REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED JUNE 7, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated June 7, 2000, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, be adopted.

Councillor Steek requested that Clause 6 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3,4 and 5 was put and declared carried.

Expenditure from Land Dedication Reserve Fund - Trans Canada Trail Signage for Relay 2000 - Assiniboia Community Committee
File EP-2 (Vol. 27)

654 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Assiniboia Community Committee has concurred in the allocation of $7,700.00 from the Assiniboia Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the installation of signage along the Trans Canada Trail.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the above and recommends that funds in the amount of $7,700.00 be approved from the Assiniboia Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the project.

Adopted by consent.

Expenditure from Land Dedication Reserve Fund - Trans Canada Trail Signage for Relay 2000 - Riel Community Committee File EP-2 (Vol. 27)

655 - 2. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Riel Community Committee has concurred in the allocation of $4,000.00 from the Riel Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the installation of signage along the Trans Canada Trail.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the above and recommends that funds in the amount of $4,000.00 be approved from the Riel Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the project.

Adopted by consent.

Expenditure from Land Dedication Reserve Fund - Proposed Acquisition of 438 Truro Street - Assiniboia Community Committee File EP-2 (Vol. 27)

656 - 3. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Assiniboia Community Committee has concurred in the allocation of $55,000.00 from the Assiniboia Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the proposed acquisition of 438 Truro Street.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 7, 2000

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the above and recommends that funds in the amount of $55,000.00 be approved from the Assiniboia Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the project.

Adopted by consent.

Expenditure from Land Dedication Reserve Fund - Request for Financial Assistance - Tyndall Park Community Centre - Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee
File EP-2 (Vol. 27)

657 - 4. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee has concurred in the allocation of $24,500.00 from the Lord Selkirk - West Kildonan Land Dedication Reserve Fund for repairs to the Tyndall Park Community Centre and upgrading the two outdoor rinks.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the above and recommends that funds in the amount of $24,500.00 be approved from the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the project.

Adopted by consent.

Expenditure from Land Dedication Reserve Fund - Legion Memorial Park - Phase 1 Proposed Site Development - Assiniboia Community Committee
File EP-2 (Vol. 27)

658 - 5. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Assiniboia Community Committee has concurred in the allocation of $50,000.00 from the Assiniboia Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the East Field Stage 1 Development to include enlarging the game field to conform to the official regulation dimensions, as well as legally closing and removing Inglewood Street north of Silver Avenue, and relocating the existing chain link fence and crushed limestone pathway to the new east property line.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the above and recommends that funds in the amount of $50,000.00 be approved from the Assiniboia Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve Fund for the project.

Adopted by consent.

Request for Housing Proposal at The Forks from Pointe of View Developments
File FR-4.1 (Vol. 5)

659 - 6. On June 7, 2000, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has considered a request for a housing proposal at The Forks from Pointe of View Developments in order to build housing condominium units for persons 50 years of age and over;

AND WHEREAS on February 26, 1997, Council adopted Clause 3 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated February 19, 1997, which recommended that the City of Winnipeg approve the Business Plan of the Forks North Portage Partnership, subject to certain conditions, including the following:

> *"c) Any possible residential development will be a separate issue apart from the Business Plan, and will need separate approvals from the City of Winnipeg."*

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 7, 2000

AND WHEREAS the Executive Policy Committee feels that the Pointe of View Developments proposal is not a desired development at The Forks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council go on record as not approving the housing proposal received from Pointe of View Developments;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be directed to make its best efforts to work with Pointe of View Developments in finding an alternative location for its development in Winnipeg;

and submits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED JUNE 14, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated June 14, 2000, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8, be adopted.

Councillor Smith requested that Clause 5 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Councillor Steek requested that Clauses 7 and 8 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3,4 and 6 was put and declared carried.

Proposed Opening and Closing of Parts of Pioneer Boulevard between York Avenue and Pioneer Avenue File DAOC 3/00

660 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the proposed opening and closing of the portions of Pioneer Boulevard shown on Schedule "A" has been initiated by the Public Works Department. The configuration shown will accommodate the location of the existing roadway in the area. No further road construction is required.

The proposal has been circulated to all affected City departments and public utilities and no administrative objections have been received. The subject street opening and closing was approved by the City Centre Community Committee at its public meeting held on May 9, 2000.

This report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of By-law No. 7325/98, a by-law to amend current procedures to allow certain street opening and closing applications to be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for report to Council without the requirement to be reviewed by a Standing Policy Committee.

The following criteria must be met before the authority given in the by-law may be exercised:

OPENINGS

1. The proposed opening and acquisition must have been approved by the Director of Public Works.

2. The proposed opening must have been submitted to all affected City Departments and public utilities with no objections having been received.

3. Any conditions regarding engineering aspects (i.e. relocation of facilities) must have been mutually agreed to.

4. The affected property owner(s) must have agreed to the terms and conditions of the acquisition of the land required for the proposed opening.

5. The terms and conditions of any agreements concerning the proposed opening and acquisition must have been approved by the Director of the department that requested the opening and either the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, or the Director of Property and Development Services as is appropriate.

CLOSINGS

1. The proposed closing must have been addressed at a public meeting and received approval from the Committee before which the public meeting took place.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

2. The proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of Public Works.

3. The proposed closing must have been submitted to all affected City Departments and public utilities with no objections having been received.

4. Any conditions regarding engineering aspects (i.e. relocation of facilities) must have been mutually agreed to.

5. The terms and conditions of any easement agreements created by the proposed closing and sale must have been addressed.

6. The proposed closing must have been approved by the affected property owner(s).

7. The terms and conditions of any agreements concerning the proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of the department that requested the closing and either the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, or the Director of Property and Development Services, as is appropriate.

All of these criteria have been met.

Schedule "B" illustrates the location of the subject proposal. This drawing indicates that portions of Water Avenue and Pioneer Avenue connecting to the Provencher Bridge do not exist. Although the roads are being used today, these portions of Water Avenue and Pioneer Avenue were legally closed in 1988 to facilitate the acquisition of the Forks lands. There was some question at that time as to whether or not the roads will be relocated when the plans for the Provencher Bridge have been finalized. It was considered to be most efficient to leave the roadways legally closed and to dedicate them as public rights-of-way when their permanent locations were determined.

All of the costs associated with this opening and closing will be charged to the Public Works Department account created for this project.

