REPORT OF THE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES

DATED JUNE 15, 1998

On motion of Councillor Angus, the Report of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, dated June 15, 1998, was considered.

Moved by Councillor Angus,
That the Consent Agenda, Clause 1, be adopted.

Carried.

Development of a Policy regarding the Profits from sale of City-owned Properties
File FI-2.4 (Vol. 7)

817 - 1. Council, at its adjourned meeting held on April 30, 1998, ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, under Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law No. 5400/90:

"*Moved by Councillor Angus,*
Seconded by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

WHEREAS the Property and Development Services Department is marketing certain City owned properties in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the properties being sold were properties no longer required for streets and transportation, parks and other purposes;

AND WHEREAS this found money is reputed to be earmarked to be returned to the department for purposes of meeting expenses;

AND WHEREAS the profit from these sales belong to general revenue and should be considered in relation to the City's total budgetary requirements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues review this practice and develop a policy for consideration of Council;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any land sales that are concluded and the related monies generated by these sales be held in Property and Development Services until the policy is developed and approved."

On May 19, 1998, Committee referred this matter to Chief Financial Officer for report back. Inasmuch as the report from the Chief Financial Officer has not yet been received, the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues requests an extension of time of 60 days to further consider the matter.

Adopted by consent.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

818 - WHEREAS there has been a shift in assessment values from apartment blocks to residential properties over the last several years;

AND WHEREAS this has increased property taxes on single family homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues review the reasons for this shift in assessment values;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues recommend possible strategies to ameliorate this shift.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES

QUESTION PERIOD

819 - Councillor Steek requested that a report be brought forward at the next meeting of Council indicating property sales, the net proceeds, and verification that the City will or will not be in a surplus position over the targeted figure of $3.1 million.

Councillor Angus replied in the negative.

Councillor Steek questioned why he would not do so.

Councillor Angus replied that he simply cannot give that assurance due to the impending holiday season but agreed to endeavour to assimilate the information related to the land sales motion that was laid over for 60 days and to provide the information requested.

Councillor Lazarenko noted that the City has approximately 3/4 of a billion dollars in land and buildings and questioned the amount that would be put up for sale.

Councillor Angus noted that the answer to the question is beyond the purview of the Committee on Fiscal Issues and suggested that the question should be directed to the Chairperson of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

Councillor Lazarenko suggested that the figures must be available and questioned what percentage of the 3/4 billion sale the City is looking at.

Councillor Angus agreed that there is no question that the City has a huge accumulation of assets that could be disposed of to offset burgeoning debt and difficulties with infrastructure. Councillor Angus noted that the Administration had prepared a list of park sites and buildings that are not needed and the various community committees have either concurred or advised that they don't want a particular site/building disposed of. Councillor Angus further noted almost everything could be for sale and that legitimate offers would be considered, based upon long range planning and financial requirements.

Councillor Angus requested the opportunity to address some unanswered questions about the Elmwood Cemetery and advised that the City is cutting the grass and working cooperatively with the Bill Norrie Committee to resolve the issue.