UP. THE OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NATURAL INCREASES THAT ARE BUILT INTO THE WAY THEY FUNCTION. THE PRICE OF A PAIR OF JEANS GOES UP, PROVINCE GETS 7% ON THE INCREMENTAL AMOUNT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GETS 5%. SALARIES GO UP, THEY GET AUTOMATIC INCREASES. FOR US, THE COST OF A FIRE ENGINE, THE COST OF A TRANSIT BUS, SALARIES, THEY ARE ALL GOING UP, AND UNFORTUNATELY THE HARD REALITY IS THE ONLY WAY WE REALLY HAVE TO CAPTURE THOSE ADDITIONAL COSTS IS THROUGH A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. 3. 5% IS STILL AMONG SOME OF THE LOWEST IN CANADA, AND IF YOU LOOK OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, SOME OF OUR PROPERTY TAX INCREASES ARE AMONG THE LOWEST IN CANADA, AND WE DO OUR BEST TO TRY AND HOLD THE LINE ON THOSE COSTS. WE'RE ALSO MAKING MASSIVE INVESTMENTS. WINNIPEGGERS TELL US ROADS, ROADS, ROADS. FINALLY, AFTER MANY YEARS OF INVESTMENTS, OUR ARTERIAL ROADWAYS ARE STARTING TO SHOW IMPROVEMENT. WE'RE GETTING INTO SOME OF THE WORST LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD ROADS. WE'RE MAKING INVESTMENTS INTO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION. WE MADE OUR BIGGEST CHANGE TO AUR TRANSIT NETWORK IN A GENERATION. AND WE DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING EXACTLY RIGHT, BUT WE'RE MAKING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS TO BUILD A TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR WINNIPEG'S FUTURE, NOT ITS PAST. WINNIPEG USED TO BE ALL HUB AND SPOKE WHERE EVERYBODY CAME TO THE DOWNTOWN AND EVERYBODY LEFT TO GO OUT TO THE SUBURBS. WE NOW HAVE EMPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT THE CITY. WE NOW HAVE A GRID TRANSIT SYSTEM THAT RECOGNIZES THAT. IS IT PERFECT? IS IT AN IMPROVEMENT FOR ABSOLUTELY EVERYBODY? NO. AND I SAID, YOU KNOW, LONG BEFORE THE TRANSIT SYSTEM WAS ROLLED OUT THAT FOR THE 10% OF PEOPLE THAT THIS SYSTEM COULD BE WORSE FOR, EVEN IF WE GOT EVERYTHING PERFECT, THEY ARE GOING TO BE REALLY MAD. THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE ONE BUS IN THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM WORKED PERFECTLY, IT WAS -- CHANGE WASN'T GOOD, BUT OUR OLD SYSTEM WASN'T PERFECT EITHER, SO THE NEW SYSTEM IS A HUGE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I DO WANT TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO THANK SOME FOLKS. THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP FOR PUTTING IN THE TIME. COUNCILLOR DUNCAN, COUNCILLOR ALLARD. MEETINGS, YOU KNOW, WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME WORKING WITH OUR PUBLIC SERVICE, ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS, AND GETTING ANSWERS. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR C. F. O. TRACY GRAHAM, OUR NEW C. A. O. , HE STARTED END OF JULY, BEGINNING OF AUGUST. MY UNDERSTANDING IS ON DAY TWO HE WAS BEING PULLED INTO BUDGET MEETINGS ALREADY. OUR DEPUTY C. A. O. s, OUR FINANCE TEAM, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, WE HAD DESTINY WATT AND BRIAN KELSEY PLUGGED IN TO THE BUDGET PROCESS THROUGHOUT. ALL THE DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS. THE TURNAROUND TIME WHEN WE HAD QUESTIONS, WE GOT ANSWERS VERY QUICKLY. IT'S ALWAYS ENCOURAGING TO SEE HOW WELL THE SYSTEM WORKS WHEN LISA PUTS DOWN THE HAMMER. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MAYOR AND MY EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE COLLEAGUES. AGAIN, AS PER THE WINNIPEG CHARTER, IT'S ACTUALLY EPC THAT PRESENTS A BUDGET, SO EPC WAS, OF COURSE, INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS. AND FINALLY KYLE FROM MY OFFICE AND BRENDA FROM TRACEY'S OFFICE FOR MAKING ALL THE COORDINATION AND ALL THE LOGISTICS OF OUR MEETINGS AND EVERYTHING HAPPEN. GOING BACK TO OUR BUDGET, OUR CAPITAL BUDGET IS $1. 2 BILLION IN 2026 AND OUR MULTI-YEAR SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IS $3. 8 BILLION. WE ARE FINALLY MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN NEW PEG. SEWAGE IS NOT EXCITING. IT'S NOT SEXY. CUTTING A RIBBON IN FRONT OF A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FOR A POLITICIAN IS NOT THE MOST EXCITING

THING IN THE WORLD, BELIEVE IT OR NOT. MAYBE FOR BRIAN MAYES, BUT FOR EVERYONE ELSE, SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS ARE NOT THE MOST EXCITING THING IN THE WORLD. MAYBE WE SHOULD NAME IT AFTER BRIAN MAYES IN THE END.

NO THANKS. HE DOESN'T WANT THAT.

THE POINT BEING, BUT WE NEED IT. ORIGINALLY IT WAS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT. WE NEEDED TO UPGRADE TO MODERN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE BEING RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF OUR RIVERS AND LAKES, LAKE WINNIPEG, ONE OF THE LARGEST NATURAL FRESH WATER BODIES IN NORTH AMERICA AFTER THE GREAT LAKES. BUT ALSO NOW FOR CAPACITY. WINNIPEG IS GROWING. 85,000 NEW PEOPLE IN THE LAST HANDFUL OF YEARS, AND IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SAY "NO. "NO TO NEW BUSINESS. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SAY NO TO NEW HOMES. AGAIN, WINNIPEG HAS SO MUCH OPPORTUNITY. WE CONTINUE TO GROW, AND IF WE DON'T MAKE THIS INVESTMENT NOW, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SAY "NO" GOING FORWARD. I APPRECIATE WATER AND SEWER BILLS ARE HITTING HARD RIGHT NOW, AND MY HOUSEHOLD INCLUDED, SO WE DO NEED TO -- I'M HAPPY WE FOUND A WAY TO FLATTEN THE INCREASES THAT WERE POTENTIALLY REQUIRED, BUT WE DO NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE OF THE NEW PICK PROJECT IS FUNDED. WE'VE HELD THE LINE ON BUSINESS TAXES, THE INCREMENT TO WATER AND SEWER RATES AND THE SOLID WASTE FEE ARE WITHIN REASONABLE AMOUNTS. AND THE 911 FEE IS DEAD, SO WE'VE HAD TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON THAT. TRANSIT FARES ARE UP A DIME AND WE CONTINUE TO OFFER THE 50% WIN PASS FOR WINNIPEGGERS THAT NEED IT MOST. AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST, YOU KNOW, COMPLAINTS I HEAR FROM FOLKS IS THE IDEA THAT, YOU KNOW, WE ARE TAKING WATER AND SEWER REVENUE AND FUNNELLING IT INTO GENERAL REVENUE. WE'VE ACTUALLY DECREASED IT THIS YEAR EFFECTIVELY FROM 11 TO 10%, FROZEN IT AT PREVIOUS YEARS' LEVELS, AND AS PER COUNCIL'S MOTION FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR, EVENTUALLY THE PLAN IS TO PHASE THAT PARTICULAR PRACTICE OUT. SO AGAIN, I THINK THIS IS A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET. I BELIEVE IT'S A BALANCED BUDGET. FINALLY, WHEN IT COMES TO OUR INCREASE TO OUR FIRE SERVICE IN PARTICULAR, 10 PER YEAR IS NOT NOTHING. THE REAL ISSUE I THINK AT THE END OF THE DAY, I BELIEVE, IS SO MUCH OF -- AND I THINK COUNCILLOR WYATT WAS EVEN GETTING TO THE POINT, SO MUCH OF THE TIME SPENT BY OUR FIREFIGHTERS IS RELATED TO NON-FIRES AND NON-FIRST ON-SCENE MEDICAL CALLS. I THINK IF WE WERE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO REDOUBLE THAT EFFORT, THAT WOULD HAPPEN. THE MAYOR IS TALKING ABOUT A FOURTH 911 SERVICE WHERE PEOPLE WITH MENTAL DISTRESS CALLS WOULD BE DEALT WITH BY A SOCIAL WORKER, MAYBE A COP, DEPENDING ON THE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES, IN A SEDAN RATHER THAN A FIRE TRUCK. MOST FIREFIGHTERS ARE NOT PROPERLY TRAINED TO DEAL WITH MENTAL HEALTH CRISES. THAT'S NOT THEIR JOB. IT'S CHANGED OVER THE YEARS AND THEY ARE DEALING WITH MORE AND MORE PEOPLE THAT ARE IN LEVELS OF DISTRESS, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THEY ARE BEST SUITED FOR. WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE PROVINCE IS PROPERLY FUNDING OUR PARAMEDIC SERVICE. I THINK THE MIDDLE -- YOU KNOW, THERE WERE COMPLAINTS THAT OUR WELLNESS CLINIC IS NOT THE -- MADAM SPEAKER, COULD I GET A TWO-MINUTE EXTENSION FROM SOMEBODY?

SO MOVED.

COUNCILLOR BROWATY: THANK YOU. OUR WELLNESS CLINIC IS IMPORTANT. IT WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE FIRE UNION THAT MISSED HOURS AT THE PARAMEDIC SERVICE IS TEN TIMES WHAT IT IS AT FIRE. THIS SERVICE IS GOING TO BE BASED OUT OF CORPORATE H. R. THE IDEA IS THAT IT WILL HELP OUR EMPLOYEES THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO BE HEALTHY AND TO EVENTUALLY GET BACK TO WORK. THAT'S GOING TO BE I THINK MASSIVELY IMPORTANT SERVICE AND PROPS, YOU KNOW, AGAIN, I THINK THE BIGGER CHALLENGE APPEARS TO BE ON THE PARAMEDIC SIDE THAN FIRE. AGAIN, I THINK THIS IS A BALANCED APPROACH, A BALANCED BUDGET, AND AGAIN, YOU KNOW, THINGS THAT WE HAVE PUSHED OFF, THINGS LIKE SNOW CLEARING, WE INCREASED THE BUDGET AGAIN FINALLY THIS YEAR. IT WAS A MULTI-YEAR PIECE. HOPEFULLY WE DON'T SEE A BLIZZARD OVERNIGHT, AND I'M DREAMING OF A BROWN CHRISTMAS I THINK IS MY FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROL RIGHT NOW, BUT AGAIN, I THANK EVERYBODY FOR THEIR TIME, AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THIS BUDGET AND NOT THE AMENDMENT.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. ANY FURTHER SPEAKERS? COUNCILLOR ROLLINS?

COUNCILLOR ROLLINS: THANK YOU. MADAM SPEAKER, I WANT TO FIRST STAND AND RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE MR. MAYOR AND THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP AND IN PARTICULAR MY COLLEAGUE COUNCILLOR BROWATY WHO'S BEEN CHAIR OF FINANCE FOR FOUR YEARS. WHEN YOU HAVE MULTI-YEAR BUDGETS, MADAM SPEAKER, YOU CAN LOOK BACK AND GO, OKAY, HERE'S SOME SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF WORK IN THE TERM DONE, AND IT'S IMPORTANT I THINK TO WORK THAT MILESTONE AND TO BE CLEAR THAT COMING OUT OF THIS TERM THOSE OF US ON COUNCIL THAT WERE HERE LAST TERM TOO, WE KNOW THAT WE HAD THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW, THE 30,000-FOOT VIEW OF NEWPCC SITTING ON A PREMIER'S DESK AND GOING NO FURTHER. SO THE CONGRATULATORY STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO HAVING A CLEAR VISION OF PHASE ONE, PHASE TWO, PHASE THREE, AND HAVING A SEMBLANCE OF LOGIC AROUND WATER AND WASTE WITH ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS WORKING IN LOCKSTEP ARGUABLY IN ADDITION WITH SEVERAL INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE -- THAT HAVE THE VIEW OF BUILDING IN THIS CITY, A CONTINUED VIEW OF BUILDING THIS CITY ALONG WITH US, IT'S A MOMENT AND IT'S A MOMENT THAT WE SHOULD, IN FACT, ALL GATHER THIS TERM. MAYBE THE ONLY COUNCIL THAT THINKS IT'S A MOMENT TO CUT A RIBBON OR AT LEAST MARK THE MILESTONE AROUND NEWPCC. IF WE DO NOTHING ELSE TOGETHER, I THINK THAT THAT SHOULD BE A MOMENT WHERE TOGETHER WE ALL STAND PROUD OF THE COUNCIL AND STAND BEFORE NEWPCC AND THE FUTURE GROWTH OF THIS CITY. WE ARE A GROWING CITY, AND IT'S THAT THAT I JUMP OFF FROM BECAUSE WHILE IT IS A BALANCED BUDGET, I DON'T THINK IT IS A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET, AND I THINK THE EVIDENCE, MADAM SPEAKER, THAT IT ISN'T ACTUALLY MANIFESTED JUST MOMENTS AGO WHEN WE HAD THREE QUARTERS OF A BUDGET WORKING GROUP -- OR SORRY, TWO THIRDS OF A BUDGET WORKING GROUP, YOU CAN TEASE ME LATER FOR THAT MISSTEP, YOU KNOW, STAND UP AND REALLY FUNDAMENTALLY ASK THE QUESTION OF THE FRONT LINE: DOES THIS BUDGET WORK FOR YOU? AND THE ANSWER WAS "NO. "AND WHETHER IT IS A BUDGET THAT REALLY DOES BUILD OFF A BREAK, A MAJOR BREAK THAT WE SAW LAST BUDGET OF THE TRAJECTORY