The opening and closing of public streets requires a by-law pursuant to Section 495 of The City of Winnipeg Act.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

1. That the City Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law for submission to Council to effect the street opening and closing in accordance with the Schedule "A", Misc. Plan No. 10738.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachments referred to in the above clause are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Proposed Closing of Part of Owen Street North of Regent Avenue West
File DAC 4/00

661 - 2. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that an application has been received from 4021533 Manitoba Limited, a subsidiary of Shelter Canadian Properties Limited. 4021533 Manitoba Limited is negotiating a lease of a portion of the Manitoba Lotteries property west of Owen Street to accommodate the construction of a hotel adjacent to the Club Regent Casino.

The land upon which the hotel will be constructed is currently used as the parking area for the casino. 4021533 Manitoba Limited has negotiated a lease of the City property to the north of the railway to replace the portion of the parking area being displaced by the hotel. The terms and conditions of this lease were approved by the Committee on Property and Development on February 29, 2000, and by Council on March 22, 2000.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

The report approved by the Committee on Property and Development and by Council recommended the sale of the subject portion of Owen Street for $110,000.00. The street, once sold, will be incorporated into the casino/hotel parking area.

The proposal has been circulated to all affected City departments and public utilities. There have been no administrative objections to the closing and sale of this street.

The Traffic Management Division of the Public Works Department has advised that a turnaround and widening of Owen Street south of the proposed closing is required. These works are identified as “Proposed Opening” on Schedule “A”. The dedication of the lands required will be effected by way of a plan of subdivision. 4021533 Manitoba Limited is to be responsible for installing a full range of services in Owen Street, including the construction of the turnaround and boulevard, installation of street lighting, land drainage sewer, and all other related works, all as determined by and to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

The street, once closed, will assume the zoning of the adjacent lands. As the lands to the east are zoned “M-1" and the lands to the west are zoned “A-5", the east half of the closed street will be zoned “M-1" and the west half will be zoned “A-5". The plan being prepared to effect the closing will create separate parcels to reflect the different zonings. This will facilitate any future application to rezone the closed street.

The East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee approved the closure of Owen Street at its public meeting of April 16, 2000.

As previously noted, Council approved the sale of the subject portion of Owen Street in March of this year. The street must be closed before it can sold. Title to all public rights-of-way in Manitoba is vested in the name of the Crown. The registration in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office of a street closing by-law removes the public right-of-way status from the land and transfers the ownership of the property to the City of Winnipeg. The City is not entitled to dispose of the land until this has been done.

A portion of Owen Street to the north of the proposed closing will remain open. This portion of the street is contained within the railway right-of-way. There is some question as to the propriety of closing a street within the railway right-of-way without the consent of the railway. The Real Estate Division will offer this portion of the street to the railway. If it chooses to purchase the property, a separate street closing application will be submitted.

This report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of By-law No. 7325/98, a by-law to amend current procedures to allow certain street opening and closing applications to be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for report to Council without the requirement to be reviewed by a Standing Policy Committee.

The following criteria must be met before the authority given in the by-law may be exercised:

1. The proposed closing must have been addressed at a public meeting and received approval from the Committee before which the public meeting took place.

2. The proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of Public Works.

3. The proposed closing must have been submitted to all affected City Departments and public utilities with no objections having been received.

4. Any conditions regarding engineering aspects (i.e. relocation of facilities) must have been mutually agreed to.

5. The terms and conditions of any easement agreements created by the proposed closing and sale must have been addressed.

6. The proposed closing must have been approved by the affected property owner(s).

7. The terms and conditions of any agreements concerning the proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of the department that requested the closing and either the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, or the Director of Property and Development Services, as is appropriate.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

All of these criteria have been met.

All of the costs associated with this closing are to be borne by the applicant, 4021533 Manitoba Limited. The City of Winnipeg will receive $110,000.00 for the sale of this closed street.

The closure of this public street requires a by-law pursuant to Section 495 of The City of Winnipeg Act.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

1. That the City Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law for submission to Council to effect the street closing in accordance with the attached Schedule "A", Misc. Plan No. 10862.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Refinancing of Debt Issued Pursuant to By-law No. 5552/90 - $65,000,000 - 11.75% and By-law No. 5553/90 - $65,000,000 - 11.775% Maturing November 5th, 2000
File FC-2 (Vol. 18)

662 - 3. On November 5, 1990, the City of Winnipeg issued $65,000,000 ten-year Sinking Fund Debentures pursuant to By-law No. 5552/90, and $65,000,000 ten-year Sinking Fund Debentures pursuant to By-law No. 5553/90, which will mature on November 5, 2000. A Sinking Fund Reserve in an amount of $24,526,890.45, for each by-law, will be available November 5, 2000, requiring the shortfall of $40,473,109.55, for each by-law, to be refinanced.

Section 292(3) of The City of Winnipeg Act requires the City to make application to the Minister of Finance before the November 5, 2000 maturity date.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That an initial borrowing by-law in an amount of $80,946,219.10 duly approved as to financial details by the City Treasurer, and certified as to form by the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services, to provide for the refinancing of debt issued pursuant to By-law Nos. 5552/90 and 5553/90, be approved.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Adopted by consent.

Award of Contract for Supply and Delivery of Medical Gases - Tender No. 316-00
File GL-9.2 (Vol. 14)

663 - 4. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that an Invitation to Tender is issued triennially by the Materials Management Division of the Corporate Finance Department for supply and delivery of medical gases for various City departments on both a firm basis and an "as-required" basis.

Final receipt of bids took place on May 9, 2000 with bids being received from two (2) bidders. A tabulation of these bids is outlined in Appendix "A" - Summary of Bids.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

The Tender Package specified that the award would be made to the Bidder submitting the lowest evaluated responsive bid in accordance with the evaluation criteria (BI 16.03).

Both bids were in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Package except as follows:

a) BOC Gases' bid did not initial a change made to the postal code on the Form of Tender. In addition, their bid contained an error in extending the price on item 3 by multiplying the unit price by an estimated quantity of 100 rather than 300. Subsequent to that error, the total bid price was incorrectly shown as $161,696.11 rather than $166,666.11. Despite the informalities, the bid is responsive because the changes do not materially affect the bid.

b) All bids were evaluated in accordance with the specified criteria.

The requirements for Bid and Performance Securities, and the execution of a formal contract were waived for this purchase in accordance with the authority delegated to the Director of Purchasing by The Board of Commissioners on April 9, 1992 and February 9, 1995.

