



BRIAN BOWMAN
MAYOR • MAIRE

September 21, 2021

Councillor Markus Chambers
The City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

Dear Councillor Chambers:

Thank you for agreeing to continue serving Winnipeggers in your role as Acting Deputy Mayor, effective September 9, 2021. I am honoured that you have accepted this critical leadership role.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public-health and economic crisis whose scope and impact far exceed anything most of us have seen, in our lifetimes. Winnipeggers have pulled together to protect one another's health with courage and remarkable success, but the path to recovery will not be easy.

This pandemic has taken its toll not only in terms of physical and mental health, but also in its impact on people's jobs and businesses. People are hurting, and the City of Winnipeg must continue to be there for all our residents.

We must continue to be vigilant in safeguarding public health. We must continue to ensure effective delivery of the essential services Winnipeggers rely upon. We must continue doing all that we can to assist those who have been hard-hit financially, just as we did by providing temporary relief on penalties for unpaid property and business taxes. And we must work vigorously and in concert with our federal and provincial partners to develop and implement an effective post-pandemic plan for economic recovery.

The COVID-19 crisis is not the only global pandemic we are confronting, today. While not new to the global community, events in recent weeks have underlined in the starkest terms the fact that racism is real, and that like COVID-19, it has global scope and viral toxicity. The outpouring of grief and the call for change which has swept the world is deep and strong, and crosses all borders.

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Winnipeg is not immune; we know that there are people who are hurting in our community. Just as we have done with the COVID-19 crisis, we must pull together to fight racism wherever it exists in our city. Peacefully and powerfully, Winnipeggers have gathered in their thousands to demand an end to racism. The City of Winnipeg is listening, and must continue listening, to their voices. We will not be the city we aspire to be until Black people, Indigenous people, and all people of colour in our community feel genuinely respected, valued, and safe.

Given the challenges we face, your role as Acting Deputy Mayor has great significance for our future as a city. I would like to take this opportunity to outline the expectations, both general and specific, which are foundational to your performance of this role.

As part of your important work in your role as Acting Deputy Mayor, I expect your ongoing efforts to include continued collaboration with all members of Council, Winnipeggers, members of our Winnipeg Public Service, and the community at large. Additionally, you are expected to maintain a professional and healthy relationship with members of our Public Service and the Office of the Mayor, who share a responsibility to support you in your official capacity. Equally important is your ability to create and maintain a respectful rapport with local and national media.

As we move forward during a 4th wave of the pandemic, I will be placing even greater emphasis on the importance of vaccines. The vaccines are safe and represent our best chance at emerging from the pandemic. As part of your role as Acting Deputy Mayor, you will be expected to help promote the safety and benefits of vaccines while helping reinforce the City's response to COVID-19.

In your many roles on Council, you have demonstrated a willingness to collaborate and work constructively with the community, Council colleagues, and members of the Public Service. I am confident that you will continue to build on the trust of our citizens as you have done throughout your tenure on Council, and I know that your focus on the priorities of Winnipeggers will continue. I also want you to know that you can count on me for continued support in your efforts.

Sincerely,



Brian Bowman, B.A.(Adv.), J.D., CPA(Hon.), CGA(Hon.)
Mayor
The City of Winnipeg