THAT WE SET FOR WINNIPEGGERS IN THE MULTI-YEAR, WHICH DID REPRESENT ONE OF THE ONLY CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL OF GOVERNMENT HERE, WHICH REALLY DID REPRESENT THE ONLY CONSULTATIONS WITH WINNIPEG THAT WERE DEEP AND MEANINGFUL THIS TERM, AND WHEN YOU SAW THAT BREAK, YOU SAW A FEW THINGS UNRAVEL, PARTICULARLY IN THE FRONT LINE, AND THIS YEAR WE SAW THE RESULTS OF THAT AND ANOTHER CLEAR EXAMPLE OF WHERE THIS BUDGET LIKELY GOES WRONG IS THAT WE STILL HAVE HOURS AND HOURS OF WORK TO DO IN WATER AND WASTE. WHY? BECAUSE WE HELD A UTILITY OUTSIDE OF BUDGET AND WE RAISED TAXES NOT THE 3. 5% WE HAD COMMITTED TO IN THE MULTI-YEAR BUT ALL THE WAY UP TO ALMOST 6%, MADAM SPEAKER, WHICH MEANT WINNIPEGGERS RIGHT NOW ARE STILL WAITING EITHER FOR EMAILS THAT ARE TAKING WEEKS AND WEEKS TO GET BACK TO OR ON UP TO THREE HOURS OF WAIT TIMES JUST TO PAY THEIR WATER AND WASTE BILL, AND COUNCILLORS ARE STILL HEARING ABOUT THAT AND WE DON'T KNOW IF THE THREE FTEs IN THIS BUDGET WILL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO EFFECT CHANGE THERE WHEN THEY GO INTO WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT YEAR WHEN THIS BUDGET PASSES, WHICH IS INCREASED BILLS AGAIN. AND SO, MADAM SPEAKER, WE DO KNOW, THOUGH, THAT THOSE FTEs DON'T EVEN -- THEY DON'T EVEN MAKE THE GRADE WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WATER AND WASTE LOSES, WHAT THEIR ABSOLUTE CHURN IS. THEY OFTENTIMES ARE DOWN FOUR TO FIVE STAFF, SO WHAT WILL GIVE? WHAT WILL BE THE DIFFERENCE WITH ADDING THREE STAFF? WE'VE HAD MOTION AFTER MOTION GO THROUGH COMMITTEES THAT HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED AS INFORMATION, WHETHER AT THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION REGARDING FIRE, WHETHER AT THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE OF WATER AND WASTE REGARDING THESE EXACT FTEs. ANOTHER EXAMPLE, PUBLIC SAFETY IS A VERY IMPORTANT CHUNK OF WORK THAT EVERYONE IN WINNIPEG EXPECTS US TO BE DOING. WHETHER IT'S THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE ON THE FRONT LINE SAYING, COUNCIL, PLEASE MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE HERE, GET US MORE THAN WHAT IS OUR VACANCY RATE, GET US MORE POSITIONS. OR IT IS THE LAST-MINUTE MOTION ON PUBLIC SAFETY THAT EPC DID TODAY JUST DEMONSTRATES THAT IT'S PERHAPS ANOTHER GOVERNMENT THAT THIS COUNCIL AND THIS EPC SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN. NO GREATER STATEMENT THAN A PUBLIC SAFETY MOTION, WHICH, FRANKLY, WE SHOULD HAVE RESPONDED TO BECAUSE WE WERE TOLD WINNIPEGGERS THAT WAS THEIR NUMBER ONE ISSUE STILL, RIGHT? HOMELESSNESS, PUBLIC SAFETY, THIS IS THEIR NUMBER ONE ISSUES, AND HERE TODAY WE HAVE A FINANCE CHAIR ASKING THE FIREFIGHTERS IF IT'S SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEM, I. E. , YOU KNOW, MANITOBA GOVERNMENT, WHETHER IT'S SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT'S IDEA, I. E. , THE WELLNESS CLINIC, OR IT'S SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT'S 2024 NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN, THE BUDGET COMING OUT OF EPC WHERE WE'RE JUST APPLYING FOR A GRANT. THIS DOESN'T NEED TO BE IN BUDGET. WE COULD DO IT TOMORROW, BUT WE NEEDED, WHAT, A PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT, MADAM SPEAKER? WE DO. BUT WHAT WINNIPEGGERS WANT IS US TO DO OUR HOMEWORK HERE. THEY DO WANT TO SEE COLLABORATION AMONGST AND BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, BUT THEY WANT TO SEE CITY WORK DONE AT CITY COUNCIL, AND RIGHT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT'S LEADING THAT DISCUSSION. WE HAVE HOMEWORK TO DO, AND IT'S NOT GETTING DONE HERE BY JUST APPLYING FOR A GRANT SO THAT FOLKS CAN COORDINATE. IT'S IMPORTANT WORK, BUT IT SHOULD BE OUTSIDE A BUDGET OR IN ADDITION TO. IT DOESN'T RESPOND TO WHAT WINNIPEGGERS NEEDS. IT'S NOT THE PRACTICAL. IT'S NOT THE THINGS TO DO TO KEEP IT SIMPLE. SAVINGS.

THE SAVINGS GROUP, I'M GLAD THEY SAVED THE ONE THING. I'M GLAD THEY CUT THE NONSENSICAL 911 FEES THAT FALSIFIED THE VIEW OF BUDGET IN TERMS OF OUR REVENUE, BUT YOU HEARD LORNE REMILARD SAY ARE THOSE POSITIONS GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. YOU HEARD THE FIREFIGHTERS SAY THOSE POSITIONS IN THE WELLNESS, YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK US ABOUT IT. WHAT? HOW CAN WE STAND HERE AND SAY THAT WE CARE ABOUT THE FRONT LINE, WHICH I DON'T BELIEVE WE'RE QUITE CARING FOR THE FRONT LINE WHEN WE'RE NOT TALKING TO THE PEOPLE WE THINK IT'S GOING TO IMPACT MOST. OH, ANYWAYS, MADAM SPEAKER, I'LL KEEP IT SHORT. YOU GET MY POINT.

MADAM SPEAKER: OKAY, THANK YOU. NEXT SPEAKER IS COUNCILLOR MAYES.

COUNCILLOR MAYES: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT, AND I'LL BE SUPPORTING THE BUDGET. I WANT TO LEAVE MY COMMENTS ABOUT THE AMENDMENT UNTIL THE EXTENSION, THOUGH, WHICH I WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NEED, KNOWING MY PAST RECORD, WHICH I DO SUPPORT. I DO WANT TO THANK THE COUNCILLORS FOR MOVING THAT FORWARD. ON THE BUDGET AS A WHOLE, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STAFF FOR WORKING WITH ME AS I HAVE IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE TROUBLE WAS WE NEED TO DO BETTER ON THE PROCESS. EPC NEEDS TO DO BETTER. THERE WAS NO ROLE FOR ANYONE HERE OUTSIDE OF THE EPC OR THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP TO THE POINT OF BEING WILL WE BE ASKED FOR OUR INPUT? THERE'S ALMOST NO ONE WHO DIDN'T HAVE A ROLE IN THIS AFTER THE THANK YOUS EXCEPT PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T ON EPC OR THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP. DO BETTER WOULD BE MY REQUEST. WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE USUAL OFFER OF WE'LL COME OUT TO YOUR WARD AND DO A PRESENTATION. THAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. I HAD COUNCILLOR BROWATY AND FIELDING AND WYATT AND GILLINGHAM COME OUT TO MY WARD OVER THE YEARS. FRANKLY IT'S THE PEOPLE ON STAFF AND PERHAPS THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE IN THE FOUR-YEAR. MAYBE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE MORE CLEAR IN THE FOUR-YEAR BUDGET BECAUSE PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC ARE EXPECTING ALL OF US TO HAVE INPUT INTO A BUDGET. THEY ARE EXPECTING ALL OF US TO VOTE ON A BUDGET IF YOU'RE TOLD, WELL, YOUR INPUT, YOUR CHANCE FOR INPUT WAS IN THAT FOUR YEARS, SORRY, WE FORGOT TO MAYBE MAKE THAT CLEAR. CERTAINLY WHEN WE DID THE PREVIOUS FOUR-YEAR BUDGET, THERE WAS CHANCE FOR INPUT IN 2021 AND 2022. WE GOT THE RUNNING TRACK IN 2022 WITH COUNCILLOR BROWATY'S COOPERATION, SO THERE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A CHANGE IN PROCESS AND FRANKLY NOT FOR THE BETTER. I'M GLAD THE CEO WAS DRAGGED IN ON HIS SECOND DAY. I'M GLAD HE WAS THERE. I WISH ALL OF US HAD THAT OPPORTUNITY. I DO THINK THIS PROCESS NEEDS SERIOUS REVIEW, AND I'LL COME BACK TO THE FOUR-YEAR BUDGET IN A MOMENT. ALSO THERE WILL BE A FEROCIOUS COUNCIL MEETING, I ANTICIPATE, IN JANUARY ONCE THE GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE. WE USED TO HAVE THEM IN FRONT OF US. WE VOTED ON THEM. IT WAS PART OF THIS PROCESS. COUNCILLOR VOTED TO CHANGE THAT. NOT WITH MY SUPPORT. COUNCIL VOTED TO CHANGE THAT, SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A FAIRLY PUBLIC AND PERHAPS CONTENTIOUS DEBATE OVER GRANTS AND PEOPLE TRYING TO RECOVER WHAT THEY HAD LOST. THAT'S COMING IN JANUARY, I ANTICIPATE. TWO MORE ITEMS FROM THE BUDGET THAT I DID WANT TO HIGHLIGHT, AND I HAVE MIXED EMOTIONS ABOUT THE BUDGET. I'M GLAD WE'RE PUTTING MORE MONEY INTO RECREATIONAL SERVICES. YET ANOTHER 2. 8 MILLION INTO THE ST. JAMES CIVIC CENTRE

KICKING OVER $30 MILLION INTO THE CENTRE. IT IS A NICE PROJECT WHICH I VOTED FOR. I VOTED FOR THE ONE IN COUNCILLOR LUCAS'S WARD AS WELL, BUT SURELY WE CAN EXTEND INTO OTHER AREAS OF GROWTH, LIKE YOUR OWN, MADAM SPEAKER, YOU HAVE THE SECOND-BIGGEST AND I HAVE THE THIRD-BIGGEST. I KEEP HEARING NOW -- THE SIZE OF BRANDON. SAGE CREEK AND -- ARE THE SIZE OF PORTAGE. LET'S PUT MONEY IN AND REFLECT THAT. LET'S PUT MONEY INTO COUNCILLOR SANTOS'S LONG-SOUGHT-AFTER GYMNASIUM. PLEASED TO SEE US INVESTING IN ST. JAMES, BUT LET'S TRY TO INVEST IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE, I WANTED TO COMMENT ON THERE IS A NEWLY INTRODUCED INITIATIVE HERE, $163,000 FOR BUILDING EMISSION REDUCTIONS. IT'S SOMETHING. THE BUILDING EMISSION REDUCTIONS STRATEGY CALLED FOR 38 MILLION, SO PRETTY QUICK MATH, LESS THAN ONE HALF OF 1%, BUT AT LEAST IT'S SOMETHING. I WILL SAY THERE'S A LOT OF BACKSLAPPING ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN. ONE OF THE THINGS IN THERE, ONE OF THE THREE, AND I'VE CONFIRMED THIS WITH MR. HILLED BRAND, ONE OF THE THREE THINGS WE DID NOTHING ON WAS THE IDEA OF A GREEN UTILITY TO BUILD ON THESE SORTS OF INVESTMENTS. THE MAYOR TALKED ABOUT HOW OTHER CITIES WERE PUTTING IN EIGHT OR NINE-FIGURE INVESTMENTS IN RETROFITS. HOUSTON SAVED 31% AND REPAYING A U. S. $23 MILLION INVESTMENT IN 12 YEARS. WE'RE BEATING THE HELL OUT OF THAT BECAUSE OUR THINGS ARE PAYING FOR ITSELF IN THREE YEARS ACCORDING TO THE MATH WE'RE PRESENTED. WE'RE SAVING ENOUGH THAT THESE INVESTMENTS ARE GOING TO PAY BACK IN THREE YEARS, NOT 12, SO LOTS OF THINGS IN THIS STRATEGIC PLAN HAVE BEEN ACTED ON. THIS ISN'T ONE OF THEM, SO I WOULD HOPE TO GET MORE ACTION GOING ON THE BUILDING RETROFITS. I THINK THAT'S GOOD CLIMATE CHANGE, AND IT'S FRANKLY REMARKABLY GOOD MATH IF WE'RE MAKING OUR INVESTMENTS BACK IN JUST THREE YEARS, SO COUNCILLOR BROWATY IS AWARE OF THE MATH AND THE INVESTMENTS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR. WE CAN'T REINVEST THE SAVINGS, BUT IN FUTURE YEARS WE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE DOING MORE THAN $163,000, I WOULD SUGGEST, AND I'M STILL WAITING FOR SOME INITIATIVE ON THIS OUTSIDE FUNDING THAT WAS GOING TO COME FROM INFRASTRUCTURE BANK, ET CETERA. TURNING TO THE MORE ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET, THE ROADS BUDGET IS ACTUALLY DOWN A BIT, BUT IT'S UP OVER WHAT WE ESTIMATED IT WOULD BE, AND IN FUTURE YEARS IT'S ROUGHLY ABOUT WHAT WE PREDICTED, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A HUGE DROP IN PROVINCIAL FUNDING, I THINK STARTING IN 2028, SO SOME GOOD WORK THERE BY COUNCILLOR BROWATY KEEPING US TO ABOUT WHERE WE PROJECTED OVER THE ROADS AND THE PERCENTAGES. THE EXCEPTION WOULD BE MY CONCERN ABOUT YOU FIGHT FOR THESE THINGS IN THE FOUR-YEAR BUDGET. YOU FIGHT TO GET IN MORE MONEY FOR THE MIXER, THE GRAVEL LANE THING. YOU DO. TO MS. PABLO'S CREDIT, YOU DO GET THESE THINGS IN AND THEN TOLD BY THE STAFF WE'RE JUST NOT GOING TO SPEND THAT. THEN PLAY IT OUT IN PUBLIC, PLAY IT OUT WITH ME. LET'S HAVE A FIGHT ABOUT IT IN PUBLIC. YOU CAN'T JUST OPT OUT OF THE BUDGET. IF YOU CAN OPT OUT OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET, THEN WHY DO WE HAVE THIS PROCESS AT ALL? IT'S SERVING NO PURPOSE. YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME INTEGRITY, SOME BELIEF THAT THE CAPITAL BUDGET MATTERS, SO I'LL BE MEETING WITH THE C. A. O. AND THE C. F. O. ABOUT THIS MATTER, BUT YOU CAN'T SAY TO PEOPLE YOU ONLY HAVE ONE SHOT IN THE FOUR-YEAR BUDGET AND ALSO IF YOU GET SOMETHING IN, WE GOT THREE YEARS TO TAKE IT OUT AND YOU HAVE NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. IN FACT, WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO TAKE IT OUT PUBLICLY, SO VERY ALARMING FOR THOSE OF US, LIKE COUNCILLOR

ALLARD AND MYSELF, WHO HAVE A LOT OF THESE GRAVEL LANES. I WOULD ALSO POINT OUT ONE OF THE OTHER ITEMS WE'VE DONE NOTHING ON IN THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN IS THE ONE ITEM WE PUT IN ABOUT GRAVEL LANES, SO LET'S DO BETTER. LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH THE C. A. O. AND THE C. F. O. ON THAT ITEM. COMMUNITIES FUNDING IS INCREASED FOR EACH COUNCILLOR. THANK YOU TO THE MAYOR. THAT IS CERTAINLY KEEPING A CAMPAIGN PLEDGE OF HIS, SO I APPROACH THAT. THE PREP MONEY IS RE-INSTALLED. THAT'S A CAMPAIGN PLEDGE. APPRECIATE THAT. GLAD TO SEE THAT MONEY GOING TO THE MAPLES COMMUNITY GROUP SOLELY BECAUSE THAT WAY WHEN COUNCILLOR DOBSON AND I APPEAR NEXT MONTH SEEKING TO MOVE SOME OLD CAPITAL MONEY TO THE ST. JAMES SCHOOL DIVISION FOR RUNNING TRUCK, NONE OF YOU CAN SAY WE DON'T DO THAT, DON'T MOVE MONEY OUT OF THE CAPITAL OVER INTO OPERATING. THANK YOU TO THE MAPLES GROUP, BECAUSE WE CERTAINLY ARE, BUT THAT'S FOR NEXT MONTH WHEN COUNCILLOR DOBSON AND I COME FORWARD. THIRD THING I HAVE APPRECIATED THERE ARE NO REDUCTIONS HERE. I FEARED THE 5 MILLION I THOUGHT FOR FOR THE REC CENTRE WOULD BE TAKEN OUT. IT HASN'T BEEN. IT'S NOT LIKE COUNCILLOR WYATT GOT 100 MILLION MORE FOR EAST OF RED OR SANTOS GOT THE GYM, SO I APPRECIATE THAT. THAT WAS AN EVEN-HANDED APPROACH. I DIDN'T GET BADLY TREATED THERE, SO I APPRECIATE THAT. TWO THINGS AND THEN I'LL SWITCH GEARS INTO FIREFIGHTERS. COUNCILLOR BROWATY IS RIGHT. THE MAIN THING IS NEWPCC. THERE'S NOW PHASE 3, AND THAT'S A HUGE INVESTMENT. I'M PLEASANTLY SURPRISED WE EVEN GOT TO THAT THIS TERM OF OFFICE, SOY WANT TO THANK THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR BROWATY FOR PUTTING THAT IN. I NEED A FEW MINUTES.

COUNCILLOR SANTOS MOVES EXTENSION OF TWO MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOUR?

AYE.

MADAM SPEAKER: CONTRARY? CARRIED.