The recommended bidder has, by successfully performing previous work similar in nature, scope and value, demonstrated that they have the necessary qualifications and resources to perform the work of this contract.

Tenders are valid for acceptance until July 8, 2000.

Funding for this contract is through the budgets of the various user departments.

Unit prices have not changed compared to current prices which have been in effect for the last three years. These products are used by various City departments during the term of the contract.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the contract for Supply and Delivery of Medical Gases for the period of July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2003 be awarded to BOC Gases the bidder who submitted the lowest evaluated responsive bid.

II. That the Manager of Materials Management be authorized to issue a Purchase Order in the total conditional amount of $166,666.11 GST and PST extra.

III. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Building Safer Communities . . .Toward a Long-Term Strategy for Integrated Arson Prevention in Winnipeg
Files GF-1 (Vol. 18) and GF-2 (Vol. 52)

664 - 5. On December 15, 1999, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services, entitled "Action Against Arson - Combating Arson in Winnipeg" dated November 26, 1999. This report included a recommendation that the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Winnipeg prepare a report outlining a long-term strategy for integrated arson prevention/enforcement and to table this report with Council.

Since October of 1998, City Council has identified public safety and inner-city revitalization as areas of priority.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

In the fall of 1999, City Council took a number of steps to address concerns related specifically to arson, including:

- establishing an Integrated Arson Strike Force to lead the City' investigative efforts;
- opening an "Arson Tips Line" to gather crucial information from the public;
- launching "Operation Clean-Up" to rid the community of materials that arsonists exploit as fuel; and
- enlisting the assistance of the RCMP, the Provincial Justice Department, Neighbourhood Watch, and Citizens on Patrol.

These measures brought focus and resources to bear in support of apprehension, prevention, and education. As well, an interdepartmental arson team was assembled to undertake a more thorough review and provide recommen-dations for further action. In the team's ensuing report, a number of additional measures were recommended to:

- strengthen the City's ability to identify and apprehend arsonists;
- mobilize the community in the fight against arson;
- heighten public awareness of ways to prevent arson; and
- defuse situations that could create opportunities for arsonists.

The report adopted by Council on December 15, 1999, identified arson as a City-wide issue. As, historically, a higher percentage of arson has occurred within a specific central geographic area, this area was designated as the targeted area. A map of this area is outlined in Appendix "A".

Appendix "B" provides a summary of the 5 initiatives adopted as immediate actions in October 1999. These 5 actions were incorporated into the strategy adopted by Council in December 1999.

Appendix "C" provides a complete progress report on that 24-point action plan, which expired in March 2000. Highlights of achievements under the action plan include:

- the Arson Strike Force has investigated 642 fires, made 141 arrests, and laid 381 charges related to damages estimated at $6.75 million;
- the call centre has received 566 arson-related calls, including 31 tips on suspected arsonists;
- the entire targeted area (nearly 27,000 properties) has been inspected and 1,800 violation notices have been issued, most of which have been reinspected for compliance;
- approximately 2,200 tonnes of additional waste have been collected;
- assistance has been provided to clean up over 1,000 properties;
- 175 anti-arson presentations have been made to approximately 16,000 students in the 46 schools in the targeted area;
- 11 schools have received 140 fire prevention and safety books and 5,000 brochures have been distributed to 340 schools identifying other related library materials;
- over 6,000 youths have participated in new or expanded recreational programs; and
- graffiti has been removed from over 275 locations.

CASES OF ARSON

Historically, statistics on the number of non-accidental fires in Winnipeg have appeared to be considerably higher than those in other municipalities, because Winnipeg's classification system is more rigorous and inclusive than that of many other cities; Winnipeg classifies as arson crimes that are not considered to be arson in most cities. Garbage-bin fires, which account for the bulk of reported cases in Winnipeg, are classified as vandalism in many other jurisdictions. Efforts are under way to standardize the manner in which statistics are recorded across the country.

When viewed over the past four years, the number of cases of arson in Winnipeg shows that arson is a seasonal crime, whose incidence rises in springtime and diminishes over the winter months, demonstrating that weather has a strong bearing on the number of arsons committed. The number of cases recorded for September and October of 1999 was fairly consistent with previous years, while the number of cases in November 1999 was high. The data for December showed that the number of cases was once again consistent with previous years, which, considering the mild weather in December, was a positive sign.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

Looking more closely at recent figures, the number of cases of non-accidental fires has risen in the months of March and April. This seasonal trend, compounded by the mild winter and early spring, was expected, but the extent of the increase reinforces the challenge that we still face. It is apparent that the City must remain vigilant in its prevention efforts, monitor progress carefully, and be prepared to take further action as the situation warrants.

The Arson Strike Force has been keeping detailed records of arson fires since November 1999. It is important to note the difference between non-accidental (all deliberately set fires) and arson (set with malicious intent). Non-accidental fires include incidents such as a resident burning debris in his/her back yard. Although illegal and deliberately set, it is not an arson. This is important when considering recent months' statistics. From November 1999 to February 2000, there was a close correlation between non-accidental and arson fires. In March and April however, this gap widens considerably. In these months, there was a drastic increase in the non-accidental fires but a more moderate increase in arsons. Many of the non-accidental fires were of the variety that were reported but were not caused with ill intent.

Closer examination of the types of arson fires reveals that the number of dumpster fires and grass fires has been increasing, while other types of fires caused by arson are staying constant or are decreasing. Not surprisingly, with the early dry spring, incidents of grass arson are up. Dumpster arsons are the primary contributor to the arson increase. Although a concern, these fires tend to be relatively minor in nature as they are generally contained within the bin.

Further examination of arson statistics shows clusters of dumpster arsons within the targeted area. These clusters move over time, but this information does provide a good indication of where clean up efforts can be focused in order to reduce the potential for arson and the damage caused by these fires.

The Water and Waste Department is developing a prototype autobin that will be put in use on an experimental basis to reduce the damage from a fire. Presently, a fire in an autobin has potential to spread to adjacent structures such as fences and garages when flames emerge from the top of the bin. The experimental bin will be designed with side openings for garbage placement and a metal lid that would be difficult to lift. A fire would be contained within the bin and the metal lid would be less likely to be damaged in comparison to the current plastic lids that require replacement after each bin fire. It is anticipated that the new bin design would also decrease the risk of damage to adjacent structures.

