STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 263
Councillor Gerbasi referenced an announcement from the Mayor to the creation of a police commission in the next year and asked how the process would go forward, would there be public consultation involved in developing it, and what would be the role of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

Councillor Steeves replied that he anticipates the information will be forwarded to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and that there would be robust public representation.

In noting that CrimeStat was dealt with at the Executive Policy Committee level and was not considered by the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, which was responsible for police policy, Councillor Gerbasi asked Councillor Steeves if he would endeavour to ensure that the Standing Committee is kept up to date, was briefed and received reports that deal with police policy. Councillor Steeves replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Fielding referred to the launch of CrimeStat, which had received praise locally and nationally, and asked for a progress update and the next steps to full implementation.

Councillor Steeves advised that the web page was launched on February 2nd after a press conference and there had been significant uptake; noting that in three weeks there had been 19,000 visitors to the web site and approximately 95,000 separate pages have been viewed. He added that maps will be added to the website in mid March and indicated that internal processes were in final planning stages for the weekly accountability meetings, which was the basis of CrimeStat.

In noting that there had been a fairly sensational report about child prostitution in Winnipeg, involving hundreds of children, Councillor Smith asked how the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services planned to deal with the problem.

Councillor Steeves indicated that he was aware of the newspaper report but cautioned that newspaper articles should not always be accepted as fact. Councillor Steeves stated that he did not have an immediate plan in place to address the issue but had asked the Police Administration to provide some thoughts on the matter and that they wanted to deal in the most strictest and robust fashion with people who were trying to obtain the services of any prostitute under age or otherwise. He added that the Winnipeg Police Service had a role in the enforcement of prostitution, particularly child prostitution and the laws that were designed to prevent it, but also suggested that this was also a provincial social services issue to look at what was occurring in the residences of these young people and why they were ending up on the street.