Presentation to:
Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
By the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre was established in 1984 by the Aboriginal community to serve the Aboriginal community in Winnipeg. Since that time, we have worked to support families to better care for children by creating meaningful opportunities for family and community involvement. By focusing on the positives and building on individual strengths, we continue to help families learn and grow stronger together. Ma Mawi's philosophy is rooted in the belief that the entire community has responsibility for the healthy development of future generations.

  We follow the principles within our name, **"we all work together to help one another".** As such, a commitment to the growth and development of the Aboriginal community underlies all of our program and service activities. Over the years, Ma Mawi has evolved from being an advocacy-based (with its deficit-focused approach) agency, to a value-based community learning organization. Ma Mawi works to empower community members to practice self-care through preventive and supportive services for children and families. We have built a high level of credibility, support, acceptance and recognition within the community for our unique approach to service delivery. By continually working to support and nurture children, families and communities, we have set ourselves apart from other social service agencies in the hearts and minds of community members and are perceived as a value-added community based resource.

  The foundation of our efforts is built on four (4) community-focused directions:

  - ❖ Utilizing a Community Based Approach;
  - ❖ Developing and emphasizing Capacity Building Practices;
  - ❖ Enabling and requiring Strong Community Involvement; and
  - ❖ Continually creating Opportunities for Leadership

- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre supports the concept and principles of a "Police Commission":

  - o determining adequate personnel levels
  - o budgeting for the needs of the police service
  - o monitoring the budget
  - o reviewing the performance of the service
  - o hiring the Chief of Police
  - o labour relations
  - o discipline of police officers
  - o dealing with complaints
  - o policy development
  - o Provincial and Civilian participation

  The Los Angeles Police Department with 9,000 Officers has a Police Commission with most if not all the points above.

- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, overall respects the work and contributions made to the community by the Winnipeg Police Service and believes a Police Commission can only enhance

the Service. In keeping with the philosophy of Ma Mawi, we believe a proactive solution focused approach would greatly assist to build and maintain trust and gain a better understanding between all communities within Winnipeg.

- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, appreciates the importance of law and order in society, but is also concerned about how justice is dispensed and carried out. While is it necessary to hold individuals accountable for their actions, it is equally necessary to understand and address the root causes that lead to illegal actions in the first place and to engage the community for solutions that work.

- The Mayor, members of the Protection Subcommittee, City Councillors and the Winnipeg Police Service should be recognized for adopting "CrimeStat" as a component of the City's Neighbourhood Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy. It is a positive sign and good first step that demonstrates a willingness to change the status quo and take a proactive approach.

  The Winnipeg Police Service, CrimeStat website states "The first principle of the CrimeStat philosophy promotes accountability and transparency."

- The New York City Police Department ComStat initiative was one part of a wider City strategy:
  - The training and deployment of around 5,000 new and better-educated police officers
  - The integration of New York's housing and transit police into the New York Police Department
  - Police decision-making being devolved to precinct level
  - The clearing of a backlog of 50,000 unserved warrants
  - Mayor Giuliani's robust 'zero tolerance" against petty crime and anti-social behaviour
  - Widespread removal of graffiti
  - Programs that moved over 500,000 people into jobs from welfare at a time of economic buoyancy
  - Offering housing vouchers to enable poor families to move to better neighbourhoods.
  - Demographic changes including a generation raised in the social welfare systems in the 1970s and 1980s

  Source: Steven Levitt, Economist, University of Chicago

What is the City's full strategy as compared to the New York City example? How can the community become involved?

- Mayor Giuliani's 'zero tolerance" against petty crime and anti-social behaviour is based in part on the Broken Window Theory and was one pillar of the New York Police Department's crime strategy.

What is "Zero-Tolerance" policing?

"Zero-Tolerance" was instituted over ten years ago as a full-scale strategic attack on all crime and disorder in the City. In particular it focuses on the enforcement of "quality of life offenses", such as drinking alcoholic beverages in the street, urinating in public, panhandling, loud radios, graffiti and disorderly conduct. By quickly addressing and correcting these minor problems, the Department sends the message that more serious crime will not be tolerated.

To meet the specific needs of their individual communities, local Police commanders have been granted significantly more authority and latitude in deploying their resources and implementing their own operations to help carry out this initiative.

Source: New York Police website July 2007

Is this a part of the Winnipeg Police Service or the City's crime strategy? How can the community become involved?

- The Minneapolis Police Department in 2007, implemented Neighbourhood Policing Plans. Neighbourhoods and their MPD precincts are working on developing plans together, with everyone participating in future activities to address mutual concerns. The Neighbourhood Policing Plans will be updated each year.

Source: Minneapolis Police website July 2007

In Addition to their own version of CrimeStat, the Minneapolis Police Department also engage the community as part of their crime strategy. **Is this a part of the Winnipeg Police Service or the City's crime strategy? How and when can the community become involved?**

Following the implementation of the proposed Police Advisory Board, we recommend that:

1. The City of Winnipeg shall participate in a community conference on the best practices of police governance in partnership with the Province of Manitoba and community groups.

2. Winnipeg City Council shall call on the Province of Manitoba to establish an inter-governmental committee on police governance to review the findings of the said community conference as well as other research and pertinent information, and to make recommendations regarding police governance to the City and the Province by December 31, 2008.