PUBLIC RESPONSE

Staff working in the field have reported very positive feedback from the community. Their comments indicate that the City of Winnipeg has accomplished more than simply reducing the opportunities to commit arson, it has transformed the appearance of many inner-city neighbourhoods through extensive clean-up efforts, and has provided an array of recreational opportunities for youth. In doing so, it appears to have helped instill a strong sense of hope and renewed pride.

Arson Strike Force members also report that the community at large is much more vigilant in reporting incidents of arson. In the past, where a bin or garbage pile fire may have gone unreported, these fires are now being reported as members of the community to ensure that all arsons are acted upon and all offenders are apprehended. This action is encouraged and has led directly to arrests. It does however, in comparing raw statistics, contribute to a higher recorded number of total fires and arsons.

Probe Research Inc. conducts an omnibus survey of Winnipeggers on a quarterly basis. One question that is repeated in each survey asks respondents to identify, unprompted, the top issues facing the City.

Arson first appeared as an issue in the mind of the public in March 1999 and rose in importance in the fall. However, the most recent survey conducted in March 2000 shows that concern about arson, as a public issue has dropped significantly, likely due to the concerted efforts exercised by the City and community groups in recent months. This trend will continue to be monitored.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The immediate and short-term actions initiated by Council have had positive results. While the number of cases of arson is an ongoing concern and must continue to be closely monitored, many of those responsible have been charged, and we are confident our numerous preventive and educational efforts will pay future dividends.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

The proposed strategy to the end of this year includes two components. The first is to continue with an aggressive response in dealing with acts of arson, through the extension of the 24-point action plan. The second is to place a greater emphasis on community development initiatives intended to address factors which contribute to arson. This includes commitments to housing improvements and neighbourhood revitalization, together with an emphasis on city-wide clean-up and enhancement of civic pride.

The intent is to move toward integrating arson prevention measures into the day-to-day service provision of the City. It also means seeking the entire community's support for these measures and identifying cost-effective implementation strategies.

In practice, it is recommended that arson prevention become an integral part of the City's ongoing efforts to build safe and healthy neighbourhoods; that these efforts should include extensive citizen engagement and community partnerships; and that a reduction in arson be identified as one of the desired outcomes.

As we move forward, progress will be monitored, and further actions will be brought forward for Council's consideration as the situation may warrant.

ACTION PLAN

The first component of the action plan is to continue with the direction provided by the 24-point short-term strategy, particularly where those activities begin to address factors contributing to arson. A complete listing of these actions are outlined in Appendix "C", identified in the column labelled "Next Steps".

Strategies include:

- continuing with the Arson Strike Force and finalizing the configuration of the long- term unit (not included here, subject of a separate report);
- continuing to operate an arson hotline;
- committing to the reinspection of properties identified as arson concerns;
- continuing the Vacant Building Inspection Program;
- continuing to support neighbourhood clean-up efforts by waiving the bulky waste collection fee, refurbishing AutoBins, removing graffiti, and utilizing social assistance recipients to assist in residential property clean-ups;
- twice weekly refuse pick-up in cluster zones;
- continuing to deliver a variety of educational programs to youth, such as Youth Fire Stop, Staying Alive, and the Anti-Arson Education Program;
- continuing to encourage all city staff to be vigilant and provide support where needed;
- enhancing visibility through lighting improvements;
- continuing to offer a variety of recreational programs for youth; and
- continuing to work with the other levels of government and community organizations to coordinate relevant legislation, programs, and services.

The Chief Administrative Officer and her Senior Management Team will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of these actions, and for the monitoring of results.

The second component of the action plan is to incorporate arson prevention strategies within the City's ongoing, broad-based efforts related to inner city revitalization and civic pride. These efforts are longer-term in nature, and require the cooperation of other levels of government and community groups to bring resources and expertise to bear. The key is to build upon the commitment that other organizations, residents, and businesses have to these neighbourhoods and to the community at large. These strategies are identified as Housing and Community Development and Civic Pride.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

All three levels of government have recently expressed renewed commitment to inner-city revitalization, and are developing programs and allocating funds for that purpose. Complimentary Initiatives of the senior levels of government are outlined in Appendix "E" hereto. Collectively, these actions can go a long way toward making inner city neighbourhoods safer for residents and business interests. It is important that all of the various programs and initiatives currently being studied are coordinated to ensure an effective and efficient approach to community revitalization. The primary effort to the end of this year will be toward coordinating program planning efforts, building partnerships, and securing long-term funding commitments.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

Strategies include:

- supporting the City's Housing Policy Implementation Committee in developing housing renewal and neighbourhood revitalization programs which identify priorities, partnerships, and resources, and which provide a framework for addressing factors which contribute to arson.
- providing support to the City's Winnipeg Committee for Safety in its efforts to hold a series of public forums to engage the community in identifying priorities and helping shape revitalization and safety efforts.
- developing funding and operational partnerships with the senior levels of government, to apply maximum resources to housing improvement and neighbourhood revitalization, and to ensure consistency with programs such as Neighbourhoods Alive.
- supporting the General Council for Winnipeg Community Centres in its efforts to sustain a variety of recreation programs and develop new long-term alternative programming.
- supporting CentreVenture in its efforts to increase the residential population downtown by providing flexible zoning and building codes, and incentives that encourage downtown living and make use of vacant and under utilized buildings.

CIVIC PRIDE

The clean-up efforts undertaken last fall not only reduced the potential for arson-related crimes, but increased civic pride. It is an area in which Take Pride Winnipeg already plays a significant role, one that it will enhance over the coming year in partnership with government and other organizations. Areas of focus will include the cleaning up of public spaces (roadways, sidewalks, lanes, parks, public buildings); the cleaning up of private properties; and the removal of graffiti. As much as possible, these efforts should be community-driven, with the City providing support where needed. Many neighbourhoods, such as North Point Douglas, have a long history of community-based clean-up efforts of this nature. The key is to expand these local initiatives in a manner that builds civic pride throughout the city.

Strategies include:

- supporting Take Pride Winnipeg in its efforts to develop and implement a major city-wide clean-up campaign to run from the middle of May to the end of June, by coordinating complementary City services and by assisting them in mobilizing a large number of volunteers; by building partnerships with other organizations such as Business Improvement Zones; by soliciting corporate sponsorships to supplement financial and other resources, and by running a promotional and educational program to encourage private companies, landowners, and homeowners to clean up their properties.
- enlisting the support of City employees to contribute their time to a fall clean-up campaign (challenging Provincial and Federal government employees to do the same), and coordinating and enhancing seasonal community clean-up activities to build upon Take Pride Winnipeg's efforts.