THE OTHER POSITIVE ASPECT HERE, IT'S SMALL, MANY PEOPLE WOULDN'T NOTICE IT, I NOTICED IT, THE INDEXING OF THE C. S. O. FUNDING. SO WE'RE GOING IT ALONE. WE'RE GOING TO GET DONE BY THE PROVINCIAL DEADLINE. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS INDEX IT, THOUGH. IF YOU LOOK, IT'S GOING 30, 31, 32, 33, SO I WANT TO THANK THE DIRECTOR FOR MAKING SURE THAT HAPPENED AND THANK COUNCILLOR BROWATY. IT SEEMS SMALL. IT IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND IT CERTAINLY HAS MATTERED TO ME, SO I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE BUDGET, BUT I DO WANT TO TURN WITH THE TIME I HAVE LEFT TO THE FIREFIGHTERS ISSUE. THAT WAS QUITE A MOVING PRESENTATION, ACTUALLY, FROM THE TWO SPEAKERS, AND YOU HAVE THE PERSON WHO IS IN THE FRONT LINE SAYING I DON'T WANT THE OVERTIME. YOU'RE GIVING TOO MUCH OF IT. HIRE MORE PEOPLE. HIRE MORE PEOPLE. OF COURSE SOMETIMES I HAVE TO TAKE SICK DAYS BECAUSE YOU'RE BURNING US OUT WITH THE OVERTIME BECAUSE WE'RE SEEING THESE HORRIFIC SCENES OF CRIME AND INJURY AND I HAVE TO SAY, I HAVE SOME REAL SYMPATHY FOR THAT. SO IT'S A RELATIVELY MINOR, PERHAPS IT DOESN'T EVEN SATISFY THE UFFW, BUT IT'S A RESPONSIBLE RELATIVELY MINOR MOVE. WE'RE GOING TO SAY THIS BUDGET PROJECTS FUNDS 10 IN THIS YEAR STARTING APRIL 1 AND THEN 10 IN EACH OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUND THAT. THAT'S A FUTURE THING. ALL THIS SAYS IS MOVE 10 INTO

THIS YEAR. SO NOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE 20. THEY'RE GOING TO START APRIL 1, SO IT'S A LITTLE CONFUSING, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR 10 MORE FTEs, ONLY 7. 5FTEs. IT'S ONLY 700,000 OUT OF A RESERVE THAT IS LISTED IN THIS BUDGET AT 15. 2. SO IT'S NOT EMPTYING THE RESERVE. IT'S A RESPONSIBLE MOVE. IT GETS MORE FIREFIGHTERS GOING. YOU MIGHT SAY, WELL, BUT THEN YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM IN FUTURE YEARS. WELL, THIS BUDGET ENVISAGES THAT, ADDING MORE IN IN 27. SO THE NET COST HERE SERIOUSLY IS ONLY 700,000 OUT OF A RESERVE. COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS ASKED AREN'T A LOT OF THESE LEAVES DUE TO MENTAL HEALTH? I'LL WRAP UP JUST BY SAYING I THINK IT'S A RESPONSIBLE THING TO DO THAT THE SERVICE IS CHANGING ITS CHARACTER, THE NEEDS OF THE SERVICE HAVE CHANGED, SO I THANK THE TWO COUNCILLORS FOR THE AMENDMENT. I WILL CERTAINLY BE SUPPORTIVE. IT'S A RELATIVELY MINOR COST INCREASE TO SEND A PRETTY POWERFUL MESSAGE, I THINK.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. NEXT IS COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS.

COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I WAS ACTUALLY FAIRLY MOVED BY THE PRESENTATION BY ADRIANA HOBBS. WHO TALKED ABOUT IT'S NOT THE SAME SERVICE AS IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO. YOU KNOW, AS THE FORMER CHAIR OF THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD, THE W. P. S. HAS INDICATED THEIR NUMBER ONE CALLS FOR SERVICE WAS WELLNESS CHECKS. METH HAS BEEN A GAME CHANGER. THE PROVINCE HAS INDICATED THAT THEIR INTENT IS TO ESTABLISH A SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITE AND HAVE ALSO PUT FORWARD LEGISLATION TO HOLD AN INDIVIDUAL FOR 72 HOURS. NOT CERTAIN IF W. F. P. S. OR UFFW WERE CONSULTED, AND I'M ALSO NOT SURE WHAT IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON FRONT-LINE DELIVERY OF SERVICE, WHETHER THESE CALLS WILL START TO BE REDUCED. COUNCIL ITSELF HAS SEEN AN IMPACT ON METH RIGHT HERE ON OUR FRONT STEPS. WITH THE ADMINISTERING OF NARCAN TO AN OVERDOSED INDIVIDUAL. THIS BUDGET PUTS FORTH MEASURES IN PLACE -- PUTS FORTH MEASURES TO MITIGATE SOME OF THE CONCERNS THAT WERE RAISED TODAY. THE ADDRESSING OF VACANT AND DERELICT BUILDINGS IS ONE THING. THE WELLNESS OFFICERS THAT WILL BE HIRED TO ASSIST IN, AND THAT'S WHY I ASKED THAT QUESTION ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRYING TO FIND AN IDEA OF HOW MANY ARE EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL INJURIES WHILE ON A JOB, AND IT WAS PRESENTED TO US, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT ARE IMPACTED BY WHAT THEY SEE ON A DAILY BASIS. AND YOU KNOW, THE DAILY BASIS IS THE REALITY OF THEIR WORK. YOU KNOW, SEEING CHILDREN THAT HAVE BEEN ABUSED AND INJURED, ACCIDENTS THAT THEY ATTEND TO, FIRES THAT THEY ATTEND TO. IT ALL HAS AN IMPACT ON THEIR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. WE TALKED ABOUT 10 POSITIONS PER YEAR FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WITH A TOTALITY OF 40 POSITIONS. SO THE QUESTION BEGS IS WHETHER THE TOTALITY OF ALL OF THE MEASURES THAT ARE BEING PUT IN PLACE ARE ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF BOTH UFFW, WFPS, AND ULTIMATELY THE CITIZENS OF WINNIPEG. AGAIN, THE INDIVIDUAL ADRIANA HAD INDICATED THAT IT IS NOT THE SAME SERVICE AS IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO. AND SHE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, AND AGAIN, MY EXPERIENCE IN TERMS OF WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE AND THEIR CALLS FOR SERVICE, IT DOES BEAR IT OUT. SO AS COUNCIL WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD AT THE REQUESTS BEFORE US, LOOK AT THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS, AND FIREFIGHTERS ARE CITIZENS AS WELL. THEY HAVE FAMILIES, AND WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF OUR CITIZENS HAVE ACCESS TO WHAT THEY NEED TO DO THEIR JOBS. IT WAS TALKED ABOUT THAT

HIRING NEW FIREFIGHTERS COULD COME OUT OF THAT OVERTIME BUDGET. I SIT ON WITH COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW ON OUR EMERGENCY MEASURES COORDINATION COMMITTEE, AND WE SAW THIS YEAR JUST THE DEVASTATING WILDFIRES ONCE IN 100 YEARS TYPE OF WILDFIRES, THE LARGEST EVACUATION IN MANITOBA'S HISTORY, AND THE WORK THAT WAS DONE TO ENSURE THAT NOT ONLY CITIZENS OF WINNIPEG WHO WERE IMPACTED BUT CITIZENS OF MANITOBA IN THE NORTHERN AREAS, AND I'M CERTAIN THAT -- AND PROBABLY IT'S SPEAKING OUT OF SCHOOL HERE, BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT THERE WERE FIREFIGHTERS FROM WINNIPEG THAT VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME TO GO UP NORTH AND ASSIST IN THIS PROVINCIAL EFFORT. SO AGAIN, IT'S A TOUGH DECISION TO MAKE TODAY WITH RESPECT TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED, WHAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED, AND I DO WANT TO THANK THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP FOR THEIR HARD WORK OVER THESE LAST FEW MONTHS, AS WELL AS FINANCE. TRACY GRAHAM AND HER TEAM, THE C. A. O. WHO WAS IMMEDIATELY PUT INTO ACTION IN TERMS OF THE BUDGET PROCESS, BUT THESE ARE TOUGH DECISIONS THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE AS A COUNCIL. IT'S ABOUT OUR FUTURE AS A CITY GOING FORWARD, THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS GOING FORWARD, WHICH IS MY TIME AND TENURE ON THE WINNIPEG POLICE BOARD WAS ALL PART AND PARCEL OF THAT, HOW WE MAKE OUR CITY SAFER. SO AGAIN, A TOUGH QUESTION THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US HERE TODAY, AND I'M HOPING IT WILL BE THE RIGHT ANSWER. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS. COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW.

COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. WAS I GOING TO SPEAK TODAY? I HAD WRESTLED WITH THIS ALL WEEK. IF THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP OR THE EPC HAVE NO DESIRE TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT THE BUDGET, WHY SHOULD I SPEAK TO THEM? LAST YEAR I CAME TO THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP AND I CAME TO EPC WITH FUNDED IDEAS. DID I GET A THANK YOU? NO, I GOT TRASHED BY THE MAYOR IN THE PAPER. THEY WERE IDEAS I HAD. I NEEDED TO THINK THE IDEAS WE HAVE WE HAVE TO FUND THEM AND WE HAVE TO HAVE WAYS OF FUNDING THEM. DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO AGREE WITH THE MAYOR OR EPC, BUT I BROUGHT THEM FORWARD. AT LEAST I TRIED. AND THEN WHAT DID I GET? NOTHING. I GET A SLAM IN THE PAPERS. SO WHAT AM I DOING THIS YEAR? THIS YEAR I'M GOING TO TALK TO COUNCILLOR BROWATY WHEN HE COMES TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THE PROBLEMS I HAVE WITH THE BUDGET AND THE OVERALL FISCAL SITUATION OF THE CITY. NEVER HAPPENED, NOT ONCE. WHY AM I GOING TO VOTE FOR THE BUDGET WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE OR THE HONESTY TO COME TALK TO ME ABOUT IT? I DON'T KNOW. BECAUSE YOU WORKED REALLY HARD ON IT BY YOURSELVES IN THE LITTLE ROOM IN THE BACK ROOM SOMEWHERE? I GUESS. I'M SURE YOU DID WORK VERY HARD, BUT AGAIN, THIS IS COUNCIL AS A WHOLE. THIS IS OUR ONLY MOMENT WE CAN SPEAK TO THIS. SO YOU'RE ON A BAD FOOT ALREADY TO START OFF WITH FOR ME TO EVEN SUPPORT IT. HOWEVER, AS WE ALL KNOW IN EVERY BUDGET, THERE ARE SOME GOOD THINGS IN HERE. WE KNOW THERE ARE SOME GOOD THINGS IN HERE. THEY PIECE TOGETHER AND VIEW SOME NEW BUDGETING KIND OF IDEAS, LIKE FOR EXAMPLE WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE 2% TO ROADS, WE'LL GIVE 1% TO ROADS AND THEN USE DEBT FOR AN ONGOING PROGRAM INTO ROADS. OKAY, THAT'S NEW. AGAIN, IT'S CAPITAL. YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT IT'S AN ONGOING PROGRAM, SO I KNOW WHEN COUNCILLOR WYATT AND I DID -- WAY BACK WHEN, IT WAS 2% OF PROPERTY TAXES, NOT 2% OF PROPERTY TAXES

AND DEBT TOO, BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS IT HAS TO GET BACKFILLED. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF ONE-TIME PROJECTS IN OPERATING. I'M NOT SURE HOW WE'LL FUND THEM IN THE FUTURE. WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE GLORIOUS OF WINNIPEG'S GROWTH PROJECTORY. WE CAN'T -- WE TALKED ABOUT JUST KEEPING THE DEVELOPMENT FEES THAT WE HAD ALREADY FOR PERMITS IN ABEYANCE. NOT A NEW FEE. DENIED. WE'RE NOT BRINGING ANY NEW REVENUES IN. SORRY, WE ARE BRINGING NEW REVENUES IN ON STRICTLY TO THE POOREST PEOPLE IN WINNIPEG. WHAT I MEAN BY THAT, THESE FLAT FEES WHERE THE RECYCLING FEE IS GOING TO BE BRUTAL. YOU MAY BE VERY HAPPY THAT WE GOT THE FEE RAISED DOWN FOR THE NEWPCC. THAT'S IF WE GET THE TWO THIRDS, AND WHY ARE WE ONLY ASKING FOR US TO PAY ONE THIRD? WE GET PROPERTY TAX OUT OF THIS. WE DON'T GET NEARLY THE BENEFIT THE OTHER GROUPS GET. WE SHOULD BE DOING 25%, MAX, ON THE CITY SIDE, IN MY OPINION. MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP THE PROGRAM UNTIL WE GET THE FUNDING THAT WE NEED. MAYBE WE DON'T NEED TO GROW ALL THE TIME. MAYBE WE LET THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AROUND US TRY TO SUFFER THROUGH INCREASING THEIR ROADS, INCREASING THEIR POLICE BUDGETS AND FIRE BUDGETS AND ALL THE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO RIGHT NOW BUT WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD IT. AGAIN, I AM CULPABLE. I'M NOT BLAMING ANYBODY HERE, BUT I'M ON MY LAST BUDGET, PROBABLY, TO -- AND THINKING OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE DONE HERE IN COUNCIL. I LOVE THE TREES. I THINK THE ROADS WERE VERY NECESSARY. THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE WANTED. THERE ARE ITEMS EVERY YEAR, BUT RIGHT NOW WHAT I SEE IS HAPPENING IN THIS BUDGET BY THIS NO MORE REVENUE WE'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT WE'RE CHEAP, AFFORDABILITY WE'LL CALL IT, AFFORDABILITY CRISIS, IF I HEAR ONE MORE CRISIS, I'M GOING TO LOSE IT. WE'RE GOING FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS TO CRISIS, AND YOU WILL KEEP GOING FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS. WE HAD THE FIRE CRISIS THIS YEAR, FOREST FIRE CRISIS. THAT'S NOT GOING TO STOP. WE'RE HAVING CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEMS. WE'RE HAVING BIG FALLOUT FROM MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES FROM COVID THAT ARE NOT GETTING ADDRESSED. IT'S GOING TO KEEP SPIRALLING, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY NEW REVENUES TO DEAL WITH IT. DID WE DO ANY SHARED USE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES? I DON'T THINK SO. I NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT. MAYBE ONE GROUP SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK ROOM IS DOING IT SOMEWHERE WITHOUT TELLING US. I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT. HAVE WE TALKED ABOUT A WHOLE BUNCH OF THINGS? AGAIN, HOW ARE WE GOING TO RAISE REVENUE? WE NEED MORE REVENUE OR WE'RE GOING TO HAVE DRAMATIC BUDGETARY CUTS. WE CAN'T KEEP LIMPING ALONG LIKE THIS. THE CUPBOARDS ARE BARE, AND AGAIN, I'M SAYING THIS NOT TO BELITTLE ANYBODY, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE MY JOB RIGHT NOW SAYING THE FINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG IS DOING BETTER. IT IS NOT DOING BETTER. IT IS DOING MUCH WORSE. WHEN WE FIRST GOT HERE, WE LOWERED DOWN THE DEBT RATE SO OUR SERVICING COSTS COLLAPSED DOWN BECAUSE WE WERE PAYING SO MUCH MONEY IN SERVICING COSTS. NOW WE'RE GOING RIGHT BACK THERE AGAIN. MASSIVELY BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WITH CHIEF PEGUIS NOW THAT WE TAXED OUT OUR THING, THERE WILL BE 365 DAYS A REPORT COMING BACK SAYING IF YOU WANT TO FUND THESE MEGA PROJECTS, INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECTS, YOU'LL HAVE TO MASSIVELY INCREASE YOUR DEBT. GOING RIGHT BACK AGAIN LIKE THE POLITICAL WHEEL THAT LIFE IS. GOING AROUND AND AROUND AND AROUND. WE TALK ABOUT GROWTH CAN PAY FOR GROWTH. WE TALK ABOUT CHIEF PEGUIS, THE TWO NEW PRECINCTS AND THEY WILL PAY FOR CHIEF PEGUIS. THAT'S FINE IF THEY NEVER LEAVE THEIR SITE OR LEAVE THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR

