NECRC Support for Civilian Police Commissions

By Robert Neufeld (Executive Director)
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MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Question: Should the police be accountable to community and should community be accountable to police. Mutual accountability is essential to building community in Winnipeg. NECRC' board believes in representation from the community in its governance model. The CEO does not have all the power and say. Directives come from the board of directors from 6 sectors: residents, community, business, aboriginal, religious fraternal, and labor. Governance comes from the bottom up, not the top down. Winnipeg should also believe in mutual accountability. This will be a team building community together.

Example) confrontation verses respectful conversations

BUILDING TRUST

Question: How can we build trust between the police and the community? We need a holistic approach: With citizens on the board, trust will grow because the community sits at the table… it's the power of giving both community and police a voice. Both voices represent a conversation and collaborative solutions to safety worked out by the police and the community. Community Policing is also a factor where police who know the community become their allies as opposed to simply enforcers.

Example) Neighbourhood Police Officers needed in LSP

GOVERNANCE/POLICY

Question: Do regular citizens have any place in police governance? A civilian led police commission means that governance is not a private affair behind closed doors. Policy is formed with representation from the community. A civilian police commission is governance involving the community in policy decisions that effect constructive change on the street, ie) deployment, resource allocation, the whole approach to policing and the philosophy behind it.

Example) Best practice of other big cities in Canada except Winnipeg

CITY BYLAWS OUTDATED

Question: What about the outdated bylaws? The city should affect policy to allow community involvement in governance. Civilians as well as city employees should be given power to serve and effect change in the city. The city bylaws should be changed to allow a citizen police commission.

Example) North End Five Year Community Plan 2006-2011



Relationship Based Policing: Community, City Hall, The Province, Police
BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER