Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services dated November 5, 2001

Manitoba Public Insurance Request to develop formal agreement for Fire Protection Services at 1981 Plessis Road
File GF-1 (Vol. 19)

2. On March 22, 2000, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, dated November 29, 1999, directing the Fire Paramedic Service (FPS) to divest itself of contracts for the provision of fire and paramedic services outside the City boundaries. At that time, the City had contracts for ambulance services with the following:

- The Stony Mountain Institution (1986)
- The Province of Manitoba to areas up to and including the Perimeter Highway (1987)
- The Rural Municipality of Ritchot (1987)
- The Rural Municipality of Headingley (1994)

In addition, the City had contracts to provide fire services to the following areas:

- CPR North Transcona yards - east on Cordite Road to CPR road (south side of yard)
- Imperial Oil Depot - 2915 Henderson Highway
- University of Manitoba Glenlea Experimental Station - 12 km south of city on Highway 75

Fire service was also being provided to Border Chemical - 595 Gunn Road, although no formal agreement existed for this service.

By September 2000, the City had divested itself of these obligations except for a contract with the community of Grande Pointe, in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot, which continues to receive emergency medical services and the contract with CPR. Fire Paramedic Service responds to all calls from the CPR North Transcona Yards, which straddles the boundary between the City of Winnipeg and the R.M. of Springfield, regardless of which side of the boundary the fire is situated.

The City has never entered into a contract to provide fire services to the Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) property at 1981 Plessis Road.

On February 19, 2001, a serious fire occurred at 1981 Plessis Road resulting in a loss of nearly $400,000. Manitoba Public Insurance believes that the damage caused by this fire is at least partially attributable to a response time of 37 minutes from the volunteer fire department from the R.M. of Springfield. (Winnipeg's response time averages 4 minutes 80% of the time.)

In early August 2001, a written request was made by the President and CEO of Manitoba Public Insurance to enter into an agreement to provide fire protection services to this property. Subsequently, Fire Paramedic Service met with representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance and Councillor Shirley Timm-Rudolph, Transcona Ward, to discuss the matter further.

A decision to enter into an agreement with Manitoba Public Insurance to provide fire protection services to the property at 1981 Plessis Road would require an amendment to Council's previous direction that the Fire Paramedic Service divest itself of all such contracts for the provision of fire and emergency medical services outside city boundaries.

1981 Plessis Road is on the northeast corner of Plessis Road and Gunn Road. Plessis Road and Gunn Road form the boundary between the City of Winnipeg and the R.M. of Springfield. The other three corner properties at this intersection fall within City boundaries. The area to the west of Plessis Road, and the area south of Gunn Road are primarily residential and lie within the City boundaries. These areas are entitled to full protection from the Fire Paramedic Service. The properties to the northeast lie within the R.M. of Springfield and include four businesses (Robin Electric, Team Autoparts, Transmatic Drive and Letwin Autobody Repair) and one residence. These properties are not currently entitled to service from the Fire Paramedic Service and have not requested FPS service.

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service assesses the fire risk to 1981 Plessis Road as minimal. Nevertheless, a serious fire has recently taken place at this location. Another serious fire could easily impact neighbouring properties within the City boundaries.

Manitoba Public Insurance is a partner with Fire Paramedic Service on initiatives such as the "SAFE Baby" program, the car seat installation and training program, and arson investigation for automobiles. A formal agreement for fire protection would strengthen this relationship.

Because an agreement with Manitoba Public Insurance to provide fire services to 1981 Plessis Road would represent a significant departure from the previous direction provided by Council with respect to fire and paramedic services outside the City, an amendment to that direction is requested to enter into such an agreement.

The Financial Impact Statement is outlined on Appendix "A".

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommends:

I. That Council amend its previous policy to allow the Fire Paramedic Service (FPS) to develop a formal agreement with Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) for fire protection services for the property located at 1981 Plessis Road in the Rural Municipality of Springfield.

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

Financial Impact Statement

Date: October 10, 2001

Project Name:
Fire Protection Services - MPI Facility at 1981 Plessis Road

First Year of Program **2001**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Capital					
Capital Expenses Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (identify)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Funding Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	30,000	30,600	31,212	31,836	32,473
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ (30,000)	$ (30,600)	$ (31,212)	$ (31,836)	$ (32,473)
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ (30,000)	$ (30,600)	$ (31,212)	$ (31,836)	$ (32,473)

FPS predicts no increase in departmental costs to provide this service. A standby fee would be levied based on the assessed value of the property or on some other basis. FPS estimates the initial standby fee would be between $15,000 and $30,000 with annual inflationary increases. $30,000 has been used here for illustration purposes only.

Bodo Roloff, Controller
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service