DON'T NEED ANY FIRE OR AMBULANCE. THAT WOULD BE FINE, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW THE GAME WORKS. IT MEANS THE REST WILL HAVE TO FUND THAT FOR THEM. BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL THERE TAX REVENUE TO MAKE THAT NUMBER WORK GOING TO GO THERE. SO I DO I THINK THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA? ABSOLUTELY NOT. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE THIS FOUR-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE AND THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN, STICKIES ON A WALL DON'T MAKE AN ACTION PLAN. THEY DON'T. I WAS WORRIED WHEN WE WERE THERE. YOU SAW MY HESITATION TO EVEN AGREEING TO MOST OF THIS STUFF, BUT AGAIN, TEAM WORK IS TEAM WORK. AGAIN, IT WAS STICKIES ON A WALL, AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT IT WAS, AND NOW THAT'S BEING USED MOSTLY POLITICAL TO SAY YOU VOTED FOR THAT IN THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN. I VOTED FOR A THOUSAND OTHER THINGS BECAUSE THERE WERE A THOUSAND STICKIES ON THAT WALL. IF YOU GO THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, YOU'LL SEE ALL THOSE STICKIES STILL ON THE WALL. THEY BROUGHT THEM ALL HOME. SO AGAIN, WE AS A COUNCIL HAVE TO COME TOGETHER. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY THROUGH THIS BASIC FACT IS THAT WE HAVE INCREASING COSTS, WE HAVE INCREASING DEBT AND WE HAVE NO REVENUE TO BE ABLE TO MANAGE THIS, AND THE CUPBOARDS ARE BARE. THE MANOEUVRING OF, WELL, WE DIDN'T MAKE THIS COST SO WE'RE GOING TO MOVE IT ON TO THE NEXT YEAR BUT IT ISN'T REALLY A DEBT, OKAY, THAT'S AN INTERESTING ONE, BUT AGAIN, I THANK THE C. F. O. SHE EXPLAINED IT TO ME. I DIDN'T HAVE TO AGREE WITH HER, BUT AGAIN IT WAS A LIABILITY FOR NEXT YEAR, NOT A DEBT. AGAIN, THOSE ARE COMMUNITIES GETTING BIGGER EVERY TIME, SO AGAIN, I SEE FOR ME AS A WINNIPEGER, FOR ALL WINNIPEGGERS, THAT WHERE WE'RE GOING, I DON'T SEE A WAY OUT, AND THAT'S WHY I'M STRESSED. I DON'T SEE HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS, KEEP GOING ON THIS PATH. WE CAN'T. WE HAVE TO HAVE THE COURAGE TOGETHER AND HOPEFULLY THE NEXT FOUR-YEAR BUDGET IT WON'T BE JUST STICKIES ON A WALL. IT WILL BE SAYING WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET THIS ZIPPER, REMEMBER THE ZIPPER FOR SOME OF US, WELL, THE ZIPPER IS WIDE OPEN NOW. WE -- ON THE BEAUMONT YEARS WE COLLAPSED THE ZIPPER A FAIR BIT. NOW THE ZIPPER IS MASSIVELY WIDE OPEN. THAT'S GOING TO REALLY HURT PEOPLE LATER ON. WITHOUT ANY REVENUE TO TRY TO CLOSE THE ZIPPER, IT HAS TO BE SERVICE CUTS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS. I WISH I COULD BE A PART OF THAT DECISION AND THAT PROCESS, BUT THIS YEAR LAID ME TO SADNESS BECAUSE WE'RE NOT ONLY ARE THEY NOT ENGAGING US, THEY ARE ENGAGING THE REST OF COUNCIL EVEN LESS. SO IF YOU WANT TO DO BOLD THINGS, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO TRY TO ADDRESS THIS, IT'S GOING TO TAKE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE TO DO THIS, NOT THREE BUDGET PEOPLE, TWO ONE IN PC, ONE IS NOT. NOT EPC IT'S GOING TO TAKE ALL OF COUNCIL TO WORK TOGETHER, AND NOT ON STICKIES, ON FINANCIAL NUMBERS OF HOW TO DO THIS WITH TIMELINES. LIKE IT WAS SAID, WE NEED TO HAVE QUANTIFIED TIMELINES HOW TO GET THIS DONE. AGAIN, I KNOW IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR. I KNOW THIS BUDGET IS ACTUALLY NOT THE WORST THAT IT COULD BE, BUT IT ACTUALLY COULD BE A LOT BETTER IF WE HAD THE COURAGE TO BE ABLE TO DO SOME THINGS WE HAVE TO DO, SO I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST. I'M GOING TO LISTEN TO EVERYBODY TODAY AND MAYBE GET SOME REPLIES BACK THAT WILL MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, BUT AGAIN I'M VERY, VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF WINNIPEG'S FINANCES AND I DON'T SEE US MAKING ANY PROGRESS FORWARD. THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. SEEING THE HOUR, WE'RE GOING TO NOW RECESS AND RECONVENE AT 1:15. 1:15, THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: GOOD AFTERNOON. I LIKE TO RECONVENE OUR COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2026. WE'RE DEBATING THE CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET. OUR NEXT SPEAKER IS COUNCILLOR SANTOS.

COUNCILLOR SANTOS: THANK YOU. I WANT TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP AND PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS. EACH YEAR THEY ARE TASKED WITH MANAGING SIGNIFICANT AND ONGOING OPERATING COST PRESSURES, FIGHTING EFFICIENCIES AND ADVANCING SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS. ALL THE WHILE MEETING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS FOR STRONGER CUSTOMER SERVICE AND KEEPING THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE AS 3. 5%. THAT IS NOT EASY WORK. IT DESERVES RECOGNITION. THANK YOU FOR THAT. THIS YEAR BUDGET REFLECTS SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS. PARTICULARLY IN AREAS WHERE WINNIPEGERING HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR YEARS. WE ARE INVESTIGATING $137 MILLION IN TRANSIT AND $12. 23 MILLION IN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION. THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF INVESTMENT WE'VE SEEN OVER A DECADE. THESE INVESTMENTS ARE CRITICAL TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE, MOBILITY, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY ACROSS OUR CITY AND TO ENSURING OUR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK MEETS BOTH CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS. AS CHAIR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, I'M ENCOURAGED TO SEE CONTINUED INVESTMENTS ACROSS THIS PORTFOLIO. AREAS THAT WINNIPEGGERS ARE CONNECTED TO. THE BUDGET INCLUDES CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARDS THE NEW NORTHWEST LIBRARY, PHASE TWO OF THE ST. JAMES CIVIC CENTRE, ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR GWCC. TARGETED SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, EXPANDING THE PROACTIVE CLEAN UP OF NEEDLE DEBRIS AND WEAPONS PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE SIX MORE PARKS. INCREMENTAL $5 MILLION INVESTMENT IN URBAN FORESTRY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ANIMAL SERVICES FACILITY ADJUSTING LONG-STANDING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS. THESE INVESTMENTS DEMONSTRATE A BUDGET THAT SEEKS BALANCE. RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, RECREATION, GREEN SPACES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE FINANCIAL PRESSURES WE CONTINUE TO FACE. BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I WANT TO TAKE THE TIME TO SPEAK TO AN AREA THAT CONTINUES TO PLACE PRESSURE ON OUR OPERATING BUDGET. THAT'S THE WINNIPEG FIRE PARAMEDICS SERVICE OVERTIME. I WANT TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS WHO SERVE OUR CITY EVERYDAY, THEIR WORK IS DEMANDING. COMPLEX AND OFTEN CARRIED OUT UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. NOTHING IN THIS DISCUSSION DIMINISHES THAT REALITY. WHAT WE ARE DEBATING TODAY IS NOT WHETHER PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS. IT ABSOLUTELY DOES. THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER WE'RE WILLING TO ADAPT OUR PRIOR PARAMEDIC SERVICE TO TODAY'S REALITIES. RATHER THAN CONTINUING TO RELY ON MODELS THAT LONGER REFLECT THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CHALLENGES WE FACE. WE KNOW THE NATURE OF CALL FOR SERVICE HAS CHANGED. MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, ADDICTIONS, ENCAMPMENTS AND SOCIAL SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES MAKE UP A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR CALLS. THESE ARE NOT ISSUES THAT CAN BE SOLVED WITH A ONE-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH. TO ADDRESS TODAY'S CHALLENGES REQUIRES MORE CREATIVITY, FLEXIBILITY AND A MULTIPRONGED RESPONSE. THAT IS WHY THIS BUDGET CANNOT SIMPLY DEFAULT TO ADDING FTEs AS A PRIMARY SOLUTION. THIS BUDGET, 2026, IS SUGGESTING THAT THE INVESTMENT TO CONTINUE THAT INVESTMENT BY INCLUDING 40 NEW F. T. E. POSITIONS OVER THE NEXT FUR YEARS. THIS INVESTMENT IS NOT ENOUGH

IF WE DO NOT ALSO ADDRESS SUSTAINABILITY. OVERTIME IS NO LONGER BEING USED AS AN EMERGENCY TOOL. IT IS BECOME A PERMANENT STAFFING MECHANISM. THAT IS NOT HEALTHY FOR OUR MEMBERS. NOT EFFECTIVE FOR OUR SERVICE AND NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR TAXPAYERS. WHICH IS WHY THIS BUDGET ALSO FOCUSES WELLNESS AND PREVENTION. FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE ARE ESTABLISHING A WELLNESS CLAIM. A DEDICATED FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CLINIC FOCUSED ON FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDIC HEALTH. THIS WORK IS ABOUT ENSURING OUR MEMBERS ARE SEEN, HEARD AND SUPPORTED. NOT SIMPLY TREATED AND SENT BACK TO WORK. APPROXIMATELY 170F. T. E. s ARE CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE THROUGH WORKERS COMPENSATION AND DISABILITY. THESE ARE PEOPLE NOT NUMBER. IF WE WANT A HEALTHY SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE, WE MUST INVEST GETTING PEOPLE WELL AND SAFELY BACK TO WORK. WHEN I SAID THAT MENTAL HEALTH ISN'T A LUXURY. THAT FIREFIGHTERS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO CARRY THEIR STRUGGLES ALONE, I MEAN IT. THE WELLNESS CLINIC IS ONE OF THE WAYS WE ARE TURNING THAT BELIEF INTO ACTION. VERY FEW EMPLOYERS ARE TAKING THIS KIND OF PROACTIVE HOLISTIC APPROACH. IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS MODEL HAS A POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT OTHER FRONTLINE CITY EMPLOYEES AS WELL. INCLUDING TRANSIT DRIVER AND LIBRARY STAFF WHO FACE MANY OF THE SAME CHALLENGES ON THE JOB. A MODERN EMPLOYER MUST RECOGNISE THAT REALITY. IN ADDITION TO INVESTING IN STAFFING, WELLNESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE WE ALSO TAKING PROACTIVE STEPS TO REDUCE AVOIDABLE CALLS FOR SERVICE INCLUDING ADVANCING A WINNIPEG COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICE. MANY EMERGENCY CALLS INVOLVE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL OR POLICE INTERVENTION. COMMUNITY-LED CRISIS RESPONSE MODELS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES WHILE REDUCING STRAIN ON EMERGENCY SERVICE WHICH IS WHY THIS WORK IS MOVING FORWARD. TOMORROW, WE WILL BE VOTING ON THE REPORT FOR THE VACANCY VITALITY STRATEGY TO DISTRICT DERELICT PROPERTIES THAT CONTINUE TO DRY REPEAT FIRES ACALLS. I GO BACK TO MY ORIGINAL POINT. SOLVING TODAY'S CHALLENGES REQUIRES CREATIVE AND FLEXIBLE THINKING WITH STAFFING, WELLNESS, PREVENTION AND SYSTEM DESIGN WORKING TOGETHER. AS CHAIR, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE NEW C. A. O. AND CHIEF AND THE MAYOR I BELIEVE THE WORK WE ARE ADVANCING NOW WILL SHOW MEANINGFUL IMPACT IN THE 2026 AND BEYOND. I AM COMMITTING TO STAYING ENGAGE AND ENSURING WE MOVE TOWARDS AN OUTCOME THAT SUPPORTS PUBLIC SAFETY AND OUR FRONTLINE STAFF. I WANT TO END ALSO THE AMENDMENT THAT IS BEING PUT FORTH BY COUNCILLOR GILROY, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT POKES -- THAT MOTION. THIS SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY AND BEING THOUGHTFUL STEWARDS OF PUBLIC DOLLARS. IT DOES RECOGNISE THE VERY REAL PRESSURES FACING OUR FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDIC AS WE HEARD FROM OUR DELEGATES EARLIER TODAY. WHILE ENSURING WE RESPOND TO MEASURED AND SUSTAINABLE WAYS. BY PHASING IN ADDITIONAL FTEs, FUNDING THE INITIAL IMPACT RESPONSIBLY AND COMMITTING TO REVIEW OUTCOMES BEFORE MAKING FURTHER STAFFING DECISIONS, THIS AMENDMENT DOES GIVE A BALANCED CARE FOR OUR FRONT-LINE WORKERS AND ACCOUNTABILITY. THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: NEXT UP, COUNCILLOR WYATT FOLLOWEDLY COUNSEL ALLARD.

COUNCILLOR WYATT: WE CALL THE QUESTION IMMEDIATELY. BY CALLING THE QUESTION

ON THE AMENDMENT IMMEDIATELY.

MADAM SPEAKER: THERE ARE OTHER SPEAKERS. I WILL ASK THE CLERK TO CLARIFY THE REQUEST. THERE ARE OTHER SPEAKERS REGISTERED. I'M SURE YOU CAN RESPECT THAT A WELL.

CLERK: WE'RE CHECKING THAT. THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: CAN VERY VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT AND GO BACK.

CLERK: SECTION 35 OF THE PROCEDURE BYLAWS READS THAT A MOTION THAT THE VOTE BE TAKEN ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION SHALL ALWAYS BE IN ORDER OR ANY OTHER MOTION AND SHALL BE PUT IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT DEBATE EXCEPT THAT A COUNCILLOR MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY AFTER SPEAKING. MOVE THAT THE VOTE BE TAKEN.

MADAM SPEAKER: SO, IT IS AN ORDER TO VOTE ON THE MOTION AND GO BACK TO THE DEBATE MR. CLERK? THERE'S NO REQUIRED VOTE OF COUNCIL TO DO SO?

COUNCILLOR GILROY: DO I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STILL SPEAK? [INAUDIBLE]

MADAM SPEAKER: I WILL CONFER WITH THE CLERK.

CLERK: IT'S A MOTION TO TAKE THE VOTE. IT'S A MOTION TO ACTUALLY VOTE ON THE MOTION. YOU ACTUALLY ASKING WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD BE VOTING ON THIS MOTION NOW. IT'S A MOTION THAT THE VOTE NOW BE TAKEN ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION. THE MOTION IS TO CALL THE QUESTION ON THE AMENDMENT. THAT'S THE MOTION BEFORE COUNCIL. WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT. WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BE RIGHT ON THE AMENDMENT. FIRST, YOU'RE VOTING WHETHER OR NOT TO BE VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT RIGHT AWAY.

