REPORT OF THE

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMMUNITY SERVICES

DATED NOVEMBER 5, 2001

On motion of Councillor Gerbasi, the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, dated November 5, 2001, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3 and 4, be adopted.

Councillor Lazarenko requested that Clause 1 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Councillor Vandal requested that Clause 4 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 2 and 3, was put and declared carried.

Street Crime Task Force
File GF-2 (Vol. 54)

56 - 1. On September 26, 2001, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, under Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law No. 5400/90:

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS a 69 year old North End resident was severely beaten apparently while defending his property from young vandals at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2001;

AND WHEREAS the resident had called 911 during the course of the vandalism but no police car arrived for 25 minutes;

AND WHEREAS, between midnight and 4:00 a.m. on August 25, 2001, police handled 185 calls, including 39 calls in the North End;

AND WHEREAS Police have arrested two youths and charged them with attempted murder;

AND WHEREAS a highly-mobile street crime unit in New Westminster, British Columbia, has successfully eliminated drug traffic, prostitution and other street crime in that community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Police Service consider the formation of a dedicated street crime task force according to the New Westminster model.

On October 11, 2001, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services instructed that this matter be referred to the Winnipeg Police Service for report back to its November 5, 2001 meeting.

The City of Winnipeg has a population of approximately 629,800 covering an area of approximately 473 square kilometers. The Winnipeg Police Service has an authorized complement of 1179 police members and a staff complement of 300.

New Westminster which is located in the Greater Vancouver Regional District has a population of 55,000 and a 108 member Police Service.

In 1998 in order to address a drug problem in its downtown area, New Westminster formed an 11-member street crime unit from its existing complement.

A crucial element contributing to the success of the New Westminster unit was the political and executive support received from the Mayor, Members of Council and the senior administration, as well as funding in the amount of $430,000 over a two-year period to address overtime issues alone. As a result of this aggressive campaign two-hundred arrests were made for selling crack cocaine.

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The Street Crime Unit has developed further since 1998 to target other ongoing problems, such as break and enters, traffic enforcement programs, etc. The Unit is available seven-days a week and the members are crossed trained to address different roles such as surveillance, bicycle patrol riding, emergency response, drug enforcement techniques, etc. Members of the unit are assigned to specialty projects along with their regular duties.

The New Westminster model, which is based on the New York City broken windows program, does not differ from what numerous other police agencies are doing.

The Winnipeg Police Service dedicates approximately 132 members to assorted specialized units, in its efforts to combat street crime. These units are formed at no additional costs to the City of Winnipeg.

A number of examples of these units are as follows and is not meant to be all-inclusive:

Organized Crime Unit
Drug Unit
Morals Unit
Street Gang Unit
Surveillance Unit
Intelligence Unit
Technical Support Unit
Pawn Detail
Crime Stoppers
Stolen Auto Unit
Identification Unit
Arson Strike Task Force
Canine Unit
Police Service Bike Unit

The Winnipeg Police Service has an excellent working relationship with various community groups. This supports the Community Based policing philosophy and proactive approach to combat criminal activity.

Community meetings resulted in a Community Safety Group that works together to address prostitution and other community issues. The Winnipeg Police Service Vice Division and the Provincial Justice Department partner in an ongoing Court Diversion Project that redirects males charged with the offence to communicate for the purpose of prostitution to “John School”, in an effort to reduce street prostitution.

A Crime Mapping Pilot project initiated in 2000 enables police to make use of up-to-date crime statistics and maps to determine crime trends. This information is used to strategically deploy resources to deal with specific criminal activity.

In May 2000 the Street Gang unit was amalgamated with the Outlaw Motorcycle gang unit and the Asian Investigation unit. This change was implemented to provide a more unified approach to policing the various levels of gang activity in Winnipeg. This new Criminal gang unit works with law enforcement agencies across Canada and the United States including Parole and Probation, and members of the Provincial and Federal Justice Departments. The Winnipeg Police Service takes a strong approach to gang activity and continues to develop proactive strategies to curtail gangs and their criminal endeavours.

The Uniform Bicycle Patrol unit consists of members specially trained to conduct patrol duties on bicycles. This presents a visible Police presence that patrols specific areas of concern and areas that general patrol units are unable to access. Members address drug problems, annoyances and issues in the core areas, as well as provide strict traffic enforcement.

The Arson Strike Task Force is another example of how the Police Service is able to be flexible in addressing criminal issues as they arise. The vast array of specialty units available, allows the Police Service to deal with growing trends and develop different strategies and partnerships to fit the needs of each distinct Winnipeg neighbourhood.

It could be argued that although New Westminster has seen relief in the drug trafficking and prostitution in its downtown area, the most likely scenario is that as a result of the high level of enforcement the problem has been shifted into another neighbouring district of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

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The Winnipeg Police Service approach to investigating criminal activity is no different in reality to what the New Westminster model incorporates. The Winnipeg Police Service is able to be more flexible in combating street crime, due to the number of specialty units and human resources available to be deployed to anything from local community concerns to any number of joint forces operations.

