

Responses from Brian Mayes – Councillor for St. Vital

1. The city continues to take steps to modernize the permit process. We need to have sufficient staff AND a more streamlined process to reduce red tape.

2. The permit reserve is important but it is also important to not have millions of dollars hidden in reserves while city staff claim that there is no money to fund projects coming forward from the public and from the elected officials. It's a balancing act and in recent years I feel staff have not been fully forthcoming on levels in reserves and "committed funds". I would like to see money retained in reserves, but there is little sense in building a huge war chest while we search for funds to deal with issues like homelessness.

3. Yes to use of CCDC

4. Balance of tax and infrastructure needs. I feel the use of targeted 2% increase dedicated to roads has been a success and has widespread public support. We are spending five times more annually on road renewal than we did in 2011 due to this strategy. We also need to do the work on sewers, though it's less visible. I have been proud to back funding for north end sewage treatment and very proud that I have taken the lead to get 50% funding increase for combined sewer work, and got council to rescind the ludicrous 2097 deadline for completion of CSO work as put forward by staff, moving the deadline to 2047 as mandated by province.

5. We need to work cooperatively as a metro region. We cannot try to raid business from one another or the public will all suffer. Some joint efforts on urban planning would make sense for road and park development.

6. The model used for developing the city's social procurement framework offers a way forward to improve smooth and efficient project construction. More collaboration between employers, labour and community right from the start offers huge opportunity.