The City and Take Pride Winnipeg have teamed up to assist community groups in their clean-up efforts. "Community Clean-Up - 2000" provides access to resources for these initiatives. One call to Take Pride Winnipeg can make available everything from paint, brooms, rakes and garbage bags to public service announcements and giveaways such as hats and t-shirts. Appendix "D" outlines details on the joint City / Take Pride Winnipeg "Community Clean-Up - 2000" program.

THE TARGETED AREA

As described above, one component of the strategy is to continue the 24-point action plan. Many of those actions are targeted toward the area outlined in Appendix "A". This is because statistics for cases of arson, by neighbour-hood, show that a higher percentage of arson occurs within these boundaries. This will continue to be monitored. Should there be a rising incidence of arson in other neighbourhoods outside the targeted area, efforts can be expanded to include those areas.

The second component of the strategy involves integrating arson prevention into the City's priority commitments to public safety and healthy neighbourhoods. Efforts in these areas will give primary consideration to neighbourhoods in greatest need, and will not be limited by the boundaries outlined as the targeted area.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

The long-term financing of the anti-arson initiatives can, at least in part, be addressed through the development of sponsorship agreements with the corporate and not-for-profit communities. City Council has adopted a pilot program

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

that will identify and market sponsorship opportunities related to these initiatives. This approach will help to ensure that the long-term strategies that have been developed to address the factors which contribute to arson will continue to be funded in the future.

Anti-arson initiatives will be reviewed to clearly identify and price the best possible opportunities for sponsorship, and organizations best suited to those opportunities will be approached accordingly. Existing corporate relationships will be respected and, where possible, enhanced.

COMMUNICATIONS

Continued public education and awareness is required, with a focus on the following areas:

1. Educating citizens regarding proper handling/disposal of waste, proper use of AutoBins, etc.;
2. Educating citizens about the dangers of arson and ways to prevent arson;
3. Making citizens more aware of special services available to them, such as neighbourhood clean-up initiatives; the anti-arson hotline; improved and increased recreation and social services; graffiti removal; youth employment opportunities; enhanced library services; etc.

Opportunities to publicize recreation and social services will be actively pursued at all times. The emphasis will be on low or no-cost opportunities, such as advertising in the Hydro newsletter that goes monthly to all Winnipeg Hydro customers; including information in the water and sewer bills; advertising in the Leisure Guide; school handouts; using public service announcements; and taking advantage of free media opportunities, including appearances on Winnipeg television and radio call-in shows.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That City Council adopt the strategy and action plan outlined in this report for the period ending December 2000, in particular:

   a. that the City's 24-point action plan adopted in December 1999 be continued as described in the "Next Steps" column of Appendix "C";
   b. that the Housing Policy Implementation Report be used to provide direction for addressing some of the key factors which contribute to arson in neighbourhoods;
   c. that the Winnipeg Committee for Safety's community consultations be used to identify actions to address factors which contribute to arson actions, which could be integrated into community development initiatives; and
   d. that Take Pride Winnipeg continue to be supported in its clean-up efforts, and that the City initiate a clean-up effort in the fall.

II. That funding in the amount of $445,000 be allocated toward the implementation of specific items in the 24-point action plan as outlined in Appendix "C" with the City of Winnipeg contributing one-third of this amount. Further, that the administration be authorized to approach the Provincial and Federal Governments to each match City funding for this initiative.

III. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Copy of attachments referred to in the above clause are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

The Speaker called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, to the Chair in order to participate in the debate.

The motion for the adoption of the clause was put and declared carried.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

Assessment Treatment of Community Groups in City Facilities
Files AA (Vol. 15) and GG-2.3 (Vol. 4)

665 - 6. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Chief Financial Officer has requested an analysis of the options and a recommendation that would best resolve the ongoing problems associated with the operation of community programs by non-profit community groups in City-owned facilities.

Legislative Background

In Manitoba, assessment and tax law is within the jurisdiction of the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba. The Municipal Assessment Act governs the assessment of real property in the City. The following is a description of the assessment scheme contained in The Municipal Assessment Act as it relates to the occupation of City-owned facilities by non-profit community groups.

- It is easiest to understand the system if one sees it as a series of "layers" of treatments, starting with the most fundamental layer and progressing to overriding layers which can change the assessment and taxation treatment of the property in question.

- All property in the City of Winnipeg is taxable, unless otherwise provided.

- Where property is owned by the City, it becomes exempt from municipal and school tax.

- Where property that is owned by the City is occupied by another entity, it becomes taxable. The key is really who "controls" the property and a number of factors will be considered by the City Assessor to determine who "controls" the property.

- Where property that is owned by the City is occupied by another entity, that entity may be entitled to an exemption from municipal and/or school tax if it meets the requirements of a particular exempting section of The Municipal Assessment Act. For instance, a community centre is entitled to an exemption from school tax, but only to a maximum of approximately 2 acres.

- Where property that is owned by the City is occupied by another entity that is exempt from school tax, Council may pass a by-law that exempts that property from municipal tax to the same extent it is exempt from school tax.

History and analysis of current situation

Over the last several years, Council has expressed a desire to have non-profit community groups operate City-owned facilities and run appropriate programs therein. As a result, the administration had negotiated several types of agreements with various non-profit community groups giving effect to these instructions.

In the mid-1990's, some of these situations came to the City Assessor's attention and he advised the Director of Property and Development that there were assessment implications under The Municipal Assessment Act. Specifically, these agreements caused the community groups to be responsible to pay realty taxes on large portions of the properties occupied by them. In most cases, these taxes would make the occupation of these properties by the community groups not feasible.

Accordingly, in the latter part of the 1990's, Property and Development Services, with technical assistance from Assessment and Legal Services, developed new arrangements to be negotiated with non-profit community groups seeking to operate community programs in City-owned facilities. As part of these arrangements, the City was required to maintain a significant amount of control over the facilities. In effect, this permitted the community groups to benefit from the City's exemption from realty taxes. However, although the administration has now developed arrangements that will permit non-profit community groups to be in some measure responsible for community programs in City-owned facilities without attracting the liability to pay realty taxes for the facilities, several problems such as the following persist with these arrangements.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

- It creates a certain inflexibility in the arrangements that can be made with the community groups. In order to protect the community groups from having to pay realty taxes, a great deal of control must remain in the hands of the City.