The perceived advantage that New Westminster has over Winnipeg is that due to their geographic location, they are able to move the problem out of their area, into another jurisdiction.

On November 5, 2001, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services considered a report from the Chief of Police dated October 17, 2001, with respect to the Street Crime Task Force and received the matter as information.

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,

Adoption of the clause.

Moved by Councillor Angus

That Rule 6.1 of the Procedure By-law be suspended to permit Council to sit beyond the hour of 12:00 noon in order to complete its deliberation of the balance of the Council agenda.

Carried.

The motion for adoption of the clause was put and declared carried.

Manitoba Public Insurance Request to develop formal agreement for Fire Protection Services at 1981 Plessis Road
File GF-1 (Vol. 19)

57 - 2. On March 22, 2000, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, dated November 29, 1999, directing the Fire Paramedic Service (FPS) to divest itself of contracts for the provision of fire and paramedic services outside the City boundaries. At that time, the City had contracts for ambulance services with the following:

- The Stony Mountain Institution (1986)
- The Province of Manitoba to areas up to and including the Perimeter Highway (1987)
- The Rural Municipality of Ritchot (1987)
- The Rural Municipality of Headingley (1994)

In addition, the City had contracts to provide fire services to the following areas:

- CPR North Transcona yards - east on Cordite Road to CPR road (south side of yard)
- Imperial Oil Depot - 2915 Henderson Highway
- University of Manitoba Glenlea Experimental Station - 12 km south of city on Highway 75

Fire service was also being provided to Border Chemical - 595 Gunn Road, although no formal agreement existed for this service.

By September 2000, the City had divested itself of these obligations except for a contract with the community of Grande Pointe, in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot, which continues to receive emergency medical services and the contract with CPR. Fire Paramedic Service responds to all calls from the CPR North Transcona Yards, which straddles the boundary between the City of Winnipeg and the R.M. of Springfield, regardless of which side of the boundary the fire is situated.

The City has never entered into a contract to provide fire services to the Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) property at 1981 Plessis Road.

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On February 19, 2001, a serious fire occurred at 1981 Plessis Road resulting in a loss of nearly $400,000. Manitoba Public Insurance believes that the damage caused by this fire is at least partially attributable to a response time of 37 minutes from the volunteer fire department from the R.M. of Springfield. (Winnipeg's response time averages 4 minutes 80% of the time.)

In early August 2001, a written request was made by the President and CEO of Manitoba Public Insurance to enter into an agreement to provide fire protection services to this property. Subsequently, Fire Paramedic Service met with representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance and Councillor Shirley Timm-Rudolph, Transcona Ward, to discuss the matter further.

A decision to enter into an agreement with Manitoba Public Insurance to provide fire protection services to the property at 1981 Plessis Road would require an amendment to Council's previous direction that the Fire Paramedic Service divest itself of all such contracts for the provision of fire and emergency medical services outside city boundaries.

1981 Plessis Road is on the northeast corner of Plessis Road and Gunn Road. Plessis Road and Gunn Road form the boundary between the City of Winnipeg and the R.M. of Springfield. The other three corner properties at this intersection fall within City boundaries. The area to the west of Plessis Road, and the area south of Gunn Road are primarily residential and lie within the City boundaries. These areas are entitled to full protection from the Fire Paramedic Service. The properties to the northeast lie within the R.M. of Springfield and include four businesses (Robin Electric, Team Autoparts, Transmatic Drive and Letwin Autobody Repair) and one residence. These properties are not currently entitled to service from the Fire Paramedic Service and have not requested FPS service.

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service assesses the fire risk to 1981 Plessis Road as minimal. Nevertheless, a serious fire has recently taken place at this location. Another serious fire could easily impact neighbouring properties within the City boundaries.

Manitoba Public Insurance is a partner with Fire Paramedic Service on initiatives such as the "SAFE Baby" program, the car seat installation and training program, and arson investigation for automobiles. A formal agreement for fire protection would strengthen this relationship.

Because an agreement with Manitoba Public Insurance to provide fire services to 1981 Plessis Road would represent a significant departure from the previous direction provided by Council with respect to fire and paramedic services outside the City, an amendment to that direction is requested to enter into such an agreement.

The Financial Impact Statement is outlined on Appendix "A".

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommends:

I. That Council amend its previous policy to allow the Fire Paramedic Service (FPS) to develop a formal agreement with Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) for fire protection services for the property located at 1981 Plessis Road in the Rural Municipality of Springfield.

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

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Community Incentive Grant Application
- Park City Meadows Housing Co-op Ltd.
File PR-2.6(33) (Vol. 10)

58 - 3. The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services has been advised that the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee, at its meeting on October 9, 2001, considered an application from the Park City Meadows Housing Co-op Ltd. for a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $10,000.00 to assist with the cost of furnishings for the common area meeting room.

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The application does not meet the eligibility criteria contained in the Community Incentive Grant Program.

