

M. VINCENT LUPIEN :

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Merci.

M. JIMMY CHAN

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Montreal Chan Associations Chinese Community

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Maintenant, prochaine intervention : Jimmy Chan.

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M. JIMMY CHAN :

Bonsoir. *How are you?*

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Très bien, et vous? Vous avez donc dix minutes, puis par la suite, on a dix minutes pour échanger. *So, ten minutes for your presentation.* O.K.

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M. JIMMY CHAN :

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Ten minutes, yeah. All right. Yesterday, I also... O.K., alright. Yeah, we are happy to be here today, how is everybody? Good? Now, the identity of our heritage. The Chinatown should be expanded toward... to Sainte-Catherine Street. I don't have a picture here today to present it, but last... I think last time I did. To build more affordable housing, affordable social housing around that area, good reasons, cause the way that our community looking at Chinatown, besides Clark Street, is pretty much full, the area, because the size of it is kind of shranked down a bit.

805 So, the way that I'm personally looking at it, we could expend, because the area, that we could put Chinatown further up to Sainte-Catherine area. My opinion is that is a, you know, a prestart for the expansion for social housing. Because according my research, there's a lot of abandoned buildings around the area that been a long time, that maybe the City should look into it, to do something, like build some affordable social housing for the residents.

810 And to build more commercial properties for Chinatown businesses. And now, the pandemic is opened, the businesses slowly coming back, the lack of tourists, of course, but eventually, the tourists will return also, then we need more businesses to, you know, to bring up the Chinatown businesses. So, therefore, get more busier in Chinatown, to get more... attract more visitors to come in.

815 Now, many of the old buildings in Chinatown are breaking down, as everybody know. Space where the buildings, they've been built 1800... between 1800 and 1900. We must keep Chinatown the *façage* of the building, originally. Know as already on January 24, 2022 this year, Chinatown has been granted by the National Assembly and the City of Montreal as a heritage status.

820 So, it's important that we got to keep the outlook of the original look from, you know, when they started the design and building the building, but now they change it and they... but they keep the original look, which is important to keep, you know, the outlook of the cachet. And also, it's needed having doing the right research of the rare building, especially my own China associate building, in La Gauchetière, the inside of it, needed to repair the structural, renovated the inside.

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830 Now, the heights and density, they've been talking about it for a while now. The changes in height and density will help prevent high risk from overshadowing Chinatown from developer or a new development. Now, what I mean by that, it's like, it will allow Chinatown to remain visible, but not to under any new development building putting a shadow on it.

835 And also, the façade of the new building might be designed to have oriental look, to keep the theme of Chinatown what it is, but not to have a concrete cement wall, from the bottom all the way up. It doesn't really look Chinatown.

840 And these changes will improve the quality of life of the residents, who will not be able to enjoy the view and sunlight if a home owner around the area is surrounded by high risers, you know, so everytime you look outside with the high risers out there, they will be, you know, looking at the wall instead of looking at a beautiful blue sky. So, this... no. If this happens, the quality of life will slowly disappear, especially for the elderly people in the neighborhood. My opinion is: I strongly this has to be done, to bring in a good quality of life for the residents.

845 For the commercial life and economic situation right now, to make people want to visit Chinatown and its shops weekly scheduled, the way I'm looking at it, we say that we could add... the City could encourage to have more cultural performances in Chinatown, especially during the summertime. Our summer is so short. And why not every week, weekly, we have a schedule to put it out, you know, to the Website, the City Website, whatever it is, that to bring in entertainment to Chinatown.

850 So, therefore, attract more people coming in, not just only spend a good day with family and friends in Chinatown, you know, just having bubble tea or dim sum, but also have something to watch, enjoyable, spending a beautiful day, you know, every weekend, and it will benefit a lot of restaurants, a lot of merchants, too, obviously. Yeah, this... no, this will benefit a lot of area.

860 So, Chinatown would attract more visitors and encourage more explore the restaurants and the shops in this area, if we could have more, you know, different things, different corners in Chinatown. So, it would be great if the street signs... this is something that I always wanted it, that I have requested a while back. It would be great to have street signs in Chinatown that have Chinese characters and it named the street names. I visited on a Chinatown, in Boston (inaudible), in San Francisco, they do have Chinese characters underneath the English street names. So, and that would give a very nice unique oriental look of Chinatown. That would be very unique.

865 And also, the creation of green space in Chinatown, that we... also have been opened...
given out, opened and how it should be, and obviously there is some trees been planted since the
beginning, when the Sun Yat-sen park would built, but since then, those trees have been dried up.
We have no flowers, we have nothing. But if we have green spaces in Chinatown, we provide a
sense of experience for the residents and the visitors. It keeps the eyes opened.

870 So, it would be great if Chinatown had its own sport center also. We talked about that too.
And also, the cultural center for the elderly people and everyone to gather together, you know, and
we have also performances for the elderly people to do Tai Chi, you know, to have tea with the
friends. Create a better heathy environment around that area if we do have a center. To bring that
all year long, we have during the winter, summer, if there's a bit of rain out or sunny, there's
always a place for them.

875 So, and to have a Chinese obviously cultural museum. We have so many things that our
ancestors left behind. Every association has some, but it will centralise if they put them in the
museum. That would attract so much of tourists to come in to enjoy, to learn about our culture, and
also our past, more than 100 years in Chinatown.

880 Now, lastly, something that my opinion is that should be strongly influence the City of
Montreal look into this, this is the issue that the homeless population in Chinatown is increasing
every year. The reason because everybody knows that the area it's very closed-in, especially the
old cultural center, where we used to have, O.K., the homeless people kind of hang out around
885 that area.

890 Depend the incident that happened, that... you know, they set up campfire, they're doing a
party, and I'm afraid that, you know, if they care less, they might set a fire, burn down the building.
But this is a problem they have to look into, because, you know, this is a society issue, a society
problem. Not just only Chinatown, but it's an issue, it's a problem in the whole society as whole.
Now, the homeless, you know, often vandalize, (inaudible) is always there in Chinatown, as you
know, the beginning of the pandemic, right, but increasing with the homeless people often

vandalize commercial properties in Chinatown, and often scare away the visitors. This is something we don't want, to scare people away.

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I should walk out in Chinatown... me, they know who I am, because I always give them... I don't give them money, I give them bun, I go buy a gold bun, I own a restaurant, always go the area, I give them food. They know who I am, they call me Jacky Chan, "hey, Jacky Chan, food", you know, so I do that all the time. They know who I am, but they're really nice. They're really nice. Now, we keep a distance, hey, I give them food, O.K., they know. They're very very nice people.

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So that really to say that they're nice people, but the City have to take care of them, have to take care of them, because now, they kind of been ignored, in a fact that they feel like they don't... no place that they could belong. So, this is something that we could look to something like that, where they know that they would be there.

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So greatly affecting... it is now greatly affecting the area, the visitor's experience, you know, the one... the visitor coming to a beautiful Chinatown, they would be, ah, hum, smell good food all over the place, wow, bubble teas all over the place, dim sum, you know, and wow, entertainment, and all of a sudden, you know, we have... they have to deal with something else, you know, and it is something that it will ruin the days of the experience in Chinatown.

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So, if the City able to build more nicer, more caring oriented homeless shelter outside of Chinatown, I'm sure it will be a happy world. So, this is my opinion.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Thank you, Mister Chan. Question, we have questions for you, now. Alors, Danielle, est-ce que tu as une question?

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LA COMMISSAIRE :

925 Vous avez donné plusieurs idées pour animer le Quartier chinois, vous avez beaucoup
beaucoup de bonnes suggestions. Est-ce que ce sont des projets qui peuvent être réalisés par les
gens de la communauté ou si ça prend absolument de l'aide gouvernementale pour les réaliser?

M. JIMMY CHAN :

930 (Inaudible) among project that we could put together with the City. Yeah. That a lot of
projects that we could... like the project of diversity, you know, to bring in more different
communities to Chinatown, to do more activities in Chinatown. Just like last week. It was the last
weekend of the salvation of an Asian heritage, so I did, you know, I did organisation of bringing in
935 all communities joining in Chinatown, okay, to celebrate the heritage month, which is good,
because, there was at least like 6-700 people participating there.

And afterward, they're not going to go home. After that, the project I have volunteer, I have
people that delegate to them, brought them to different restaurants to eat, this particular project.
940 And the restaurant would give them discount. So, we could create something like that in the
neighborhood with the city that would be fantastic. You know, to bring project together, with not
just only Chinatown.

Chinatown is not just for only for Chinese. Chinatown is for everybody. You know, so,
945 everybody. So, a lot of projects we could... the City and the community can create, you know, to
make Chinatown, it's a very important landmark for all tourists to come in, you know. Now,
everything back to normal, hopefully, it's going to be like that, to come, and we (inaudible) fantastic
project, you know, going on in... during summertime, and yeah, for sure. For sure, everybody
would be happy. Yeah.