- In many instances, it makes it difficult for the administration to carry out the wishes of Council. Council has often expressed the desire to hand over control of City-owned facilities to non-profit community groups, but the tax consequences prevent that.

- The community groups are denied an input tax credit by Revenue Canada because they do not have sufficient control over the facilities they occupy.

Options

The following are three options open to the City, namely:

1. To maintain the status quo and continue to manage as best possible with the arrangements currently being negotiated. This will require maintaining a great deal of control over the facilities in the hands of the City, will thwart Council's oft-expressed intentions and will deny the community groups the input tax credit to which they would otherwise be entitled.

2. To give greater effect to Council's desire and transfer greater degrees of control over the facilities to the community groups. This will mean the community groups will likely obtain their input tax credits from Revenue Canada but will then become liable to significant realty taxes, which they will not be able to afford. The likely long-term consequence of this option is that the facilities will revert back to the City.

3. Obtain legislative amendments to The Municipal Assessment Act in one of three ways:

    (a) permit exemptions from realty taxes for City-designated groups operating programs in City-owned facilities. This would resolve all the current problems and give maximum flexibility to the City in negotiating arrangements with community groups for City purposes. However, while this option would give considerable discretion to the City, it would have the effect of requiring Council to consider each application on its merits, a process which would become very time-consuming and laborious. This process could also lead to inconsistency from one Council to the next.

    (b) permit exemptions from realty taxes for community groups operating community programs in City-owned facilities. The disadvantage of this option is that difficulties in the courts' interpretation may arise, leading to inconsistency and undesirable results, including erosion of the tax base.

    (c) eliminate the maximum exemption of 2 acres for community centres. This would resolve virtually all of the current problems and does not have the drawbacks of options 3(a) and 3(b).

Options 1 and 2 do not resolve the current problems. It is clear that a legislative amendment is the preferred option. Given the drawbacks to options 3(a) and 3(b) above, the administration recommends that the City approach the Province of Manitoba to formally request an amendment to The Municipal Assessment Act to eliminate the area restriction on the school tax exemption available to non-profit community groups operating community programs in City-owned facilities.

On June 13, 2000, the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues considered an Administrative report dated June 6, 2000, which recommended that the Province of Manitoba be requested to amend The Municipal Assessment Act to eliminate the area restriction on the school tax exemption available to non-profit community groups operating community programs in City-owned facilities.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs in the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues and recommends:

I. That the Province of Manitoba be requested to amend The Municipal Assessment Act to eliminate the area restriction on the school tax exemption available to non-profit community groups operating community programs in City-owned facilities.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Adopted by consent.

Request for Proposed Additional Amendment to Section 439 of The City of Winnipeg Act to Permit Substitutional Service by Way of Newspaper Advertising File GL-5.1 (Vol. 45) [c/r EB-1.5 (Vol. 18)]

666 - 7. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that on June 6, 2000, the City Centre Community Committee considered the above-noted matter and passed the following motion, namely:-

WHEREAS Bill 16, An act to Amend The City of Winnipeg Act(2) has been tabled in the Provincial Legislature;

AND WHEREAS it is proposed under the amendments to effect changes to Section 439(b) of The City of Winnipeg Act to provide the City with the option of serving the owner of a building that is the subject of an order under Section 438 by way of substitutional service as the Court of Queen's Bench may order on application by the City;

AND WHEREAS it may be advantageous for the City to have an additional method of providing substitutional service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba be requested to further amend Section 439(b) of The City of Winnipeg Act by providing for substitutional service by way of newspaper publication the intention of the City to demolish the building.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the motion of the City Centre Community Committee and submits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Appointment of the City's External Auditor File GC-7 (Vol. 30)

667 - 8. On June 14, 2000, the Executive Policy Committee considered the following motion, passed by the Audit Committee on June 13, 2000, namely:

WHEREAS Section 63.1(3) of The City of Winnipeg Act states "Council may by by-law (a) set the term of appointment of an external auditor; and (b) establish terms and conditions respecting the appointment of an external auditor."

AND WHEREAS the term of the current external auditor has expired and the City has issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) to invite submissions for external auditor services for the years ending December 31, 2000 to 2004, inclusive;

AND WHEREAS a review and evaluation of proposals submitted in response to the RFP was conducted by a Selection Committee and the Audit Committee considered the matter on June 13, 2000;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Audit Committee recommend to the Executive Policy Committee and Council the appointment of Ernst and Young as the City's External Auditor for a five year term for the years ending December 31, 2000 - 2004 inclusive, with an option to renew the appointment for a further five years at the sole discretion of the City;

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 14, 2000

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be directed to prepare the necessary by-law for submission to Council.

The Executive Policy Committee reaffirms the motion passed by the Audit Committee and submits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED JUNE 21, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the rule was suspended and the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated June 21, 2000, was considered clause by clause.

Councillor Clement asked to be recorded as having voted against the suspension of the rule, in accordance with Rule 50.7 of the Procedure By-law.

Implementation of Heritage Investment Reserve, Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve and Economic Development Investment Reserve Funds

FI-7 (Vol. 1)
[c/r FE(2000-2002) (Vol. 1)]

668 - 1. On March 15, 2000, Council approved in principle the establishment of a Heritage Investment Reserve, a Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve and an Economic Development Investment Reserve in accordance with section 338(1) of The City of Winnipeg Act.

At that time, Council requested further details, including source of funds and the appointment of fund managers.

Heritage Investment Reserve

The concept of the Heritage Investment Reserve is that it would fund all City and City-sponsored heritage programs and act as a revolving fund so that future funding of heritage programs could be sustained and thereby reduce the need to obtain additional funding. An important source of ongoing funding for this Reserve would be incremental tax revenues that would flow from projects in which the Reserve has invested. For example, $2 million in tax credits over ten years available to the Free Press Building (Air Canada) would be repaid by incremental property taxes on the entire building in those years in which the additional taxes are levied by the City, until the investment is repaid.

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

The Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve would fund City housing programs not provided for in operating budgets. It is intended that this Reserve act as a revolving fund so that incremental tax revenues resulting from housing programs in which the Fund has invested would be returned to the Reserve to finance future projects.

Economic Development Investment Reserve

The Economic Development Investment Reserve is intended to fund City economic development incentive and investment projects. Unlike the other Reserves, this Fund would invest directly in particular projects rather than be a funding mechanism for programs. The deal struck with J. M. Schneider Inc., would be the first example of a project funded by this Reserve. When new realty and business taxes are levied relating to the completed project, the incremental portion of these municipal taxes would be returned to the Reserve until the full $2.2 million investment is repaid. It should be noted that the initial recommended funding for this Reserve (of $2 million) is less than the total tax /expenditure credits agreed to in the Schneider deal.

Administration of the Investment Reserves

There are a number of administrative elements that must be put in place to fairly and effectively implement the investment funds. One of these involves the calculation and transferring of incremental revenues. The concept of incremental taxation revenues from projects in which City funds have directly or indirectly been invested flowing back to the reserves until the investments have been repaid, will be fundamental to the their ongoing success. The transfer of these incremental revenues will be achieved in the budget process by means of direct charges to the appropriate revenue classifications. These charges will be shown in the budget documents and therefore the movement of funds will be

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 21, 2000

explicit within the City's budget process. Also, a consistent method of calculating these incremental revenues needs to be established, together with other administrative details. Some of the key elements will be as follows:

1. Base Year Taxes
   The base year taxes to be used in determining incremental taxes will be the full year's taxes immediately preceding the commencement of renovation or construction work applicable to the property to which City funding applies.

2. Incremental Taxes
   Incremental taxes will consist of realty and business taxes. Incremental realty taxes will be defined as the municipal portion of the realty taxes pertaining to each property, not including local improvement or other charges, that are in excess of such base year taxes. Incremental business taxes will be defined as the total business taxes applicable to the property, not including Business Improvement Zone levies, that are in excess of the business's base year taxes collected for the same property. In order for a business tax account to be included in the incremental tax calculation, it must be established for each new business tax account that the business operation is new to the City and has not simply moved from another property in which business taxes were paid previously.

3. Period of Incremental Tax Transfer
   Incremental taxes for each project funded directly or indirectly by these reserves will flow back to the appropriate reserve until the investment has been repaid, not to include any interest amount, commencing in the first year that the incremental taxes can be calculated, notwithstanding that a tax credit or tax refund has been received by the property owner in that year.

The Administration recommended that the Fund Manager together with the Corporate Finance Department prepare detailed guidelines dealing with these and other issues for the administration of each investment fund.

Structure, Funding, General Operating Parameters and Five Year Cash Flow Projections

An example of an investment fund project showing the flow of tax credits and incremental taxes is outlined on Schedule "D". Details relating to the establishment and operation of the Housing Rehabilitation Investment, Economic Development Investment, and the Heritage Investment Reserve Funds are outlined in Schedules "A", "B", and "C" respectively. Cash flow projections are also included for illustrative purposes only in Schedule "E", because many of the expenditures and incremental tax revenues in particular, are quite speculative. A Financial Impact Statement related to the subject three Reserves is included in Schedule "F".

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve Fund be implemented in accordance with terms and conditions outlined on Schedule "A".

II. That the Economic Development Investment Reserve Fund be implemented in accordance with terms and conditions outlined on Schedule "B".

III. That the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund be implemented in accordance with terms and conditions outlined on Schedule "C".

IV. That the following monies be transferred to provide initial funding for the subject three Reserve Funds:

   1. $1 million from the Commitment Reserve Fund to the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve Fund.

   2. $1 million from the Sinking Fund surplus to the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve Fund.

   3. $2 million from the Commitment Reserve Fund to the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund.

   4. $2 million from the Sinking Fund surplus to the Economic Development Investment Reserve Fund.

V. That the Director of Planning, Property and Development be appointed as the Fund Manager of all three Reserve Funds.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 21, 2000

VI. That the Fund Manager prepare detailed administrative guidelines for each Investment Reserve Fund.

VII. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of Schedules D, E and F are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the clause be tabled until later in the meeting

Carried.

(See Minute No. 674 for disposition)

Appointments to Economic Development Winnipeg Leaders Committee
File G-8 (Vol. 6)

669 - 2. On May 9, 1990, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated May 9, 1990, appointing a number of persons to the Winnipeg 2000 Leaders Committee and the Leaders Advisory Committee and directed that any new appointment changes be approved by Council.

On October 9, 1998, the Winnipeg 2000 Economic Development Corporation advised that its name changed to Economic Development Winnipeg.

In communications dated May 29, 2000 and June 12, 2000 from Doug Harvey, Chair, Economic Development Winnipeg, the following appointments were recommended to be added to its membership at the Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2000, namely:

Leaders Committee

Mr. Gerry Labossiere
Mr. Kevin McGarry
Ms Sandy Meilitz
Ms Irene Merie
Ms Beverley Watson
Mr. Brett Watson

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the recommendations and submits same to Council for approval.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Murray,

670 - WHEREAS the vital contribution of the Arts and Cultural Community to the quality of life in Winnipeg has been recognized on a provincial, national and international basis;

AND WHEREAS, as a statement of principle, Plan Winnipeg indicates the City "seeks to preserve, enhance and develop the arts, entertainment and cultural sectors of our city";

AND WHEREAS Arts and Culture return one dollar and thirteen cents for every dollar expended, for a 113% return on investment;

AND WHEREAS Arts and Culture in Winnipeg provide economic stimulation through direct and indirect job creation, tourism and tax generation through PST, GST and Income Tax;

AND WHEREAS, by agreement with the Province, 25% of net annual Video Lottery Terminals (VLT) revenue generated in Winnipeg is dedicated for economic development within the City;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that once a funding agreement with the Province is in place, the City abolish the Entertainment Tax;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City seek the agreement of the Province to allocate to Arts and Culture in Winnipeg of 1/5 of the 25% net annual municipal VLT revenue dedicated for economic development within the City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council administer this money in accordance with policy established by the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

Moved by Councillor Angus,
That the rule be suspended to allow consideration of the motion at this time.

Carried.

The motion was put.

Councillor Steek called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Angus, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Golden, Lubosch, Smith, Steek, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor Lazarenko. 9

Nay: Councillors Clement, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal and Eadie. 5

and the motion for the adoption of the clause was declared carried.

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

671 - WHEREAS labour agreements with The City of Winnipeg require uniforms to bear a union label and to be purchased from a union shop;

AND WHEREAS some City departments are attempting to purchase from agents that are non-union, thereby risking labour challenges;

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

AND WHEREAS these legal challenges represent an additional cost to the City;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all tenders and requests for quotations follow labour management guidelines.

