



BRIAN BOWMAN
MAYOR • MAIRE

July 5, 2019

Councillor Kevin Klein
Chair, Winnipeg Police Board
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

Dear Councillor Klein:

I would like to thank you for your efforts in serving as my designate as chair of the Winnipeg Police Board. I hope you've been finding the work as chair both meaningful and rewarding.

As outlined in the mandate letter provided to you in December 2018, chairing the Winnipeg Police Board is an important leadership role in our community. It comes with intense scrutiny and strong accountability, and I do expect your conduct to be professional and consistent with a standard reflective of this position's leadership role.

At the half year mark since your appointment, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of your core governance responsibilities. I do this in the interest of ensuring that oversight of the city's largest department is both ongoing and appropriate, and consistent with governance responsibilities outlined in law.

I am confident you are acutely aware the Winnipeg Police Service operating budget is our city's single largest budget.

This year's budget is over \$300 million representing almost 27 percent of all city expenditures. Over the last ten years, the police budget has increased 68 percent from over \$178 million in 2009 to over \$301 million this year. This level of expenditure growth significantly eclipsed the city's population growth rate, local and national inflation rates, and the rate at which overall city expenditure levels increased over the same ten-year period.

Effective and responsible oversight of these expenditures is paramount, and it concerns me that earlier this month you were publicly quoted by media suggesting your role as chair and that of the Winnipeg Police Board is to "advocate" on behalf of the police service and the public.

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Councillor Kevin Klein

The Winnipeg Police Board Bylaw (148/2012) and *The Police Services Act* outline the governance role of municipal police boards including the Winnipeg Police Board. Advocating on behalf of the department and management is not a governance role outlined in law.

I want to remind you that under law your role as chair and that of the board is a governance role, not an advocacy role.

This requires you and the board to oversee, and scrutinize, the budget to ensure expenditures align with the priorities and needs of the city and its residents. You are also responsible for monitoring the performance of the Chief of Police – a responsibility that cannot be effectively fulfilled if you understand your role as advocating on their behalf.

Adhering to the board governance responsibilities is paramount to ensuring that public trust and confidence in an impartial and independent police force are not eroded.

In closing, I want to emphasize the importance of maintaining professional and healthy relationships with fellow board members as well as community stakeholders. Listening, building strong relationships, working as a team, and being collaborative are essential leadership qualities which will serve you well in the role of Police Board chair.

Sincerely,



Brian Bowman
Mayor
The City of Winnipeg

Cc: Councillor Markus Chambers, Winnipeg Police Board
Mohamed El Tassi, Winnipeg Police Board
Damon Johnston, Winnipeg Police Board
Edna Nabess, Winnipeg Police Board
Brian Scharfstein, Winnipeg Police Board
Alicja Szarkiewicz, Winnipeg Police Board
Michael Ruta, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Winnipeg
Michael Jack, Chief Corporate Services Officer, City of Winnipeg
Danny Smyth, Chief of Police, Winnipeg Police Service
Councillor Sherri Rollins, Chair, Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services, and Parks



Kevin Klein Councillor for Charleswood – Tuxedo – Westwood
Chair of the Winnipeg Police Service Board

August 28, 2019

Mayor Brian Bowman
Chair of Executive Policy Committee (EPC)
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Mayor Bowman:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 5, 2019. I was disappointed to have received it and shocked with its contents.

I note that you have chosen to share your letter with people not on the cleared security list for WPB communications so I assume you meant for this letter to be public.

Your letter makes it clear to me that you do not seek to have a strong voice for the residents of Winnipeg as Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board, but rather would have the Chair defer to yourself and EPC, to act as a puppet. I'm not that person and I will not be bullied into keeping silent on issues, I feel, are concerns. I was not elected to impose the will of one; I was elected to represent the best interest of residents and Winnipeg.

I believe the role of the Chair is to be a strong voice for the citizens of Winnipeg with regard to the governance of the WPS. The establishment of Police Boards was to ensure that the very type of political interference you are attempting to exert doesn't occur. What is the point of having an independent oversight board if the Mayor attempts to silence the Chair for not towing the line of his/her political mandate?

I am honoured to serve as the Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board. The opportunity one is given to help establish the priorities and objectives for the WPS, including providing the estimated costs to ensure public safety in our community.

I did not accept this responsibility lightly, as I view providing for the safety and security of Winnipeg to be among the highest duties a City owes to its people. I am not, and have not, advocated on behalf of the WPS or it's Executives, but only brought forward my views of what is best for the residents of Winnipeg. This is the governance thesis I have pursued every day in my role as the Chair.

According to the City of Winnipeg's most recent citizen survey, crime is up and more people are afraid to be downtown at night. Violent crime in has risen since 2014. Crime in some downtown neighbourhoods is up 38% over the last five years. Other crimes on the rise include, robberies up 23%, assault up 20% and assaults on a peace officer are up 43%. These statistics don't call for division they call for action.

Mayor Bowman, in a statement your office released you said; "We are making investments in additional security and policing." I ask where have those investments been made? Projects like the approximately \$200K for more lighting downtown maybe? Crime is rising all across our City. You've also said on many occasions; "We're spending more in Policing than ever before." That's true, as it is true every year, because dictated administration costs and salaries increase every year, while the number of officers has decreased since 2014. The most recent contract negotiated between the City and the Winnipeg Police Association saw four years of roughly 2.5% increases, well above the national inflation rate. In addition your letter did not consider the fact the Service does not control the millions in administration fixed costs. You and I both know those decisions are dictated by you, EPC and the two Deputy Mayors conveniently assigned to your budget committee.

The only way to achieve the budgetary priorities that you seem to desire may require a reduction in the number of Police Officers. As noted, in the last five-years the WPS has already reduced the number of officers by roughly 100. If the direction of EPC is to reduce the budget at all costs, the WPB is required to follow that direction and work with the WPS to find the least impactful services provided to cut. It's difficult to participate in a budgetary exercise that provides limited input and that could make residents feel less safe. I believe all members of the WPB share a view of making Winnipeg safe. I am committed to carrying out the governance responsibilities vested in the WPB as Chair under provincial legislation and as an elected official I will continue to dedicate the time and effort required to find ways to continuously improve public safety.

Though I am your designate, I am not your delegate and it is inappropriate for you to speak to me or any board member about our budget discussions as that might be perceived as giving direction and interfering with the independence of the WPB. Civilian Police Boards are partly intended to separate the political from appearing to be interfering in police operations. Do you feel your letter complies with this statement?

It's possible this issue may stem from differing interpretations of the legislation as there is no provision for the WPB overseeing or scrutinizing the overall budget allocation to the Winnipeg Police Service. This is a great opportunity for us to work together on proposing improvements to the legislation that will make the way forward a more collaborative process ensuring all stakeholders have an opportunity to provide valuable insights.

I look forward to this misunderstanding being put behind us so we may work together in the best interest of taxpayers. I intend to continue working for a safer Winnipeg and I hope you will be receptive to new ideas in the future and collaborating with me in achieving the goal of an efficient, accountable and safer Winnipeg for all people in every neighbourhood.

Kind Regards,

Kevin E. Klein
City Councillor representing - Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood
Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board

Cc: Manitoba Police Commission
Danny Smyth, Chief of Police, Winnipeg Police Service
Michael Jack, Chief Corporate Officer, City of Winnipeg
Michael Ruta, Acting Chief Administration Officer, City of Winnipeg
Members of the Winnipeg Police Board