Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 8, 2006

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Draft Simplified Entertainment Funding By-law
File FL-6

The Executive Policy Committee is requested to consider the following motion:

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of *The Municipal Act*, the City of Winnipeg may impose a tax on the admission price for amusements and attendance at places of amusement;

AND WHEREAS previous amusement tax or entertainment funding by-laws created significant red tape burdens for local arts and cultural groups, the intended beneficiaries of the funds generated from those taxes;

AND WHEREAS on June 28, 2005, Recommendation 7 in the Final Report of the Mayor's Red Tape Commission asked City Council to "radically simplify the Entertainment Funding By-law" in a manner that would end the imposition of an amusement tax on persons attending performances within the City, except within cinemas and certain facilities;

AND WHEREAS the preliminary 2006 Operating Budget contains adjustments in revenue sufficient to permit action on that recommendation in this fiscal year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Executive Policy Committee support, in principle, the implementation of Recommendation 7 in the Red Tape Commission Report.

2. That the Executive Policy Committee table a draft "Simplified Entertainment Funding By-law" on March 8, 2006 for subsequent public input and consideration, said draft by-law to impose an amusement tax only on persons attending cinemas and entertainment facilities with a fixed seating capacity of 5000 or more.

3. That the Executive Policy Committee hear delegations with this respect to this matter and consider proposed amendments to the draft By-law on March 15, 2006.

4. That the Executive Policy Committee forward a draft "Simplified Entertainment Funding By-law" to Council to be enacted at its regular meeting on March 22, 2006.

5. That upon passage of any new "Simplified Entertainment Funding By-law", the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues shall review all aspects of the new By-law no later than one year after the by-law comes into force.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 6, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee recommended that inasmuch as The Entertainment Funding By-law No. 7710/2000 has been in effect for nearly five years and has remained virtually unchanged since its adoption, the Administration be directed undertake a review of the legislation and to subsequently report back to the Executive Policy Committee in due course with recommendations, if any, for amendments to the legislation.