Automatic Referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

672 - On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, By-law No. 7641/2000, an initial borrowing by-law of The City of Winnipeg to authorize the borrowing of money by the issue and sale of debentures of the City in the principal amount of $80,946,219.10 for the purpose of repaying in full the principal of the Debentures issued and sold pursuant to By-law Nos. 5552/90 and 5553/90, was read a first time. File FC-2 (Vol. 18)

His Worship Mayor Murray moved that this constitute the first reading of By-law No. 7641/2000, which motion was carried.

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the following by-laws were read a first, second and third time, the rule being suspended for the third reading of each by-law, and were passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, namely:

By-law No. 7654/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to open and close part of Pioneer Boulevard between York Avenue and Pioneer Avenue. File DAOC 3/2000

By-law No. 7655/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to close part of Owen Street north of Regent Avenue West. File DAC 4/2000

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

673 - In reference to recent media coverage regarding the City of Winnipeg's real estate management, Councillor Steek questioned if His Worship Mayor Murray believed that the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development in 1998 and 1999, cost the citizens of Winnipeg millions of dollars.

His Worship Mayor Murray referenced the Real Estate Management Audit Report and advised that the City Auditor had presented evidence that, in her judgement, money could have been saved had a different approach been taken; noting that he was in general agreement with the analysis and report recommendations.

Councillor Steek requested that His Worship cite one specific example where the City incurred millions of dollars of costs because of the action of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

His Worship responded by stating that Councillor Steek was quoting from media headlines, not from the Auditor's Report, and advised that the report contained carefully considered analyses of certain options where opportunities to save money were not taken. He further advised that the executive summary outlined many decisions that were well measured but also cited a number of cases where fair market value was not established and no study or preparatory work was done.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued)

Councillor Steek referred to page 31 of the Real Estate Management Audit, which cited an example suggesting a building purpose, and questioned if it would have been appropriate auditing practice for the City Auditor to have looked at the certificate of title to ascertain if there were incumbrances against the property in question, if they were greater than the amount cited, and how could the City logically have bought those buildings.

His Worship advised that the questioned should be put to the City Auditor.

Councillor Smith inquired as to the status of the proposal to build a second toboggan slide on the west side of the Red River.

His Worship noted that he would like to see the toboggan slide built for next winter. He also indicated that the Lieutenant Governor challenged Winnipeg to build the biggest toboggan slide in the world, and invited Councillor Smith to champion this project.

The Speaker here resumed the Chair.

Councillor Smith voiced his concern about the public relations expenditures incurred by the Chief Administrative Officer and inquired about the cost of the production of the Corporate Plan and other items such as the Christmas cards and bookmarks.

His Worship agreed to take the question under advisement and report back to Councillor Smith; noting that the corporate plan was authorized by Council.

Councillor Gerbasi inquired about the Forks and questioned what the City was doing in terms of revisiting its mandate for the Forks.

His Worship advised that a mandate review, launched by former Mayor Thompson, former Minister Reimer and the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, was expected to come forward as a report imminently, but had been delayed by the change in the Provincial Government and the recent search for a new CEO for the Forks/North Portage Corporation. He further noted that he would attempt to schedule a Council seminar on Forks matters in the near future.

In reference to the fact that boulevard mowing was no longer being undertaken by City crews in the inner city, Councillor Gerbasi inquired about the rationale for continuing to incur the expense of clearing windrows in the suburbs.

His Worship indicated that boulevard mowing was phased out in stages and that the inner city was the last area to be phased out; noting that he felt that windrows was another area to be looked at. He emphasized, however, that if the issue of cutting windrow snow removal was raised it would not be a popular budget reduction and Councillors would be inundated with constituent complaints.

Councillor Gerbasi suggested that there was an imbalance on Executive Policy Committee whereby there was no inner-city Councillor representation, and in noting that Executive Policy Committee members had a greater access to the budget process, questioned if anything could be done about this imbalance in terms of the budget.

In response, His Worship noted that both Councillor Vandal and Thomas did in fact represent dominant inner-city Wards, and that with the higher costs associated with older neighbourhoods and deteriorating infrastructure, there were a number of debates which would emerge in the immediate future, and encouraged all Members of Council to bring issues to the table for the next budget process.

In reference to the severe flooding which occurred in North Dakota, Councillor Timm-Rudolph questioned if any initiative had been taken to offer support or provide assistance.

His Worship commended Councillor Timm-Rudolph for her suggestion and agreed to look into the matter.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph questioned if there had been any discussions with the owners of Holt Renfrew regarding their recent announcement to close the store in Portage Place and downgrade to a temporary discount Holt Renfrew store.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued)

His Worship clarified that they had announced that they were reconfiguring their store, not closing and noted that discussions had ensued with CentreVenture.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph referred to proposed amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act and questioned if His Worship would be providing Members of Council with a copy of correspondence from the Province to provide an opportunity for Members to support or appear in opposition to the proposed changes in legislation.

His Worship deferred the question to Councillor Eadie who advised that information pertaining to Bill 16 would be provided imminently.

Councillor Clement inquired about the cost of cleaning the snow off inner-city sidewalks; the cost for cleaning the back lanes; and questioned if His Worship was aware that the City cleaned the back lanes eleven times last year and the windrows once.

His Worship advised that the point he was trying to make is that there were a number of challenges for the future that must be looked at regarding the level of service that is desired in order to achieve tax bills that were comparable to other cities.

Council recessed at 11:59 a.m., and reconvened at 1:37 p.m., same members present, except for Councillor Prystanski.

Councillor Lubosch entered the meeting after Council had reconvened.

Council here reverted back to the order of business, "Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated June 21, 2000"

Implementation of Heritage Investment Reserve, Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve, and Economic Development Investment Reserve Funds
File FI-7 (Vol. 1)
[c/r FE (2000-2002) (Vol. 1)]

674 - In amendment,

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Seconded by Councillor Clement,

THAT Recommendation No. IV. 3. be amended by deleting the words “$2 million” and substituting therefor “$1.8 million”;

AND THAT Recommendation No. IV. 4. be amended by deleting the words “$2 million” and substituting therefor “$2.2 million”.

Carried.

The motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was put and declared carried.

(See Minute No. 717 for Schedules A, B and C)