

REPORT TO TAXPAYERS

SPRING 2006



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

This Report to Taxpayers shows how we have been focusing on the basics at City Hall to meet the priorities of Winnipeggers.

It's been a productive year at City Hall. Inside this report, you'll learn how I've worked with City Council on my key priorities:

- Public safety and crime prevention;
- Fixing our roads and basic infrastructure; and
- Growing our economy to build a "City of Opportunity" for young Winnipeggers.

Of course, you can learn much more from my website – www.samkatz.ca – and its links to official City press releases.

Being Mayor is not always about patching potholes, budgeting for road repair or mosquito fogging. By day, I might be honouring current and former

Winnipeggers, like our eight great Olympic athletes, grammy-nominated rapper Fresh

I.E., or wrestler

"Rowdy" Roddy Piper. By night, I've found time to train for the Manitoba Marathon to support worthy charities. And the following day, I could be working with City staff on our new eco-

nomie partnership with Kansas City, a unique arrangement to create jobs and opportunity by jointly marketing two cities with similar economies.

And being Mayor means working with other levels of government on your behalf. I'm proud to say that we've changed our relationship with the provincial and federal governments for the better, regardless of the party in power – and that approach is paying off with deals struck and problems solved for taxpayers in Winnipeg.

Naysayers said it couldn't be done. But we successfully negotiated a gas tax deal to fund road repair with the former federal government. We've worked closely with the new government in Ottawa on issues like crime prevention. And the Province has come to the table to help Winnipeg with flood protection, transit funding and fairer program financing for Winnipeg.

Changing City Hall isn't easy. But we're moving quickly on an ambitious list of goals. And by the time you've received this report, we'll have finished another ambitious project: the Winnipeg City Summit, a conference designed to help take us from fixing our foundations to daring new dreams for our city of opportunity.

Thanks again for your support this year, and know that while you're reading this, we're still at work at City Hall. I don't want our momentum to stop for even a moment.

Sincerely,





OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP CONTINUES



A strong commitment to public safety; 48 new police officers.

In November of 2005, Mayor Katz asked for new thinking on how Winnipeg deploys its police to fight crime. And the Winnipeg Police Service has delivered. On November 21, 2005, Mayor Katz and Chief Jack Ewatski announced Operation Clean Sweep – a program to sweep street crime from the West End and parts of the North End.

Clean Sweep frees up police officers to roam the streets searching for crime, rather than forcing officers to wait to respond to citizen calls. Up to forty police officers might be on Clean Sweep duty on any given day, driving or walking door to door to prevent crime in our neighborhoods.

Measured as arrests, the results are clear (as of the end of March, 2006). Clean Sweep has succeeded in delivering:

- 658 total arrests
- 28 firearms seized
- 40 other weapons seized
- Thousands of grams of drugs seized
- 50 persons apprehended under the *Intoxicated Persons Detention Act*

...and police had walked 4,289.5 hours on the beat by the end of March.

But the best measurement of success is the strong public support Mayor Katz and the Winnipeg Police Service have received from ordinary citizens in the area.

Clean Sweep has changed the way City Hall sees policing. The Operation will be a model to follow when new recruits come on line – and the City's 2006 budget includes funding to hire 48 new officers. At Mayor Katz's request, the Manitoba government agreed to fund *Clean Sweep* directly on April 18th, 2006, helping to continue the operation indefinitely.

For more information, check www.winnipeg.ca/police

Providing police with the resources to fight street level crime.



110% increase in
road maintenance.

PUTTING SERVICES FIRST WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES

Put our services first! That's what Winnipeggers asked City Hall to do for years. And Budget 2006 delivers by putting frontline services first, with cuts to administrative costs to pay for new investments in roads, public safety and environmental infrastructure.

Road maintenance is budgeted for 110% more work this year – thanks to better budgeting and support from the federal and provincial governments. Portage Avenue, Pembina Highway, Chancellor Matheson Drive, Ness Avenue and Inkster Boulevard are just a few of the major streets to be rebuilt or repaired this year. Transit riders will see the first wave of over \$140 million in transit improvements starting this summer.

And more police officers means better **public safety**: in 2006, the City will hire 48 new police officers, 12 more paramedics, 4 more firefighters per shift and put 1 more ambulance per shift on the road. *Operation Clean Sweep* continues.

Prioritizing frontline services also means more library books, more graffiti prevention, more tree pruning and more riverbank stabilization. Wading

pools and spray pads will not be threatened with mid-year closures, and the City has increased the mosquito control budget. The decisions weren't easy; many new investments were paid for with cuts to consulting, management and administrative staff budgets.

And the Entertainment Tax is now radically simplified. As recommended by Councillor Franco Magnifico and the Mayor's Red Tape Commission, hundreds of arts events, festivals, live acts and fundraisers are now permanently exempted from the much hated tax.

Mayor Katz and Executive Policy Committee earned unanimous support for the 2006 Capital Budget and its new investments in infrastructure. Eleven of sixteen council members supported the 2006 Operating Budget. City Hall is working harder than ever to put public priorities first – and all of this without an increase in the amount the City collects in property taxes. The City has also frozen revenues from the business tax at 2005 levels.



Cutting Red Tape at City Hall; action on
the Entertainment Tax.

FIXING OUR ROADS

Fixing roads means more construction – but the inconvenience will be worth it. We are spending more to fix, maintain, and repair roads than we have in over a decade – and over half of the \$43 million in road maintenance work will be performed on major regional streets this year. These regional streets carry over 80% of our city's traffic.

Expect to see rebuilds or major repair work on the following streets this summer and fall:

Major rehabilitation projects will take place on parts of: Inkster Boulevard; Corydon Avenue; St. Mary's Road; Portage Avenue; Hespeler Avenue; Pembina Highway; Broadway Avenue; Oak Point Highway; McPhillips Street; William Avenue; Chancellor Matheson Drive; Roblin Boulevard & Grant Avenue; Ness Avenue and Bison Drive.

"Mill and Fill" rehabilitation will take place along parts of: McPhillips Street; Osborne Street;



Over half of the \$43 million in road maintenance will be performed across the City this year.

Henderson Highway; Main Street; Portage Avenue; Regent Avenue; Goulet Street; Roblin Boulevard and Pembina Highway.

COMMUNITY CENTRES AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE – FROM PLANS, TO REALITY

Watch this summer for \$12 million in work on community recreation facilities across Winnipeg, including

- new spray pads and skateboard parks
- a major renovation of the Cindy Klassen (formerly Sargent Park) Recreation Complex

- Construction of the new Bronx Park/Good Neighbours Community Centre
- The new Buhler Recreation Park project in Transcona

...among many other projects to be announced.



LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAYOR SAM KATZ AND HIS PLAN TO CREATE A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY?

Kee up-to-date on the latest developments at City Hall and learn how we are working to build Winnipeg into a true city of opportunity for everyone by visiting...

www.samkatz.ca


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