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LA COMMISSAIRE :

955 Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

960 Merci. Bruno-Serge.

LE COMMISSAIRE :

965 Bonjour. Vous nous avez parlé beaucoup de l'importance de faire venir des touristes dans le quartier. On nous parle aussi beaucoup de l'importance de faire venir des résidents dans le quartier, des gens qui vont habiter le quartier. Or, dans plusieurs quartiers touristiques comme ça, la cohabitation est parfois difficile entre les résidents et les touristes. Ils font du bruit, ils sont là tard le soir, etc. Comme ça se passe dans le Quartier chinois?

M. JIMMY CHAN :

970 Well, according the information I got when I speaking to the neighborhood, every two months, I organize a meeting with certain associations, cause I'm the president of two associations in Chinatown.

975 So, Chinatown is formed by association going back a 100 years ago and still is today. And the visitor, it loves to visit all the associations. They want to see how it looks like inside, not just only the structure of the building, how it was built 1800 years ago.

980 The important thing is how people live. Chinatown is a living soul. There are actually people living... now, Chinatown not just only Chinese people living there. Chinatown has many different cultural diversity people living in Chinatown. Why? Because Chinatown is a beautiful

place. What more you want? You just... you know, one step away you get all the fresh food that you want, and it's a beautiful, you know... summer and winter is just beautiful.

985 So, the visitor in Chinatown and the visitor in Chinatown and the resident are more or less... I'm trying to bond them together, creating project, with certain communities, if they have, let's say, the Filipino community, they have tourists coming from Philippines to want to visit Montreal in Côte-des-Neiges, an area where the Filipino community is, come to Chinatown, to create things like that. So, it is a bonding. It's a bonding to communication. So, this will bring life,
990 more life into Chinatown. We bring life not just in Chinatown, but in Montreal as a whole, so...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

 Vous avez dit que vous êtes président d'une association familiale, Chan Association?

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M. JIMMY CHAN :

 Yes.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

 Pouvez-vous nous dire l'importance des associations familiales, *the importance of the family associations for Chinatown*?

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M. JIMMY CHAN :

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 It is... like I mentioned before: going back to the first Chinese immigrants landed in Montreal, okay, just take a 30 seconds, okay, this person arrives in a strange place, don't even know what it is, don't even know what the name of the city, finally, he learns it's Montreal and it was destined it is the home. It's the beauty. He stays there, he finds friends. It all started like that, and (inaudible) was my grandfather and his brother, my uncle.

1015 So, the story was like he was alone, but he finds the same villages, the Chan, C-H-A-N, and then he finds only Chan people, "oh, who's the Chan? Okay, come over here, we can help you". They all came from the same village. "Who's the Wong, who's the Lee?" They come from the same village. So, that's how the association family, association would form, to help those people at those time to write letters to send back home, you know. At that time, you don't have technology, we don't have phone, nothing. A mail, it takes, you know, months to go back home. So here, they just focus on working, saving money, send back home, so they will have a better life in China. That was those times.

1020 So, the association, family association is so important. And still is important for the elderly people that... who are still existent, who are still surviving. The association to them is the home. Even though they don't... some of them, they don't live in Chinatown now, they live in other (inaudible), it's like, my family used to live in Chinatown, La Gauchetière, my father had restaurant there, they lived upstairs, and then wake up and go downstairs, they worked in the restaurant. Most of the time, it's like that.

1030 But then again, they come there every week to Chinatown, because the association, there's a lot of memory, a lot of things for them to gather with the friends to Chinatown. You know, they go to dim sum, have tea, and then they go back, they play mah-jong, they play mah-jong, this is how they spend a day.

1035 And the young people, they learn from these things. They value this culture. They value this memory. They value this history. This heritage is so important. It is our root. It is where we came from, because of them, because of a family association that we survive and me talking to you today.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1040 Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much.

M. JIMMY CHAN :

You're very welcome, sir. Thank you very much. Thank you. Merci. Merci beaucoup.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Xiè xiè. Merci. Merci à vous.

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M. SANDY YEP, citoyen

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Alors, prochain intervenant ou intervenante : Sandy Yep.

(Coupure sonore) ... vous informer qu'il y a présence d'une personne qui fait une captation vidéo pour un documentaire sur le Quartier chinois, c'est bien ça?

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INTERVENANTE NON IDENTIFIÉE :

Oui.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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Oui, alors voilà. Alors, ce n'est pas pour la commission, c'est pour des fins d'un documentaire. Avec l'autorisation des personnes. D'accord. Alors, Monsieur Yep, vous avez dix minutes pour votre présentation.

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