Minutes - Executive Policy Committee – March 14, 2007

Minute No. 242
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - March 5, 2007

Item No. 1 School Resource Officers – Winnipeg School Division
File GF-2

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and recommends to Council:

1. That the City of Winnipeg will consider a proposal jointly initiated by the Winnipeg School Division and the Province of Manitoba for an expansion of the School Resource Officer Program, provided that:

   A. Such proposal shall contain a minimum ten-year funding commitment by the Winnipeg School Division and the Province of Manitoba;

   B. The financial contribution of the City of Winnipeg shall be limited to the same level of in-kind support as provided under the existing agreement for the North End School Resource Officer Program between the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg School Division for the period from September 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008;

   C. The complement of officers assigned to any such expansion of the SRO Program in the Winnipeg School Division shall consist of additional officers, as opposed to officers within the Winnipeg Police Service's existing complement; and

   D. The Winnipeg School Division shall provide a priority placement plan for each School Resource Officer for the City of Winnipeg's review and comment.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Steeves,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has received submissions from The Community Education Development Association and Parents for An Aware Community – South District highlighting youth-specific challenges faced by schools and surrounding neighbourhoods in relation to community crime prevention and neighbourhood safety;

AND WHEREAS the North End School Resource Officer Program, which consists of three school resource officers (one officer assigned to R.B. Russell School and works with David Livingstone, Norquay and William Whyte schools; one officer assigned to Children of the Earth School, and works with Niji Mahkwa, King Edward and Strathcona schools; one officer assigned to St. John's High School, and works with Isaac Newton, Champlain, Luxton, Machary, Ralph Brown and Inkster schools), was initiated in 2002 and extended for a three year period from September 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008;

AND WHEREAS the North End School Resource Officer Program pilot project evaluation concluded that the School Resource Officer Program ("SRO Program") has had a positive effect on community crime prevention, neighbourhood safety and relationships between police and youth;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg recognizes the merits of the SRO Program and is supportive in principle of the SRO Program;

AND WHEREAS any expansion of the SRO Program would require an increase to the Winnipeg Police Service's existing complement in order to ensure that existing officers are not removed from active duty;

AND WHEREAS the current North End School Resource Officer Program is funded primarily by the Winnipeg School Division and the Province of Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That the City of Winnipeg will consider a proposal jointly initiated by the Winnipeg School Division and the Province of Manitoba for an expansion of the SRO Program, provided that:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

A. Such proposal shall contain a minimum ten-year funding commitment by the Winnipeg School Division and the Province of Manitoba;

B. The financial contribution of the City of Winnipeg shall be limited to the same level of in-kind support as provided under the existing agreement for the North End School Resource Officer Program between the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg School Division for the period from September 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008;

C. The complement of officers assigned to any such expansion of the SRO Program in the Winnipeg School Division shall consist of additional officers, as opposed to officers within the Winnipeg Police Service's existing complement; and

D. The Winnipeg School Division shall provide a priority placement plan for each School Resource Officer for the City of Winnipeg's review and comment.

Carried

The Executive Policy Committee received submissions in support of the recommendation from the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services regarding the expansion of the School Officer Program in the Winnipeg School Division from the following:

- Tom Simms, Co-Director, Community Education Development Association, submitted a copy of his presentation and a copy of the Downtown School Resource Officer Program dated November 2006
- Molly Roulette, Vice President, Centennial Community Improvement Association, submitted a presentation entitled Centennial Community Improvement Association School Resource Officer Presentation
- Dushant Persaud, Principal, Winnipeg Adult Education Centre submitted a presentation
- Lorne Belmont, Principal, Children of the Earth School and Chair of the SRO Project submitted a presentation
- Barbara Coombs and Katherine Purchase, Parents for an Aware Community - South District submitted a presentation entitled Parents for an aware Community dated March 14, 2007 and a PACSD Progress Report for the MSRO Proposal dated March 2, 2007

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 5, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommended:

1. That the City of Winnipeg commence negotiations with the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg School Division as one-third (1/3) funding partners for the expansion of the School Resource Officer Program, with a goal for implementation in September 2007.

2. That the proposed expansion of the School Resource Officer Program in the Winnipeg School Division include the initiatives outlined in the submissions from:

    A. The Community Education Development Association
        - Requesting two (2) School Resource Officers

    B. Parents for an Aware Community - South District
        - Requesting one (1) School Resource Officer

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Further on March 5, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services received submissions from the following:

In support of the proposal for funding for the School Resource Officer Program;

- Tom Simms, Community Education Development Association submitted the following documents:
    A. School Resource Officers: Community Policing in Action
    B. Downtown School Resource Officer Program dated November 2006
    C. School Resource Officers: Comparative Deployment of Personnel of Selected Police Services

- Barbara Coombs, Parents for an Aware Community – South District, submitted the following documents:
    A. Multi-School Resource Officer Pilot Project Proposal dated October 2006
    B. PACSD Progress Report for the MSRO Proposal dated March 2, 2007

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 27, 2007, the City Centre Community Committee forwarded the request from the Community Education Development Association for a joint funding partnership with the Province of Manitoba and the Winnipeg School Division for two School Resource Officers to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

Further on February 27, 2007 the City Centre Community Committee received from Tom Simms, Co-Director, Community Education Development Association a presentation entitled "School Resource Officers: Community Policing in Action", in support of the request for a joint funding partnership for two school resource officers.