MADAM SPEAKER: I'M GOING TO CALL THE VOTE ON WHETHER WE PROCEED TO VOTE ON AMENDING MOTION RIGHT NOW. [ INDISCERNIBLE ]COUNCILLOR GILROY, YOUR MICROPHONE NOT ON. WE HAVE SOMEBODY NEW AS PART OF COUNCIL. I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'S CLEAR ON WHAT WE ARE VOTING FOR. THIS REQUEST DOES NOT COME UP VERY OFTEN. MR. MAYOR.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: I BEEN HERE QUITE A WHILE. I LIKE TO BE CLEAR. THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: IT IS IN THE PROCEDURE BYLAW. WE LIKE TO BE CLEAR. THANK YOU FOR THAT, MR. MAYOR. THE AMENDING MOTION ONE MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GILROY. COUNCILLOR WYATT CANDIDATE THAT WE VOTE ON THAT NOW. THE REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE. I WILL CALL A LOT -- I WILL CALL VOTE ON THAT. CONSIDERATION TO VOTE FOR THE MOTION.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: TO BE CLEAR, YOU'RE CALLING IN QUESTION ON A VOTE WHETHER WE SHOULD VOTE ON THE MOTION. IT'S NOT A VOTE ON THE MOTION NOW.

MADAM SPEAKER: IF YOU THINK WE SHOULD STOP DEBATE AND GO TO VOTE ON THIS MOTION. I'LL CALL A RECORDED VOTE. IF YOU LIKE TO -- OKAY, THANK YOU. I'LL CALL THE QUESTION ON WHETHER YOU THINK WE SHOULD PROCEED AFTER THIS VOTE TO MOVE TO AMENDING MOTION AND TO STOP ALL OF THE DEBATE. ALL IN FAVOUR. OF PUTTING THE QUESTION RIGHT AWAY. PLEASE RISE. COUNCILLORS EADIE, WYATT, THOSE OPPOSED PLEASE RISE. [LAUGHTER] GILLINGHAM, ALLARD, CHAMBERS, DOBSON, DUNCAN, DURAND-WOOD, GILROY, LUKES, MAYES, ORLIKOW, SANTOS AND SHARMA.

YEAS 2, NAYS 14.

MADAM SPEAKER: REQUEST IS DENIED. COUNCILLOR WYATT, DO YOU WISH TO USE YOUR SPEAKING TIME? LITTLE BIT OF EXCITEMENT THERE. IT'S DONE. COUNCILLOR ALLARD.

COUNCILLOR ALLARD: FASCINATING PLACE WE WORK IN. ON THE 2026 BUDGET DECISION, MR. MAYOR, COLLEAGUES, TODAY I VOTE ON THE 2026 BUDGET UPDATE. THIS IS NOT JUST A REPORT. IT'S A DECISION ABOUT THE PRIORITIES OF OUR CITY. AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE FROM ST. BONIFACE, I TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A STEWARD OF MY COMMUNITY SERIOUSLY. A BUDGET IS A MORAL DOCUMENT. IT IS WHERE WE CODIFY OUR PRIORITIES. TODAY, MY PRIORITIES SAFETY OF OUR RESIDENTS AND THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE WE CHART WITH THEIR PROTECTION. IN ST. BONIFACE RESULTS COME WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER. SINCE 2014, WE'VE INVESTED OVER $10 MILLION IN RECREATION CULTURE. I BROUGHT THE PROMENADE TO THE TABLE AND TOGETHER AS A COUNCIL, WE AGREED TO BUILD IT. TODAY, IT IS A REALITY. THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR MAYES, FOR SUPPORTING IT. THIS IS OUR RECORD OF DELIVERY IN ST. BONIFACE. WE DELIVERED THE SPLASH PAD BECAUSE I MOVED THE MOTION AND COUNCILMAN SUPPORTED IT. WEED THE RENEWAL OF THE POOL AND THE NEW WINDSOR PARK LIBRARY. I'M PROUD TO SEE OUR FIRST RESPONDERS OPERATING OUT OF BRAND NEW WINDSOR PARK FIRE HALL. A PROJECT WE PRIORITIZED TOGETHER NOW, I'M MOVING TO THE FINAL CONSENT. I HOPE WE CAN ALL AGREE ON THE PROCEEDING ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ST. BONIFACE AQUATIC FACILITY. THIS IS NEXT LOGICAL STEP IN A DECADE OF IMPROVING INVESTMENTS. [SPEAKING FRENCH]TO OUR FIRE PARAMEDICS, FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS, I HEARD YOU. THE REALITY ON THE GROUND HAS EVOLVED. MY VOTE REFLECTS THAT CHANGE. WE DISCUSSED THE 50,000 CALLS THAT PULL YOU AWAY FROM YOUR CORE DUTIES WHILE I REMAIN COMMITTED TO SPECIALIZE PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS THAT VOLUME, I WILL NOT LEAVE OUR HALLS UNDER RESOURCE. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE MOTION. I'M SUPPORTING THE MOTION THROUGH OUR FRONT-LINE STRENGTH. WE MUST SUPPORT THE PEOPLE WHO FIGHT THE FIRES. IT IS A BOTH AND NECESSITY. WE NEED THE COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICE AND WE NEED A FULLY MANNED PERSON FIRE PARAMEDIC SERVICE. TOGETHER, WE'RE VOTING FOR TOTAL STRENGTH. [SPEAKING FRENCH] ON TECHNOLOGY AND THANK YOU TO THE MAYOR FOR CONFIDING IN ME ON BEING THE COUNCIL LIAISON FOR INNOVATION. I'M FOCUSED ON THE STABILITY OF INTERNAL SYSTEMS. THESE DIGITAL TOOLS ARE THE BACKBONE OF CITY OPERATIONS. BY MODERNIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, WE'RE ENSURING THE CITY OF WINNIPEG HAS A STABLE, COST EFFECTIVE, FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT OUR STAFF AND OUR CITIZENS. I SUPPORT THIS BUDGET BECAUSE IT HONOURS THE NEEDS OF ST. BONIFACE WHILE

STANDING FIRMLY BEHIND OUR FIRST RESPONDERS. WHETHER I SPEAK IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH, I'M HERE AS THE ELECTED VOICE OF MY NEIGHBOURHOOD, ST. BONIFACE TO ENSURE THIS CITY IS RUN WITH INTELLIGENCE AND RESOLVE. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SPOKEN. OUR PUBLIC SERVICE, BUDGET WORKING GROUP, THE MAYOR, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE DELEGATION WHO CAME TODAY TO MY COLLEAGUE, COUNCILLOR WYATT WHO MAYBE LISTENING AND CAO. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COMMITMENTS. WE ALL GOT HERE TOGETHER. MADAM SPEAKER. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT IN MOTION. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE MAIN MOTION. I WILL NOT BE TAKING THE FULL 10 MINUTES. THANK YOU.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU, ANY FURTHER SPEAKERS? COUNCILLOR EADIE.

COUNCILLOR EADIE: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I DON'T USUALLY WRITE A SPEECH. HOPEFULLY, I CAN COVER IT ALL. LET ME START WITH THE AMENDING MOTION. I'LL TALK ABOUT THAT. I WILL BE SUPPORTING IT IN WHOLE. MADAM SPEAKER. I DO HAVE SOME CONCERNS. THAT MY SOME COLLEAGUES WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME. ACCUSE ME OF CERTAIN THINGS WHICH I DON'T DO. MADAM SPEAKER, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT USE THE FISCAL STABILIZATION RESERVE CONTINGENCY FOR THE CASES LIKE OVERTIME OR WHATEVER, THIS YEAR, WE'RE PULLING IT OUT OF THERE. THAT MONEY IS NOT COMING OUT THERE EVERY YEAR. THE BEST WAY TO HAVE DONE IT, WHETHER PEOPLE AGREE WITH ME OR NOT, TO BE FISCALLY PRUDENT AND DOWNINGS IN -- DO THINGS IN MANNER THAT RESPECTS THE FUTURE, ESSENTIALLY, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN -- I DON'T THINK IT'S $700,000. WHATEVER THAT VALUE IS. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO BE A PORTION TO THE PROPERTY TAXES WHICH IS WHAT PAYS THE FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS ON FIRE APPARATUS. THAT'S WHAT PAYS FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE. PAY FOR AMBULANCE AND PARAMEDIC UNDER THAT CONTRACT AND SO ON AND SO FORTH, MADAM SPEAKER. I WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR AS TO WHY I HAD CONCERNS AND BEING AT TOP GRADUATE OF THE YEAR, WHEN I TALK ABOUT DOING THINGS FISCALLY APPROPRIATE MANNER, I'M SPEAKING AS SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T RECEIVE AN EDUCATION AND DID QUITE WELL IN THE FIELD OF EVEN LOOKING AT FINANCING AND PAYING FOR THINGS IN BUDGETS. NOW, ON TO THE BUDGET ITSELF. THE FRAMEWORK FOR THIS BUDGET WAS ACTUALLY SET IN THE 2022 ELECTION, MADAM SPEAKER. WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH WHAT WE HAVE TO DO AND WE HAVE INTRODUCED GOING THROUGH, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK IS GREAT TURNED OUT. WE HAVE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION TEAMS UNDER PUBLIC WORKS. DEALING WITH AND PROVIDING SERVICES THAT WE THE CITY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP UP TO. ESPECIALLY WITH GREEN FIELD GROWTH. WE HAVE OLD PART OF THE CITY THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF. '26 LOOKS TO ADD MORE WORKERS TO THESE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION TEAM. WE GET GREAT RESULTS. IT'S A FANTASTIC THING. THERE'S OTHER INITIATIVES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN THAT ARE CONTINUED. SOME ARE INCREASED, MADAM SPEAKER. I THINK THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO DO THOSE THINGS. WE'RE HAVING TO MANAGE AND DEAL WITH MY COLLEAGUE FROM RIVER HEIGHTS, QUITE ACCURATE. WE REALLY NEED TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH REVENUE AND ISN'T GREAT THAT WE HAVE TO BORROW MONEY ALL THE TIME. WHAT'S REALLY ODD, MADAM SPEAKER, WHEN I STARTED IN 2010, THE CITY AND THE PROPERTY TAXES THE CITY WAS FLUSHED WITH LOTS OF CASH AND EVERYTHING. IT WAS ALSO A PERIOD. THE

LOWEST LONG-TERM BOND RATES EVER THROUGH THAT PART OF MY TERM BACK THEN. WE WERE USING CASH, MADAM SPEAKER. I'M GOOD WITH USING CASH FOR LIGHT BUYING BUSES, WE'RE BORROWING TO BUY BUSES CASH IS GOOD FOR THAT. THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS CHANGED BACK IN 1998. THAT WAS A GREAT IDEA. IT WAS HELPING GET US OUT OF THE DEBT SERVICING SITUATION THAT THE CITY OF WINNIPEG WAS IN AT THE TIME. LARGE CORPORATIONS WHAT THEY DO IS THEY EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS WHEN LONG-TERM BONDS AND RATES ARE DOWN. THAT'S WHEN THEY LEVERAGE DOLLARS TO INCREASE THEIR ABILITY TO PROVIDE A PRODUCT OR A SERVICE OR WHATEVER. THEN THIS BUDGET HAVING BEING MADE THE CHAIR OF WATER WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING WITH THE MAYOR AND WORKING WITH OUR CFO AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF THIS CITY AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR THE MAYOR, WE CAME UP WITH THE BEST WAY THIS WE CAN DEAL WITH THAT. WE ARE TRYING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SUPPORT, WHAT THE SHARE. I DON'T KNOW, MADAM SPEAKER. WHAT WE DID MANAGE DO BY UTILIZING THAT DEBT, WE DID LOWER THE WATER RATES. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT AND KEEPING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE AT 3. 5 INCREASE. I THINK THAT'S -- WE'RE MANAGING THAT TO INCREASE IT WHEN WE HAVE BEEN INCREASING THE WATER BILL. IN '26, THE RATES ARE ONLY GOING UP ABOUT 3%. THEN A BIT MORE IN '27. MADAM SPEAKER, THERE REALLY WAS A BIG INCREASE TO WATER RATES. THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND WINNIPEGGERS ARE STRUGGLING TO STILL PAY THAT. THIS BUDGET IS DEALING WITH THAT. WE'RE MOVING FORWARD WITH THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO DO, MADAM SPEAKER. CAPITAL BUDGETS ARE THERE. WE ARE, MADAM SPEAKER, IN DIFFICULT TIME IN TERMS OF TRYING TO WORK WITH THE PROVINCE. WE HEARD PROJECTED $1. 6 BILLION DEFICIT. WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO RUN DEFICITS, MAYOR AS EVERYBODY KNOWS. WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO BALANCE THE BUDGET. THIS BUDGET BALANCED. ALTHOUGH, I HAVE SOME CONCERNS. WE'RE HAVING TO USE THE FISCAL STABILIZATION RESERVE WHICH IS REALLY TO HANDLE PROBLEMS AND ITS BALANCE KIND OF LOW. I WORRY ABOUT THAT, MADAM SPEAKER. THAT'S NOT GOOD GOING INTO THE FUTURE. WE SHOULD BE FINDING WAY TO REPLENISH AND GET TO A LEVEL THAT MEANS WHEN WE RUN INTO ANOTHER COVID SITUATION OR WHATEVER, THAT WE'RE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THOSE HUGE PROBLEMS. WHAT ELSE COULD I SAY ABOUT THE BUDGET? I AM DISAPPOINTED IN SOME THINGS IN THE BUDGET. THE REALITY IS THE REALITY. CAPITAL SIDE IS TAKING UP A HUGE AMOUNT. THAT'S ON WATER RATES. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS ALL CHARGED TO WINNIPEGGERS AND SO, THOSE ARE THE DIFFICULTIES. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR ROAD PROGRAMME. I THINK THAT'S GREAT. THAT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES I STILL GET CALLS ON. WE'RE CONTINUING WORKING WITH SOLID WASTE. THAT MANAGEMENT TALKING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT. WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PURCHASE OF CURBSIDE CONTAINERS TO DEAL WITH COMPOST PICK-UP WHICH IS ENVIRONMENTALLY REALLY GOOD. HELPING OUT TO REDUCE THE EFFECTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. I THINK THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. WE WON'T REALLY GET TO IT UNTIL THE FUTURE. I HOPE EVERYBODY VOTES FOR THIS BUDGET. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY. THANKS.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. COUNCILLOR EMMA DURAND-WOOD.