The East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee recommended approval of a Community Incentive Grant to the Park City Meadows Housing Co-op Ltd. in the amount of $10,000.00 as a first charge against the 2002 allocation, not to exceed a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost, for the purpose requested.

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee, and recommends:

I. That the following eligibility criteria for the Community Incentive Grant Program, be waived in this instance, namely:-

a) The organization is to be a non-profit community recreation and sport organization or a non-profit organization offering recreational services;

b) The project is to make a significant contribution to the long-term benefit of the community-at-large in terms of improved facilities;

c) The project is to benefit the community-at-large and remain accessible to all members of the community.

II. That a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $10,000.00, as a first charge against the 2002 allocation, not to exceed a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost, be approved to the Park City Meadows Housing Co-op Ltd. for the purpose requested, subject to the following conditions:

a) Confirmation of other funding sources;

b) Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the Director; and

c) The applicant entering into a formal agreement with the City of Winnipeg.

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

Adopted by consent.

Community Incentive Grant Application - Brock-Corydon School
File PR-2.6(32) (Vol. 9)

59 - 4. The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, at their meeting on November 5, 2001, considered a Community Incentive Grant for the Brock-Corydon School in the amount of $7,500.00 to assist with the cost of replacement of the outdoor basketball court and installation of a sound system in the gym.

The application does not meet the eligibility criteria contained in the Community Incentive Grant Program.

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommends:

I. That the following eligibility criteria for the Community Incentive Grant Program, be waived in this instance, namely:-

a) The organization is to be a non-profit community recreation and sport organization or a non-profit organization offering recreational services;

b) The project is to make a significant contribution to the long-term benefit of the community-at-large in terms of improved facilities;

c) The project is to benefit the community-at-large and remain accessible to all members of the community, and

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d) The applicant has requested seventy-four percent (74%) of the total project cost and therefore would not be contributing fifty percent (50%) of the capital costs from their own sources.

II. That a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $7,500.00 be approved to the Brock-Corydon School for the purpose requested, subject to the following conditions:

a) Confirmation of other funding sources;

b) Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the Director; and

c) The applicant entering into a formal agreement with the City of Winnipeg.

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

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Request to fund Building Evaluation of Assiniboine Park Conservatory
File PR-7.1 (Vol. 10)

60 - 5. The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services has been advised that elements of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory building complex have reached the end of their useful life cycle. Replacement and upgrading of these components and systems necessitates the upgrading of the facilities and systems to meet all building codes, applications regulations and current program requirements.

It is necessary to define the scope and cost of the work necessary to upgrade the facility as well as establish an order of priority for the required renovations/upgrades. The Public Works Department has compiled an estimate of $1.25 million to undertake the basic refurbishment of the Conservatory. This estimate does not include program elements of the building and does not include an order of priority. Accordingly, the proposed analysis will provide the necessary data regarding refurbishment requirements and will form a long-term revitalization plan for the facility.

While upgrading of the restaurant kitchen at the Conservatory is desirable and warranted, as its present capacity is resulting in some service problems, the extreme condition of the building systems is of more importance to address.

It is estimated that the initial building analysis will cost approximately $60,000.00. Remaining monies from the re-allocated amount will be used towards systems refurbishment at the Conservatory.

In preparing the report, there was consultation with and concurrence by the Public Works Department.

Council approval is required if existing capital dollars are reallocated.

On October 11, 2001, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services considered a report dated August 30, 2001, from the Director of Community Services with respect to Building Refurbishment - Assiniboine Park Conservatory. The Committee laid the matter over to its meeting scheduled for November 5, 2001, and requested the Public Works Department to provide the Committee with the following:

- details of the $1.25 million anticipated cost to undertake refurbishment to the Assiniboine Park Conservatory,
- provide details to engage an outside consultant at a cost of $60,000.00 to undertake an initial building evaluation report, and further
- that administration from the Public Works Department be requested to be in attendance at the above noted meeting.

On November 5, 2001, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services reconsidered the aforesaid report and did not concur in the recommendation of the administration and therefore recommends:

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I. a) That a consultant with expertise in environmental technology be hired to prepare building evaluation report with respect to the "Building Refurbishment - Assiniboine Park Conservatory", at an estimated cost of $60,000.00, and that said evaluation report be completed by March, 2002, and

b) Further that an additional appropriation from the 2001 budget be utilized as the source of funding for the consultant, but should an additional appropriation not be realized then capital funding be provided from the 2000 Supplementary Capital account 03-118011-5400970707.

II. That the $1.25 million in capital requirements be referred to Council for its capital deliberations, upon receipt of the consultant's report, with the understanding that there be commitment for matching funds from the Federal - Provincial Infrastructure Works Program.

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

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, with the following amendment, namely that Recommendation I. b) be amended to read as follows:

b) That capital funding be provided from the 2000 Supplementary Capital account 03-118011-5400970707.

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be concurred in.

Carried.

The motion for adoption of the clause, as amended, was put and declared carried.