



BRIAN BOWMAN
MAYOR • MAIRE

June 18, 2020

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

Dear Councillor Chambers:

Thank you for agreeing to serve Winnipeggers as Chairperson of the Winnipeg Police Board, effective June 27, 2020, subject to the ratification of Winnipeg City Council. I am honoured that you have accepted this critical leadership role.

This is a defining moment in our history. It is a time for all of us to re-focus and renew our determination to make Winnipeg the city it ought to be, and can be. Since the election of this Council in 2018, we have made real progress in building a civic government that is more accountable, accessible, and innovative. But now we are confronting additional challenges, some of the most formidable in our history.

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.

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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.

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 Chair of the Police Board 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.

In your capacity as Chair of the Police Board, you are expected to maintain a professional and healthy relationship with members of our Public Service, members of the Police Board, and the Office of the Mayor, who all 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.

Chairing the Winnipeg Police Board is an important leadership role in our community. As such, it comes with intense scrutiny and strong accountability. Accordingly, I expect your conduct to be professional and consistent with a standard reflective of this position's gravity and responsibility.

Specifically, you will be expected to continue the work of the previous Chair, with the assistance of the Public Service, to:

- Provide ongoing civilian governance and oversight of the Winnipeg Police Service;
- Serve as liaison between the community and the Winnipeg Police Service;
- Develop positive working relationships with the Winnipeg Police Board members;
- Collaborate with the Winnipeg Police Service and Winnipeg Police Board members to align budgetary and other fiscal priorities with the Winnipeg Police Board's current strategic plan which "sets out the strategies that capture the Board's understanding of the needs, values and expectations of the citizens of Winnipeg in regard to public safety";
- Serve as a liaison for a positive working relationship between City Council and the Winnipeg Police Service's Chief and members;

- Work with the Winnipeg Police Board to support and implement recommendations within the City's jurisdiction relating to the tri-level Illicit Drug Task Force; and,
- Review and monitor the progress of the Winnipeg Police Service's Illicit Drug Strategy and provide support where possible.

As we move forward in building a stronger Winnipeg for the future, you will be expected to work with the Public Service to:

- Review and implement the applicable Calls for Justice as recommended in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*;
- Monitor and enhance the Downtown Safety Strategy;
- Work with the Human Rights Committee of Council to find synergies between the work of the Winnipeg Police Board and this committee;
- Consult members of the community on pertinent issues that affect the relationship between the community and the Winnipeg Police Service;
- Work collaboratively with the Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and the Winnipeg Police Service to bring forward options and recommendations for Council's consideration on a multi-year funding formula for the WPS that will provide planning certainty for the City of Winnipeg and a sustainable, predictable funding level for the WPS; and,
- Work with the members of the Winnipeg Police Board and the Winnipeg Police Service to prepare a written submission to Minister of Justice Cliff Cullen within the next 60 days that considers changes to The Police Services Act that will provide for increased board effectiveness including improved civilian governance and police accountability.

Meeting these goals will be challenging, in light of the need to ensure both fiscal sustainability, and to help the Winnipeg Police Service provide predictable and consistent public safety to all Winnipeggers. I am confident that, working with the Chief of Police, you will be able to find creative and innovative ways to achieve the necessary balance.

In your roles on Council, including as Deputy Mayor, 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.

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The challenges facing our city have never been greater. But I am confident that Winnipeggers will weather this storm, and that we will emerge a healthier, more prosperous, more inclusive community. Once again, Councillor Chambers, thank you for accepting the role of Chairperson of the Winnipeg Police Board, and for all your contributions to Winnipeg's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brian Bowman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right and curving upwards at the end.

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