COUNCILOR DURAND-WOOD: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I ONLY CAME INTO THIS POSITION ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE PRELIMINARY

BUDGET WAS RELEASED. SO MY ABILITY TO HAVE INPUT WAS PROBABLY QUITE LIMITED. I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HEARD FROM A LOT OF MY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES THAT MANY OF US DID NOT HAVE A MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE IT. THAT SAID, I THINK TODAY WE HAVE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE TO THE BUDGET WITH THIS PROPOSED MOTION TO ACCELERATE THE HIRING OF FIREFIGHTER F. T. E. s. I TRIED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CHALLENGE AND NEEDS IS FOR THE FIRE AND PARAMEDIC SERVICE. WHAT I'M HEARING, WE HAVE REALLY BIG SOCIETAL CHALLENGES RESULTING IN OVERBURDEN AND FIRE AND PARAMEDIC SERVICE THAT IS GETTING INJURED, SICK AND BURNT OUT. AS THEY CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES TO PROTECT US AS WINNIPEGGERS. THERE'S A NEED FOR PREVENTIVE CARE FOR THE STAFF. THERE IS A NEED TO BETTER SUPPORT MEMBER WHO ARE OUT SICK SO THEY CAN GET BACK TO WORK. WHICH IS I KNOW THEY WANT TO BE. IT'S BEEN CLEAR THAT THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS MORE STAFF. I'M ENCOURAGED THAT THROUGH THIS AMENDING MOTION WE MAYBE ABLE WHO SHOW THAT WE ARE WILLING TO MAKE WORKING CONDITION BETTER RIGHT AWAY. I ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS MOTION, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS COST NEUTRAL. MOVING ON TO BUDGET AT LARGE. I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK THAT WENT INTO THIS BUDGET BY THE BUDGET SAVINGS TEAM AND PUBLIC SERVICE. GIVEN THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THE BUDGET, THERE IS SOME GOOD IN THIS BUDGET. IN PARTICULAR, URBAN FORESTRY BUDGET, WELLNESS CLINIC FOR THE WFPS AND EXPANSION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION TEAMS, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR NEEDLE CLEANUP AND FOR UNSAFE CONDITIONS RESPONSE TEAM. THIS IS A BUDGET THAT REALLY REFLECTS THE CITY IN DECLINE. JUST BARELY SCRAPING BY. IT HAS A LOT OF RISKS IN IT. WITHIN THE BUDGET DOCUMENTS, THERE ARE MANY WARNINGS OF THE REALITY OF OUR SITUATION, MADAM SPEAKER. PAGE 24, METHODS USED TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, SUCH AS ONE-TIME TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES AND ASSET SALES ARE NEARLY EXHAUSTED. PAGE 101. THE CITY NEXT MULTIYEAR BUDGET INCLUDES $150 MILLION IN 2028. THE NEXT COUNCIL TO BE ELECTED IN 2026 WILL TACKLE THIS CHALLENGE. THIS IS PRETTY SCARY. ULTIMATELY, I WOULD SAY IT'S NOT THIS PARTICULAR BUDGET THAT IS PROBLEMATIC. IT IS A PATTERN OF BUDGETS THAT CONTINUE DOWN THE SAME PATH. NOT ACKNOWLEDGING THE STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES THAT HAVE LED US TO THIS POINT. EVERY DOLLAR WE BORROW, EVERY NEW ROAD OR PIPE WE BUILD COMES WITH COMPLETELY PREDICTABLE COST TO THE FUTURE. WHETHER THAT'S DEBT REPAYMENT OR MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT COSTS WE HAVE NO MEANS KEEPING UP WITH THESE OBLIGATIONS. BY FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUAL LINE ITEMS WITHIN THE BUDGET, WE SEEM TO BE MISSING THE BIG PICTURE AND MISSING OPPORTUNITIES TO RETHINK HOW WE BUILD OUR CITY. AND MAINTAIN OUR CITY AND WHAT CHANGES WE MIGHT NEED TO MAKE. THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE ON HOW TO VOTE FOR THE BUDGET. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER.

MADAM SPEAKER: ANY FURTHER SPEAKERS. COUNCILLOR LUKES.

COUNCILLOR LUKES: I WANT TO MAKE NOTES. I HAVE LOTS TO SAY. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I'LL START WITH LITTLE BIT OF FOR HAVING ON THE APC, THE IRONY SOME OF THESE STATEMENTS THAT I'M HEARING ABOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS, THE TRANSPARENCY INVOLVEMENT, I SIMPLY NOT LOST ON ME. I FEEL LIKE I'M RELIVING SOME SPEECHES I GAVE FOR SIX YEARS. WE HAD A GOVERNANCE REVIEW EVERY SINGLE PERSON

HERE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY MAKE CHANGE HOW WE DO THINGS, HOW WE GOVERN THE CITY, HOW WE HAVE INPUT. SOME DID, SOME DIDN'T. BUT WE'RE HERE TODAY. I WILL LEAVE THAT AT THAT. I WANT TO THANK THE PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE TO HELP PUT FORWARD A BALANCED BUDGET. LONG HOURS THE AGENDAS, THE SHEETS, KIND OF CHUCKLES AND FUN THAT SOMETIMES COME OUT OF THAT. I'M VERY PLEASED THAT THE MAYOR PUT A BUDGET SAVINGS TEAM IN PLACE WHO WORKED WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO FIND SAVINGS. I FIND IT STRANGE WE WORKED HARD ON FOR A PERIOD TWO TO THREE MONTHS AND THEN DIDN'T. I KNOW THIS PROVED TO BE UNAVAILABLE HELPING TO FIND SAVING BY DOING DEEP INQUIRIES INTO THE DEPARTMENTS. I BELIEVE THE BUDGET IS ADDRESSING THE AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENCE, THROUGH THE TEXAS -- TAX INCREASE. I DO WANT TO REMIND PEOPLE IT'S EASY TO FORGET THAT WE TOOK A $200 MILLION HIT ON COVID AND ARE STILL RECOVERING FROM IT. AS REFLECTED BY THE STATE OF THE FISCAL STABILIZATION RESERVE. THIS BUDGET HAS MANY POSITIVE INVESTMENTS AS CHAIR PUBLIC WORKS, RECORD INVESTMENTS ROSE. PEOPLE LOVE THEIR ROADS. RECORD INVESTMENTS IN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION. ACTUALLY I DID AN ANALYSIS ON THE LAST TEN YEARS OF INVESTMENTS AND THIS IS A RECORD INVESTMENT. TRANSIT. OF COURSE, WENT OF MY PERSONAL PASSIONS AND EVERYONE AROUND COUNCIL WHO SUPPORTED IT IS ROAD SAFETY. I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT THE PARKING AUTHORITY IS MOVING FORWARD WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A P. T. P. DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING PROGRAMME. SO THAT THE VEHICLES FOR HIRE ENSURES THAT ALL DRIVERS IN THE VEHICLES PROVIDING FOR HIGHER TRANSPORTATION, WINNIPEG IS LICENSED. THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON THAT FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS. WE'RE INVESTING HEAVILY IN FRONTLINE SERVICES, POLICE, TRANSIT SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR WINNIPEG FIRE PARAMEDIC SERVICE. I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE STRONG COMMUNICATION EFFORTS AT UFFW. I APPRECIATE YOUR PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS. THE CLARIFICATIONS OF INFORMATION AND MISINFORMATION ON ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. I KNOW WE CAN COME TO I SEE AS COMPROMISE. I THINK WE HAVE IT HERE IN FRONT OF US IN THIS MOTION. NOW, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT RESIDENTS OF WINNIPEG UNDERSTAND THE EFFORTS WE ARE DOING TO CONTROL COST AND VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. UNDER THE OVERSIGHT FROM THE TALK FROM THE C. A. O. WITH TRAINING THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY, THE CITY EMPLOYS UPWARDS 10,000 STAFF. MESSAGE OF THE WORK THE CITY DELIVERS REPETITIVE. THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OPTIMIZING SERVICE DELIVERY. IN ADDITION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT TEAM. THE TEAM FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND SUPPORT STAFF THROUGH CHANGES THAT COME WITH NEW SERVICES, PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGY. WHICH WE'RE INVESTING IN ALL. AND, WHILE ALL OF THESE AND MANY MORE ARE GREAT INITIATIVES THAT WE HAVE IN THE BUDGET, I'M GOING TO SOUND LIKE COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW NOW. THESE EFFORTS ARE BARELY ENOUGH TO KEEP THE BOOK BALANCED WINNIPEG EXPANSES CONTINUE TO RISE AT MORE THAN 5% ANNUALLY. OUR CITY RELIES ON PROPERTY TAXES AND USER FEES AND TRANSFERS FROM THE PROVINCE TO GET THE BAKE OPERATING NEEDS AND LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS. FROM ALL INDICATION, REVENUE IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY 2%. WHICH IS MORPHING SORT TO INVEST AS YOU SEE FIT AND INVEST WE SEE FIT. I'VE BEEN USING THAT EXAMPLE TO SHARE WITH RESIDENTS TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION

WINNIPEG IS FACING ALONG WITH CITIES ACROSS AIR CANADA. THIS IS A GREAT MY RESIDENTS RESONATE WITH. WINNIPEG HOSTED THE 2025 GREY CUP. ABOUT $14 MILLION WAS GENERATED IN TOURISM. OF THAT $14 MILLION, $8. 2 MILLION PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, 5. 6% TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. $386,000 TO THE CITY OF WINNIPEG. WHICH WAS A COMBINATION TAX CHARGED BY HOTELS. WHICH DOESN'T DIRECTLY END IN OUR BUDGET. COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW I'M CHALLENGED HOW WE WILL SOLVE THE DEFICIT. WE ELIMINATED THE ZIPPER HERE. WE THE RED BAR CHARTS ON PAGE 101. I DON'T KNOW IT STILL LOOKS DEPRESSING. IT IS. FOR SOME, THIS WILL BE THEIR LAST BUDGET PROCESS. FOR OTHERS WHO RETURN AFTER THE ELECTRONIC, THE CHALLENGE WILL BE TO DEAL WITH THE $150 MILLION DEFICIT IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. I KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE TAXPAYER AND COMPLETELY AGREE THAT THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUE SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN CONSIDERATION, FUNDING SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO CITIES TO ADDRESS THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS. MORE SO THAN CURRENTLY IS. EVERY TIME WE BUILD A HOUSE, WE SEE ADDITIONAL COSTS. EVERY TIME WE BUILD AN APARTMENT BLOCK, WE SEE ADDITIONAL COSTS THAT CITIES HAVE TO ABSORB. SO, THIS IS AN ISSUE I THINK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US NEEDS TO BE MUCH MORE ACTIVE THAN WE ARE. I STRONGLY FEEL WE SHOULD REALLY BE HAVING I SAY MORE AGGRESSIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE PROVINCE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IF WE CAN'T MEET OUR BASIC NEEDS, SERVICES WILL BE CUT AND ULTIMATELY, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO RELY MORE AND MORE ON THE PROVINCE TO COME TO THE TABLE TO HELP US IN THIS SITUATION AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE'RE NOT ALONE. CITIES ACROSS CANADA ARE IN THE SAME SITUATION. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF GOOD THINGS IN THE BUDGET. NOT EVERYONE IS GOING TO BE HAPPY AS WE KNOW WITH THE BUDGET. THAT'S THE WAY IT IS. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE BUDGET. BUT I DON'T KNOW. IT'S A REAL CHALLENGE THAT WE HAVE ON PAGE 101 GOING FORWARD. WITH THAT, I WILL END MY REMARKS.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. ANY FURTHER SPEAKERS? COUNCILLOR DUNCAN.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: NEVER GOOD SIGN WHEN WE HAVE TO SCROLL TO THE TOP. I WANT TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF THE BUDGET BECAUSE IT MAKES RESPONSIBLE FORWARD-LOOKING INVESTMENTS IN OUR AREAS OF WINNIPEG THAT MATTER MOST FRONTLINE SERVICES, COMMUNITY SAFETY, RECREATION AND THE LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE THAT OUR CITY DEPENDS ON. THIS BUDGET INCLUDES MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS IN FRONT LINE STAFF WITH TOTAL 74 NEW POSITIONS ACROSS KEY SERVICES. 18 NEW POLICE OFFICERS. 19 NEW WINNIPEG FIRE AND PARAMEDIC SERVICE STAFF, 11 SHARED HEALTH POSITIONS, 9 COMMUNITY SAFE OFFICERS AND 17 NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION TEAM MEMBERS. ELAPSE TO TAKE A -- I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FRONT LINE BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE HEAR YOU AND YOUR EFFORT ENSURE THE SAFETY AND CAPACITY OF YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE RESIDENTS RELAY ON EVERYDAY TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFE, RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES AND MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL CITY SERVICES. STRENGTHENING FRONTLINE CAPACITY ENSURES TIMELY SERVICE DELIVERY AND SUPPORTS THE STAFF WHO ARE ALREADY CARRYING A HEAVY WORKLOAD. THE BUDGET TAKES A PRACTICAL AND BALANCED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFE RECOGNISING THAT SAFETY IS ACHIEVED THROUGH A COORDINATED APPROACH THAT INCLUDES ENFORCEMENT, VISIBILITY, PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY

SUPPORT. THESE INVESTMENTS HELP IMPROVE SAFETY IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS, OUR PUBLIC SPACES AND IN THE DOWNTOWN. I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMES. REGULATION CREATION IS A CORE SERVICE THAT SUPPORTS MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, STRENGTHENS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO ENJOY THEIR COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND PROVIDE A SAFE AND POSITIVE SPACE FOR ALL. WORKING WITH MY COMMUNITY OF CHARLESWOOD-TUXEDO-WESTWOOD, WE HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT. OUR PLAYGROUNDS, COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION, ROAD SAFETY AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PARKS AND FOREST IN WINNIPEG. I'M COMMITTED TO INVEST IN OUR RESIDENTS, YOUNG AND OLD SO THAT EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY HAS ACCESS TO SAFE AND VIBRANT SPACES. ANOTHER IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THIS BUDGET IS THE COMMUNITY FUND ALLOCATED TO COUNCILLORS. THIS PROVIDES UNPRECEDENTED FLEXIBILITY TO FUND PROJECTS THAT MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WARD. ALLOWING US TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO LOCAL PRIORITIES AND DELIVER IMPROVEMENTS THAT RESIDENCE CAN SEE AND FEEL. MADAM SPEAKER, THIS BUDGET ALSO MAKES HISTORIC INVESTMENT INTO ROADWAY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. IMPROVING AND RENEWING OUR ROADS AND PATHWAYS IS ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE DAILY LIVES OF RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES. THESE INVESTMENTS WILL HELP REDUCE LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE COSTS, IMPROVE RELIABILITY AND SUPPORT GROWING CITY. IN ADDITION TO THAT AND ON THE GROWING CITY, THE CONTINUED INVESTMENT INTO THE NORTH END WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CENTRE IS CRITICAL FOR WINNIPEG'S FUTURE. THIS PROJECT ENSURES REGULATORY COMPLIANCE, PROTECTINGS OUR WATERWAYS AND SUPPORTS SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. IT IS THE FOUNDATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ALLOWS OUR CITY TO EXPAND RESPONSIBLY AND COMPETITIVELY. IT IS ALSO -- I APOLOGISE, IT IS ALWAYS EASY TO CRITICIZE AND COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE OR WHAT SHOULD BE DONE. WHAT IS FAR MORE DIFFICULT, MADAM SPEAKER, IS THE WORK OF FINDING SOLUTIONS. BUILDING CONSENSUS AND WORKING TOGETHER TO MOVE OUR CITY FORWARD. WE MAY NOT ALL AGREE ON EVERY ASPECT OF THIS BUDGET. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK TOGETHER ON A UNITED FRONT IF THE BEST INTEREST OF WINNIPEGGERS. I WANT TO THANK MY FELLOW COUNCILLORS FOR THE WORK THEY DO. TO MOVE US FORWARD AND FACE OUR NEXT CHALLENGE WHICH MANY OF THE COUNCILLORS HAVE POINTED OUT. IS FOR THOSE REASONS THAT I WILL SUPPORT THIS BUDGET STRONGLY AND FIRMLY. I WOULD ASK MY COUNCILLOR COLLEAGUES TO DO SO AS WELL. THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU. ANY FURTHER SPEAKERS? COUNCILLOR WYATT.

