Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – June 21, 2006

REPORTS

Minute No. 445 Proposal for the Re-Establishment of Winnipeg Police Commission File GF-2

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee directed the Chief Administrative Officer to examine the current governance model of the Winnipeg Police Service, focusing on best practices in Canada in oversight and police accountability for results in crime prevention and enhancing community safety and transparency and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services to their meeting scheduled for July 10, 2006.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor De Smedt,
WHEREAS on May 19, 2004, Council directed the Administration to develop a discussion paper on best practices relating to governance and external oversight respecting police services, and that the City of Winnipeg engage in discussions with the Province of Manitoba regarding governance, prior with the Province's review of The Provincial Police Act;

AND WHEREAS the City has legislated authority under s.166 of the City of Winnipeg Charter to pass a by-law for the "organization, government, administration, control, discipline, well-being and efficiency of the police service";

AND WHEREAS on May 8, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services requested that the Administration provide information on the potential of establishing a Winnipeg Police Commission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to examine the current governance model of the Winnipeg Police Service, focusing on best practices in Canada in oversight and police accountability for results in crime prevention and enhancing community safety and transparency and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services to their meeting scheduled for July 10, 2006.

Carried

The Executive Policy Committee received supporting documentation from the following delegations with respect to the recommendation from the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services pertaining to the proposed re-establishment of the Winnipeg Police Commission:

- Tom Simms, Co-Director, Community Education Development Association, submitted a communication dated June 9, 2006 from the Inner City Safety Coalition, an extract from an administrative report dated May 5, 2004, and information on the upcoming annual conference of the Canadian Association of Police Boards (CAPB);

- David Sanders submitted his presentation dated June 21, 2006;

- Jon Schledewitz, freelance photographer for The Winnipeg Sun and Uptown magazine, submitted his presentation dated June 21, 2006.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 12, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services requested the Executive Policy Committee to work with the Province of Manitoba to establish an intergovernmental committee, with significant citizen representation and public input, to explore the feasibility of establishing a civilian police commission to oversee the operations of the Winnipeg Police Service; and that the (proposed) intergovernmental committee report to the Executive Policy Committee and the public by December 31, 2006. The Standing Committee also rescinded its recommendation of May 8, 2006.

Further, on June 12, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services received supporting documentation from Tom Simms, Co-Director, Community Education Development Association, including a communication dated June 9, 2006, from the Inner City Safety Coalition, in support of the re-establishment of a Police Commission.

On May 8, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services laid the matter over for thirty (30) days and requested the administration to provide information to the Committee on the potential of establishing a Winnipeg Police Commission, and to also provide an update on Council's decision of May 19, 2004 with respect to the Proposal for the re-establishment of a Winnipeg Police Commission, namely;

1. That the Administration be directed to develop a discussion paper on best practices relating to governance and external oversight respecting police services.

2. That the City of Winnipeg engage in discussions with the Province of Manitoba regarding governance, prior with the Province's review of The Provincial Police Act.

Further on May 8, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services received from Tom Simms, Co-Director, Community Education Development Association, his presentation dated May 8, 2006, in support of the re-establishment of a Police Commission.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 19, 2004 Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the administrative report dated May 5, 2004, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

2. That the Administration be directed to develop a discussion paper on best practices relating to governance and external oversight respecting police services.

3. That the City of Winnipeg engage in discussions with the Province of Manitoba regarding governance, prior with the Province's review of The Provincial Police Act.

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