



BRIAN BOWMAN  
MAYOR • MAIRE

June 18, 2020

Councillor Vivian Santos  
The City of Winnipeg  
510 Main Street  
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

Dear Councillor Santos:

Thank you for agreeing to continue serving Winnipeggers in your role as Acting Deputy Mayor, effective June 27, 2020. 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 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 in building a stronger Winnipeg for the future, you will be expected to:

- Work with the Public Service and the Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks, to implement a new three-year recreation and library facility investment strategy of up to \$50 million.

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.

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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 Santos, thank you for accepting the role of Acting Deputy Mayor, for your previous work as Council Liaison for School Boards and Youth Opportunities, and for all your contributions to Winnipeg's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

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