COUNCILLOR WYATT: I RISE THAT TAIL OF COUNCILLOR DUNCAN'S COMMENT. I WASN'T GOING TO SPEAK ON THE BUDGET. HE INSPIRED ME TO DO SO. I RISE -- I WANT TO ECHO A LOT OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW AND OTHERS THEMES OF THE PROCESS. I FELT SOMEWHAT FRUSTRATING. WE ARRIVED IN CLUBHOUSE BACK IN 2022, THERE WAS EXPRESSED MAYOR THAT WE WILL DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY IN TERMS OF NONMEMBERS OF EPC AND MEMBERS OF EPC WE SEEN TODAY WITH REGARDS TO AMENDMENT THAT'S BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD BY COUNCILLOR GILROY. WE HEARD THESE COMPLAINTS COME FORWARD. PEOPLE MADE VERY STRONG PRESENTATIONS,

SAME ONES YOU HEARD TODAY IF NOT STRONGER THAT COULD HAVE ADDRESSED THERE. INSTEAD, WE HAVE THIS KIND OF RUSSIAN ROULETTE GAME WHERE WE SPIN THE REVOLVER AND SEE IF WE PULL THE TRIGGER KIND OF POLITICS. IT'S UNFORTUNATE IT COME DOWN TO THAT. IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT HAS TO BE THE GAME THAT'S PLAYED TO MAKING PROGRESSIVE CHANGE IN THE CITY. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHERE A CITYING -- SITTING MAYOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FIREFIGHTERS. THAT'S NOT THEIR STYLE OF LEADERSHIP. THEY ARE MORE OF A COMMAND AND CONTROL TYPE OF ORGANISATION. I GET IT. THAT THE THEIR HISTORY. LOT PEOPLE FORGET THE W. P. A. AT ONE -- THAT WAS THEIR POLITICAL ASSOCIATION. THEY HAD TO HIDE BEHIND A SPORTS TEAM TO LEGALLY EXIST AT AN ASSOCIATION FOR A LONG TIME, THEIR HISTORY. BECAUSE OF THE LAWS OF THE LAND THAT PREVENT THEM TO HAVE THE SAME RIGHT ANY OTHER EMPLOYEE OR ASSOCIATION OR UNION. SO, THEY APPROACH THINGS DIFFERENTLY. HOWEVER, IF YOU HEAR FROM THEM TODAY, WE WOULD HEAR VERY SIMILAR STORIES THAT ARE HAPPENING TO THE RANK AND FILE OF POLICE OFFICER ON THE FRONT LINE OF WINNIPEG. SOME WAYS THEY ARE SEEING THINGS THAT ARE EVEN MORE EGREGIOUS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. IT'S HAVING A TOLL ON THEM AS WELL. THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS LIKE ANYBODY ELSE. I THINK WHAT WE HEARD TODAY FROM OUR FIREFIGHTERS IS THE BEAR MINIMUM WOULD WE'RE SEEING IN THE STREET. UNFORTUNATELY, WE KNOW AS WELL THAT THE CHALLENGES THAT WE'RE FACING TODAY IN THE CITY ARE NOT GOING TO BE RESOLVED. WHY? BECAUSE IN 2019, THIS COUNCIL ALONG THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPONSORED A REPORT OVER A COURSE OF YEAR, A STUDY WHERE YOU ACTUALLY AS A COUNCIL SECURED AND INVOLVED MAJOR LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY WHEN IT CAME TO HEALTH ADDICTION CRISIS AND YOU INCLUDED THE ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE REPORT. THAT REPORT SITS ON A SHELF. THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH FULLY COMPLEMENTED WOULD SEE A RADICAL CHANGE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR STREETS TODAY. IT'S NOT HAPPENING. INSTEAD, WE ARE STICKING THE BANDAID ON THE PROBLEM, TRYING TO HOLD TOGETHER AND MAINTAIN OUR SERVICES THE BEST WE CAN WITH THE STRUGGLE THAT THEY ARE FACING. TODAY, IT SOUNDS LIKE WITH THE SUPPORT IN THIS CHAMBER, THE AMENDMENT I WANT TO THANK COUNCILLOR GILROY AND COUNCILLOR DURAND-WOOD TO AMEND AND ADD TO THE MOTION. IT'S A SHAME THAT IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS ON THE FLOOR COUNCIL. WHAT'S DISAPPOINTING, IF I RECALL, MANY OF YOU WILL HERE, AFTER THE LAST GENERAL ELECTION, THE CHAIR OF FINANCE REACHED OUT TO ALL OF US. WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES? WE RESPONDED. THAT WAS THE END OF IT. THERE'S BEEN NO REACH OUT SINCE. THE MAYOR COMING DOWN TO MY OFFICE SAYING I WILL DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY. HASN'T BEEN THE SAME. I WISH IT WAS. I REALLY WISH IT WAS. THAT RETREAT, I HAD REAL HOPE. THE MAYOR WAS REALLY ENGAGED HE WAS TRUE TEAM LEADER. I THOUGHT MY GOD. WE'VE GOT A MAYOR WITH A DIFFERENT STYLE. I WANTED THAT TO HAPPEN. I STILL BELIEVE IN THAT. I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP ON THAT. I STILL BELIEVE IN THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHAMBER. I STILL BELIEVE IN MAYOR. I STILL BELIEVE THAT WE CAN GO FORWARD TOGETHER UNITED AS A CITY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE TODAY. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. WHERE I STARTING TO GET CONCERN IS THAT MAJOR INITIATIVES THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS. I'M JUST GOING TO KIND OF GO THROUGH THEM QUICKLY. I LIKE TO THANK COUNCILLOR EADIE FOR TRIPLE IN WATER RATES. THEY WILL BE DRIVING PEOPLE OUT THEIR HOMES. THE REGULATIONS ARE THE REGULATIONS. WE THOUGH FROM DIALOGUE THAT WE'VE HAD WITH ENGINEERS, THE ENGINEERS RECOMMEND TO

THE PROVINCIAL ENGINEERS HOW WE SHOULD BE REGULATED. WHY, BECAUSE THAT'S THEIR PLAN B AS ENGINEERS IN CASE THEY NO LONGER WITH THE PROVINCE OR THE CITY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON US. BEHIND THE SCENES AND IF WE HAD ANY OTHER JURISDICTION TO LOOK AT THIS, ESPECIALLY TYPE OF REGULATIONS UNFAIRLY COMING DOWN ON US WHAT WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE WATERSHED AND THAT LAKE IS OUTRAGEOUS IN TERMS OF OUR SHARE. NUMBER TWO. WE DON'T NEED TO -- WE CAN BE PUSHING BACK ON THE UPGRADES BEING REQUIRED. WE CAN BE BRINGING DOWN THOSE COSTS. WE CAN BE PASSING IT ON. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT EPC IS ELECTED NOT TO PROCEED WITH SOLID WASTE ORGANICS. WE ARE STILL COLLECTING THE FEE, $100 EACH PAYCHECK FROM EVERY HOMEOWNER. I HEARD, I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S CONFIRMED, THE CHAIR OF FINANCE OR MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE DECIDED OKILL IT. WHY WE COLLECTING $100 EVERY QUARTER. I LIKE TO KNOW THAT QUESTION. I LIKE TO KNOW WHERE THE ARLINGTON BRIDGE IS NOT BEING ADDRESSED. WHY THE LOUISE BRIDGE NOT BEING ADDRESS. WE HAVE A STRONG MEMBERS OF EPC ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. TWO MEMBERS ACTUALLY. NOT BEING ADDRESSED. THE BRIDGE SITS UP THERE IN THE AIR, WAVING PROBABLY. WE HAVE BUS DRIVERS. IT USED TO BE MINING IN THIS PROVINCE MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSION. NOW IT'S BUS DRIVING. WE TALK ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO BE GETTING -- I WAS ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE TWO YEARS AGO WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE SECURE SHIELDINGS. THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT FOR AGES. WHERE ARE THEY? YET, WHEN I ASKED THE QUESTION TWO YEARS AGO ABOUT THE BUSES AND THE COMPTROLLER, SAID IT CAN'T BE HIGH AS $10 MILLION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE'VE CONFIRMED IT NOW. THAT'S WHAT IT IS TODAY WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE TOMORROW. THESE ARE COSTS -- WE WONDER WHY THE BUSES HAVE BECOME SO UNSAFE. WE ALLOW THAT RULE TO BE WAIVED. THAT'S THE MENTALITY HAPPENING NOW. THE ATTITUDE OF ENTITLEMENT, IT HAS TO END. MADAM SPEAKER, THE BIGGEST CONCERN I HAVE HERE IS WE STILL HAVE A BUDGET WE'RE SHUTTING DOWN POOLS ON KIDS IN THE INNER CITY AT A TIME WE REINVESTING IN RECREATION. WE ALSO HAVE A BUDGET. WE'RE CREATING A MASSIVE SLUSH FUND FOR COUNCILLORS TO GET REELECTED. $150,000 IN CAPITAL. CALL THE NEW COMMUNITIES FUND. FOR REELECTION WITH VERY LITTLE RULES AS YOU POINTED OUT.

MADAM SPEAKER: [INAUDIBLE] ANY FURTHER SPEAKERS ON THIS? [INDISCERNIBLE] NO FURTHER SPEAKERS I SEE. COUNCILLOR GILROY, YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSE.

COUNCILLOR GILROY: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. THE DRAMA HERE IS RIVETTING. MADAM SPEAKER, I HAVE TALKED WITH MY COUNCILLOR COLLEAGUES AND MADAM SPEAKER, YOU, YOURSELF, OVER THE LUNCH HOUR. I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT SO MANY NOW ARE GOING TO SUPPORT THE AMENDING MOTION AND HOPEFULLY THAT WILL BE PASSED. I THINK THIS IS A GOOD STRONG MESSAGE TO THE STAFF THAT WE HEARD HERE TODAY FROM THE FIRE AND PARAMEDICS THAT WE DO CARE. WE HEARD THEM. WE'RE GOING TO ADDRESS SOME OF THEIR CONCERNS. HOPEFULLY, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO THEM. I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BUDGET. I HAVEN'T HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT YET. I WANT TO TALK -- I WANT TO THANK THE STAFF FOR THEIR GREAT TREMENDOUS WORK. I KNOW HOW MUCH WORK GOES INTO DOING THE BUDGET. I DO WANT TO TALK ABOUT ALL -- I WILL START WITH THE POSITIVES. THERE ARE SOME POSITIVE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN ADDED FOR ME. I WANT TO THANK MY

COUNCILLOR COLLEAGUES FOR LISTENING TO ME ON SOME ISSUES THAT ARE CRITICAL IN MY WARD. WHICH IS INCREASING THE NEEDLE PICK-UPS AND PARKS. THOSE A MOTION I BROUGHT FORWARD. THAT'S SOMETHING WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THIS BUDGET. I WANT THIS THANK THE COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ADDING IN EXTRA STAFFING FOR UNSAFE RESPONSE TEAM FOR DERELICT AND VACANT BUILDINGS. THAT HAVE REALLY CRITICAL. WILL COINCIDE WITH THE WORK THAT WE HEARD FROM THE DELEGATES TODAY IN TERMS OF OUR VACANT BUILDINGS THAT WE NEED TO GET TORN DOWN. I WANT TO THANK THE COMMITMENT FOR $20,000 INTO THE WINNIPEG COMMITTEE FOR SAFETY. THESE ARE COMMITTEE -- THESE ARE CITIZEN MEMBERS OF OUR CITY FROM ALL OVER THAT ARE REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT SAFETY. IF WE'RE NOT LISTENING TO OUR OWN CITIZENS ABOUT WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE IN TERMS OF SAFETY, WE ARE FAILINGS A CITY. I WANT TO THANK THEM FOR THAT. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT I HAVE WITH THE BUDGET. FIRST OF ALL, TRANSIT. WE HAVE MAJOR ISSUES WITH TRANSIT, MADAM SPEAKER. THAT'S ALL WE'RE HEARING ABOUT IN OUR EMAILS IN THE MEDIA, PEOPLE ARE REALLY STRUGGLING WITH IT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE'RE INCREASING FARES. DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR I GOT AN EMAIL TODAY FROM A MOTHER WHO'S SON AT 6:30 AT NIGHT WHEN IT WAS DARK, WAS LEFT DOWNTOWN BECAUSE THE D16 JUST DECIDED TO GET CANCELLED. THE KID WAS STRUGGLING TO GET HOME FROM THE DOWNTOWN. THIS IS A MAJOR CONCERN. I'M GLAD WE'RE ADDING THE ONE STAFF. I GUESS WE DID -- WE CHANGED A WHOLE SYSTEM OVER IN ONE DAY, MADAM SPEAKER. WITH THIS STAFF WE HAD. I'M CONCERNED THAT ONE STAFF, I RATHER SEE THE MONEY GO AND INVEST BACK IN THE TRANSIT SYSTEM. LET'S LOOK AT THE ACTUAL METRES WE HAVE AND THE DISTANCES BETWEEN OUR TRANSIT STOPS. WHAT WE'RE ACTUALLY HEARING FROM RESIDENTS AND DEAL WITH THE TANGIBLE THINGS THAT WE CAN BE CHANGING TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS FOR RESIDENTS AND TRANSIT. JUST INCREASING THE TIME THE FEE. IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT. IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME. NOR SHOULD WE BE DOING IT. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT OUR PARKS ARE FALLING BEHIND. WE'RE NOT ADVANCING. PUTTING IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR PARKS. ALTHOUGH, WE HAVE THE COMMUNITY FUND, THE COMMUNITY FUND CAN BE USED FOR NON-CITY THINGS. WE OFTEN GET ASKED TO BE USING THAT FUND FOR NON-CITY ENTITY. WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE A CLEAR DEFINED BUDGET FOR OUR PARKS. A LOT OF THE TIMES THEY ARE SAYING NO TO US. I HAVE A LOT OF AGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND IT'S NOT BEING RENEWED, MADAM SPEAKER AT THE RATE IT SHOULD BE. WE'RE ALSO LOSING A LOT OF OUR GRANTS. I'M VERY CONCERNED. I SEE THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FUNDING FOR THIS COMING YEAR THAT REALLY CONCERNS ME. OUR MAIN LIBRARY AT THE MILLENNIUM LIBRARY IS CLOSED ON SUNDAYS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN TO HAVE A DEAL WITH THE ISSUES AROUND HOMELESSNESS. THAT'S HOW WE'RE DEALING WITH THEM. WE'RE CLOSING LIBRARIES INSTEAD OF DEALING WITH THE ISSUES, MADAM SPEAKER. ANOTHER THING THAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE BIGGEST CONCERN THAT I HAVE IS WE HAVE HEARD, MADAM SPEAKER, FROM RESIDENTS FROM BUSINESSES ALL OVER THE CITY, THE HOMELESSNESS IS THEIR NUMBER ONE ISSUE. WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE DELEGATES TODAY THAT ARE STRUGGLING WITH THIS ISSUE. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A BLIND EYE THAT THIS IS OUR PROBLEM, MADAM SPEAKER. THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR, MADAM SPEAKER. YET, WE ARE THE GOVERNMENT THAT HAS TO DEAL WITH THE IMPACTS OF IT THE MOST, MADAM SPEAKER. WE NEED A TANGIBLE CLEAR PLAN AND HAVING ONE OFFS WHERE WE'RE FINDING FUNDING FOR THIS AND TRYING TO

