Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - March 12, 2008

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - March 3, 2008

Item No. 1 Pilot Project Utilizing Monitored Cameras in High Crime Areas
File GF-2

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 3, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of January 23, 2008 be concurred in, namely:

   A. That the Winnipeg Police Service be directed to investigate the feasibility of developing a pilot project utilizing monitored crime cameras in high crime areas in the City, which pilot project should include:

      (i) Partnerships with community groups and businesses to link existing video surveillance systems together in the City of Winnipeg;

      (ii) Corporate sponsorship to help fund the program; and

      (iii) An implementation plan with timeframes,

      and report back to Council on April 23, 2008 through the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services with its recommendations.

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:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 3, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the Council Motion of January 23, 2008 and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On February 2, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services directed the Winnipeg Police Service to report back within 30 days on the feasibility of developing a pilot project utilizing monitored cameras in high crime areas in the City that includes:

1. Partnerships with community groups and businesses to link existing video surveillance systems together in the City of Winnipeg;
2. Corporate sponsorship to help fund the program; and
3. An implementation plan with timeframes.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 23, 2008, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS crime in the City of Winnipeg remains a major issue for our citizens;

AND WHEREAS deploying additional police officers on our streets since 2004 has helped, but serious crime continues to be a major concern;

AND WHEREAS public opinion polls have shown that over 50% of Winnipeggers have recently identified crime as the most important issue facing the City;

AND WHEREAS crime cameras (video surveillance cameras) have helped to augment crime reduction strategies and have been successful in reducing crime and assisting in making hundreds of arrests in the U.K. and cities throughout the US;

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - March 3, 2008

DECISION MAKING HISTORY: (continued)

COUNCIL DECISION: (continued)

AND WHEREAS crime cameras are a tool used by police to identify crimes and arrest criminals, and crime cameras also work as a deterrent and make high risk communities safer;

AND WHEREAS in December, the use of video surveillance helped to capture an individual accused of sexually assaulting a 13 year old girl in downtown Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS corporate sponsorship has been used by other cities to help fund crime camera programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Police Service be directed to investigate the feasibility of developing a pilot project utilizing monitored crime cameras in high crime areas in the City, which pilot project should include:

(i) partnerships with community groups and businesses to link existing video surveillance systems together in the City of Winnipeg;

(ii) corporate sponsorship to help fund the program; and

(iii) an implementation plan with timeframes;

and report back to Council on April 23rd, 2008 through the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, with its recommendations.