FIGURE OUT THIS PLAN HERE AND THIS PLAN THERE ISN'T WORKING. WE NEED A TANGIBLE PLAN THAT'S GOING TO LOOK HOW WE'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH THE ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS THAT IS FACING WINNIPEG. UNTIL WE HAVE THAT LOOK AS A COUNCIL, WE'RE GOING TO REALLY STRUGGLE WITH ALL THE CONTINUING ISSUES THAT WE HAVE. MADAM SPEAKER, FOR EXAMPLE, SHERBERT IS HAVING ISSUES. NEEDING MORE STAFF THERE AND MAKING IT MORE SAFE. I'M JUST VERY CONCERNED WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT IT ENOUGH. WE'RE NOT COMING UP WITH TANGIBLE SOLUTIONS. THAT'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR MORE TANGIBLE SOLUTIONS. MADAM SPEAKER, I'M SUPPORTING THE BUDGET. I WANT TO THANK MY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR WORK ON AGREEING WITH THE AMENDMENT AND GETTING US -- GETTING THIS PASSED. THIS IS A WIN. WE'RE AT A CRISIS POINT. WE NEED THE STAFF OUT THERE FOR FIRE AND PARAMEDICS TO DELIVER THE SERVICE THAT WE DESPERATELY NEED. I WANT TO THANK MY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES FOR LISTENING TO ME ON SOME KEY CONCERNS. [CAPTIONER SWITCH] AND I DO WANT TO THANK MY COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR CONCERNS THEY INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET. OF COURSE, THE FUNDING IS SCARCE. I APPRECIATE THE REMARKS Mr. ORLIKOW MADE. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE. WE NEED TO LOOK AT A DEVELOPMENT FUND. I WANT TO THANK MY COUNCILLOR COLLEAGUES, COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW AND COUNCILLOR ROLLINS WHO GIVE ME PIECES OF THEIR LAND DEDICATION. BECAUSE I DON'T GET A PORTION THAT'S GRANTED TO ME. NOT EVERY COUNCILLOR GETS THAT. THAT IS SOMETHING WE DECIDED AS A COMMITTEE SO I HAVE LAND DEDICATION RESERVES, SO I CAN HELP DEAL WITH PARKS AND STUFF LIKE THAT. SO I WANT TO THANK THEM FOR THAT. THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING HERE. WE TALKED ABOUT THE IMTHE WE SHOULD BE HAVING A DEVELOPMENT FEE. WE ARE ONE OF A FEW CITIES THAT HAVE IT. THIS WOULD HAVE A HUGE IMPACT IN MAKING SURE WE HAVE SOME OF THE RESOURCES WE NEED, MADAM SPEAKER. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR GILROY. MR. MAYOR, YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: THANK YOU, MADAM SPEAKER. I WANT TO THANK MY COLLEAGUES TODAY AND EVERYONE FOR THEIR HARD WORK ON THIS BUDGET, AND THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN IT. SEVERAL THINGS I WANT TO JUST TALK ABOUT AND ADDRESS IN MY CLOSE. FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK COUNCILLOR GILROY FOR THEIR MOTION. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE AMENDING MOTION. I WANT TO ROSE OUR FIREFIGHTER AND PARAMEDICS -- RECOGNIZE OUR FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS, WHO ARE HERE. WITH THE DIALOGUE WE HAVE HAD OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND MONTHS. AND I THINK IT COULD BE SAID FOR SURE, TO SAY I THINK WE STARTED AND I STARTED ORIGINALLY ON THIS DISCUSSION, I THINK WE BOTH MOVED TOWARDS KIND OF SOMETHING THAT WE CAN AGREE UPON TO TAKE. I WANT TO THANK MY COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR WORK AS WELL, AND I CERTAINLY DO APPRECIATE THEIR WORK. THE WORK YOU THE FIREFIGHTERS DO AND THE PARAMEDICS. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT IN THIS BUDGET, I THINK WE CANNOT UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WELLNESS CLINIC THAT'S BEEN PROPOSED. WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS RIGHT NOW. SOMEONE SAID 70. I HEARD UP TO 90. NOT COUNTING PARAMEDICS THERE'S ANOTHER 100. SO SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO 200 OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS, WHO ARE OFFERING NOW FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. SO PARENTAL LEAVE. COMING BACK FROM THAT. BUT I SAID IT CONSISTENTLY, AND YOU

HEARD IT AROUND HERE, THAT THESE ARE OUR EMPLOYEES. THESE ARE OUR MEN AND WOMEN, AND WE NEED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE HEALTHY. FOR THOSE WHO CAN RETURN TO WORK TO GET THEM BACK INTO THE WORKPLACE AND WORKFORCE, FOR THOSE WHO MAYBE CAN'T RETURN TO THE FRONT LINE AGAIN, TO FIND THEM, HELP THEM, AND ASSIST THEM SUCCESSFULLY, IF THEY CAN RETURN TO SOME WORK, GETTING TO SOME WORK THAT'S MEANINGFUL FOR THEM. AND THEN TO BE ALLOW THEM TO ENABLE US TO FILL THE FRONT LINE POSITIONS WITH NEW FTEs. THERE'S A LOT OF WORK DONE THERE, BOTH PREVENTION, FEWER PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE GET INJURED. AND GET SICK, AND HEALTH AND RETURN TO WORK WHERE THAT'S APPROPRIATE. SO THE WELLNESS CLINIC IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT. THE COMBINATION OF THE WELLNESS CLINIC, THE INVESTMENT IN THE FTEs US SOME TIME NOW IN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS TO KEEP TRACK OF WHETHER OR NOT, THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT IMPACTS OVER TIME NUMBERS IN 2026. I THEY THOUGH IN ADDITION TO, THAT WE'RE ASKING OUR EMERGENCY SYSTEMS TO WORK IN EVERYDAY. I SAID BEFORE IN THE CASE OF FIREFIGHTERS, SOMEBODY WOULD IS PRESKILLED, PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER, WHO KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT FIRES. THEY END UP RESPONDING TO PEOPLE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS. WE HAVE GREAT PEOPLE ON THE FRONT LINES WITH FIREFIGHTERS, BUT THEY ARE TRAINED TO FIGHT FIRES. WE NEED TO GET THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO A PERSON IN CRISIS. I THINK IT'S INCUMBENT ON US AS A CITY TO MAKE SURE WHEN SOMEONE CALLS 911, THEY GET THE PERSON THEY NEED. THEY GET THE RESOURCE THEY NEED. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THAT RIGHT NOW. THAT'S WHY I CALLED FOR A FOURTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE, WHICH WOULD BE COMMUNITY CRISIS PROGRAMME RESPONSE. THE 11 POSITION THERE'S IMPORTANT AS WELL. SO THE WORK WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT TOMORROW TO REDUCE THE VACANCY, THE VITALITY, ALSO VERY CRITICAL AS WELL. A COUPLE OF COMMENTS THOUGH, JUST TO BE CLEAR. I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY COLLEAGUE FROM TRANSCONA GOT THE IDEA THAT SOMEONE HAS CANCELLED THE ORGANIC PROGRAMME. NOPE. ON THE RECORD, NOBODY HAS CANCELLED THAT TO THIS POINT. AND THE IDEA THAT SOMEHOW, THE COMMUNITIES FUND, THE COUNCILLORS HAVE ACCESS TO I THINK IS SOMETHING AKIN TO, IF NOT DIRECTLY A SLUSH FUND. THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE. IT'S A FUND THAT'S BEEN SET UP. IT'S BEEN SET UP WITH THE RULES LIKE PREP THAT GOVERN IT, THE ALLOCATIONS OF THE FUNDS ARE FULLY DISCLOSED. IT ALLOWS COUNCILLORS THE FLEXIBILITY IN PART, BECAUSE LIKE THE COUNCILLOR FROM TRANSCONA ON WHAT THAT INDIVIDUAL -- OTHER COUNCILLORS LIKE TO SEE THAT FUND BE ESTABLISHED, SO THE COUNCILLORS CAN ASSIST COMMUNITY MEMBERS, THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE WARDS. NOT ONLY ASSIST THEM, BUT ALSO IDENTIFY PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR WARDS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO PRIORITIZE AS WELL. A COUPLE OF THINGS I DON'T THINK HAVE BEEN SPOKEN OF MUCH, BUT THEY ARE REALLY CRITICAL INVESTMENTS THAT THIS BUDGET DOES MAKE. $17 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS. GCWCC FUNDING TO INCREASE THE ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY CENTRES AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WORK FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES IN THE GREAT COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING THAT'S PUT ON. A MILLION DOLLARS BUDGET CYCLE FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING IN HIGH-NEEDS AREAS SO WE CAN GET ON THE PREVENTION SIDE AND ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE WITH GOOD RECORDS TO HOPEFULLY, KEEP THEM ON A GOOD PATH AND RIGHT PATH, AND HAVE POSITIVE ROLE MODELS AND DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN CRIME OR OTHER THINGS THAT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR LIFESTYLE AND DETRIMENTAL TO OUR COMMUNITY. A HUGE INVESTMENT IN ROADS. AN

HISTORIC INVESTMENT OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS IN OUR ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE. AS COUNCILLOR LUKES POINTED OUT, SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AS WELL IS ALSO INCLUDED. IN FACT, OVER SIX YEARS, $112. 8 MILLION TOTAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT IS BEING PROJECTED. THAT'S SIGNIFICANT IN WALKING, IN CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS TO BE HEALTHIER, AND GIVE MORE COMMUNITIES MORE CONNECTION AS WELL. I WANT TO CONCLUDE WITH MY FINAL COMMENTS ABOUT WHERE THE BUDGET IS AND WHERE ULTIMATELY IT GOES IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. I'VE WORKED WITH THE ZIPPER CHART. WE'VE ALL WORKED ON THE ZIPPER CHART FOR MANY YEARS. EVERY YEAR WE CLOSE THE ZIPPER BECAUSE WE HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET LEGISLATION THAT WE MUST BALANCE OUR BUDGET. BUT I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AGAIN AND REMIND US AS A COUNCIL THAT THIS COUNCIL IN THIS TERM HAS HAD THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT OTHER COUNCILS, FRANKLY, HASN'T BEEN DONE. WE HAD THE COURAGE, AS UNPOPULAR AS IT IS, THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT, TO RAISE PROPERTY TAXES UNLIKE ANYONE, ANY COUNCIL HAS RAISED IN 30 YEARS. WE HAD THE COURAGE TO RAISE MORE REVENUE. WE CONTINUE LIKE PREVIOUS MAYORS AND PREVIOUS COUNCILS BEFORE TO WORK WITH MAYORS ACROSS THIS NATION TO CALL FOR A NEW FUNDING OF MANITOBA AND ACROSS CANADA. THEY ARE CALLING FOR IT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND FROM EVERY PROVINCE. WE LIVE WITH THIS ANTIQUATED HISTORIC REVENUE-GENERATING SOURCE, WHICH IS CALLED PROPERTY TAXES. RIGHT NOW, THE IDEA OF WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK AT GROWTH FEES OR SOMETHING. RIGHT NOW, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACROSS CANADA IS SAYING TO MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES IN AREAS WHERE THEY DON'T HAVE GROWTH FEES, IF YOU BRING IN GROWTH FEES OR YOU RAISE THEM, WE'RE TAKING ALL YOUR FEDERAL MONEY AWAY ON YOUR HOUSING PROGRAMMES. SO I WOULD SAY THAT WE ARE, FOR SURE, WE HAVE WORK TO DO. WE REALLY DO. WE MADE THE CASE VERY STRONGLY A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO ARE WITH THE CURRENT PREMIER ABOUT THE NEED FOR A NEW FUNDING FORMULA.

MADAM SPEAKER: COUNCILLOR DUNCAN, TWO MINUTES. IN FAVOUR.

I'M NOT THE FIRST MAYOR TO DO IT.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: ALMOST EVERY I KNOW OF, EVERY COUNCIL TO ME PRIOR TO US MADE THE SAME CALL. WE'RE ALSO MAKING IMPORTANT AND I'LL CALL THEM COURAGEOUS DECISIONS TO SAY WE'RE GOING TO PUT THE THIRD PHASE OF THE NORTH END WATER CONTROL CENTRE ON OUR BOOKS. WE'RE GOING TO COMMIT TO FUND THAT. THAT TAKES COURAGE. IT'S NEEDED. IT'S NECESSARY. I'M NOT PATTING THIS ON THE BACK. I'M SAYING THE OBVIOUS THAT IT HAS TO BE DONE. WE'RE STEPPING UP TO SAY WE'RE NOT GOING TO AVOID IT ANYMORE. THE TRANSIT NETWORK. IT'S A BIG CHANGE. IT'S A HUGE CHANGE. I KNOW IN THE LONG RUN, IT'S THE RIGHT DECISION. WE HAVE WORK TO DO. IT HASN'T ROLLED OUT THE WAY ANY OF US WANT IT TO DO. THERE'S MORE WORK TO DO. THIS BUDGET ADDRESSES MORE OF THE BUDGET -- ADDRESSES THE ISSUES TO MAKE IT BETTER. I WOULD JUST SAY WE'RE TACKLING BIG, BIG THINGS, WIG EXPENSIVE THINGS, BUT WE'RE DOING THE FUTURE OF THIS CITY, TO BUILD THE KIND OF CITY THAT WE KNOW NEEDS TO BE BUILT. FOLKS, I DON'T LIKE 100% OF THIS BUDGET. THERE'S THINGS IN HERE I WISH I COULD CHANGE OR LIKE TO CHANGE. IF IT WERE MY BUDGET, IT WOULD LOOK

DIFFERENT. BUT A BUDGET IS A DOCUMENT WE WORK TOGETHER ON. MY FINAL COMMENT IS THIS. THIS BUDGET REFLECTS THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN. IT FUNDS A PLAN THAT WE PUT TOGETHER AS A COUNCIL WHEN WE FIRST GOT ELECTED IN THIS TERM OF OFFICE. IF YOU TAKE A LOOK, YOU WILL SEE THAT SO MUCH OF THE FUNDING THAT MOST OF THE PRIORITIES IN THE FUNDING ARE REFLECTED IN THE PRIORITIES, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN AS WELL. IS IT A PERFECT BUDGET? NO. NOT BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION. IS IT A VERY GOOD BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE OF WINNIPEG? I THINK IT'S A BUDGET THAT REFLECTS THE DECISIONS AND INVESTMENTS WE NEED TO MAKE AS A COUNCIL FOR THE SAKE OF TODAY AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE AS WELL. I ASK FOR A RECORDED VOTE AND ALL COUNCILLORS TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET.

MADAM SPEAKER: THANK YOU, Mr. MAYOR. WITH THAT, I'LL CALL THE VOTE ON AMENDING MOTION ONE. ALL IN FAVOUR, PLEASE RISE.

CLERK: HIS WORSHIP MAYOR GILLINGHAM, COUNCILLORS ALLRED, CHAMBERS, DUNCAN, EADIE, GILROY, LUKES, MAYES, ORLIKOW, ROLLINS, SANTOS, WYATT, AND MADAM SPEAKER COUNCILLOR SHARMA.

CLERK: THE VOTE MADAM SPEAKER 16, NAYS ZERO.

MADAM SPEAKER: AMENDING MOTION ONE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY. AND NOW ON TO THE BUDGET. OPERATING CAPITAL BUDGET. ALL IN FAVOUR? PLEASE RISE. THE BUDGETS AS AMENDED.

CLERK: HIS WORSHIP MAYOR GILLINGHAM, COUNCILLORS ALLRED, CHAMBERS, EADIE, GILROY, LUKES, MAYES, SANTOS, AND MADAM SPEAKER COUNCILLOR SHARMA.

THOSE OPPOSED, PLEASE RISE.

CLERK: COUNCILLORS ORLIKOW, ROLLINS AND WYATT.

CLERK: MADAM SPEAKER YEA 12, NAYS 4.

MADAM SPEAKER: THE BUDGET PASSES. ON TO BYLAWS, Mr. CLERK. Mr. MAYOR?

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: I THINK OF BYLAW NUMBER 131-125. YOU READ IT FIRST TIME.

MADAM SPEAKER: ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED.

CLERK: BYLAW NUMBER 131-2025.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: MADAM SPEAKER, I MOVE BYLAWS BE READ A FIRST TIME BYLAW NUMBER 122-2025, 123-2025, 124-2025, 125-2025, 126-2025, 127-2025.

MADAM SPEAKER: ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED. NOTED. THANK YOU.

CLERK: BYLAWS 122-2025, BYLAW 123-2025, BYLAW 124-2025, BYLAW 125-2025, BYLAW 126-2025, AND BYLAW 127-2025.

MADAM SPEAKER: MR. MAYOR?

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: I MOVE BYLAWS 125 AND 127 BE READ A SECOND TIME.

MADAM SPEAKER: ALL IN FAVOUR. CONTRARY? CARRIED. NOTED.

CLERK: BYLAWS NUMBER 122 TO 127 BOTH INCLUSIVE.

MAYOR GILLINGHAM: MADAM SPEAKER, I MOVE 52 OF PROCEDURE BYLAW NUMBER 50, 2007 BE SUSPENDED AND BYLAWS 122-2025 TO 127-2025 BOTH INCLUSIVE BE READ A THIRD TIME, SIGNED AND SEALED.

MADAM SPEAKER: ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY. CARRIED. OK. THAT'S NOTED. THANK YOU. COUNCILLOR ORLIKOW? ALL IN FAVOUR? CONTRARY? CARRIED. STAY FOR ROLL CALL. MADAM CLERK.

CLERK: MADAM SPEAKER, COUNCILLOR SHARMA, HIS WORSHIP MAYOR GILLINGHAM, COUNCILLORS ALLARD, CHAMBERS, DUNCAN, EADIE, LUKES, MAYES, ORLIKOW, ROLLINS, SANTOS.

MADAM SPEAKER: MEETING ADJOURNED.