Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - March 12, 2008

Minute No. 194
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - March 3, 2008

Item No. 2 LiveSAFE in Winnipeg - An Interconnected Crime Prevention Strategy
File GF-2

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and submits the following to Council:

1. That the 'LiveSAFE in Winnipeg' policy statement and strategic action framework for the development of an interconnected and collaborative crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg, as outlined in the report dated January 29, 2008, be approved.

2. That a 'LiveSAFE in Winnipeg' Working Group Network be established and be co-led by the Director of Community Services and the Chief of Police.

3. That the 'LiveSAFE in Winnipeg' Working Group Network report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services within one year with a Strategic Plan.

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

Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - March 12, 2008

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Steeves,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 3, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

RE: *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg – An Interconnected Crime Prevention Strategy

FOR SUBMISSION TO:	Standing Policy Committee on Protection & Community Services
ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY:	Clive Wightman, Director Community Services Department Keith McCaskill, Chief Winnipeg Police Service
REPORT DATE:	January 29th, 2008

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council approve the attached '***LiveSAFE*** in Winnipeg' policy statement and strategic action framework for the development of an interconnected and collaborative crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg, as outlined in this report.

2. That Council endorse the establishment of a '***LiveSAFE*** in Winnipeg' Working Group Network to be co-led by the Director of Community Services and the Chief of Police and further direct the Working Group Network to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services with a Strategic Action Plan for consideration within one year.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- Crime and public safety present some of the most important challenges for municipalities across Canada.
- Winnipeggers are concerned about crime and identify public safety as their number one priority – a sense of safety is one of the most important aspects in building a healthy and vibrant community.
- It is increasingly understood that a balanced approach between crime suppression and crime prevention is the best method to a safe community. Prevention is an essential goal and requires an integrated approach.
- It is recognized that crime prevention involves more than policing. Addressing the root cause of crime involves integrated and strategic actions aimed at promoting the wellbeing of the community through social, economic, health, educational and recreational measures, with a particular emphasis on children and youth.
- Best practises[1] in the development of comprehensive crime prevention strategies have demonstrated the need to be inclusive. Successful crime prevention efforts are

[1] Johnson, H. and Fraser, F 'Making Cities Safer: International Strategies and Practices'. Institute for the Prevention of Crime. University of Ottawa. September, 2007.

those that aptly engage other levels of government, as well as encouraging the participation of the private sector, non-profit organizations, community groups, and citizens.

- Given the nature and mandate of public services provided by the City of Winnipeg, the municipal level of government is positioned to provide leadership and coordination within an interconnected partnership strategy aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety in Winnipeg.
- This report proposes a *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg Policy that identifies guiding principles and a strategic action framework for the development of an interconnected Crime Prevention Strategy for Winnipeg, and which is premised upon a cross-sectoral partnership and network with citizens, neighbourhoods, community organizations, business and other levels of government.
- It is proposed that a *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg Working Group Network be established and co-led by the Director of Community Services and the Chief of Police in order to develop and implement a Strategic Action Plan for an interconnected Crime Prevention Strategy for Winnipeg.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

( ) None

(X) For the organization overall and/or for other departments

(X) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

( ) Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):
This report proposes a *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg Policy and crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg that is premised upon a cross-sectoral partnership with citizens, neighbourhoods, community organizations, business and other levels of government.

Policy Implications

() No

(X) Yes

Comment(s):

This report proposes a *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg Policy that identifies guiding principles and a strategic action framework for the development of an interconnected Crime Prevention Strategy for Winnipeg.

Regulatory Implications

(X) None

( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact

( ) Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

(X) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

(X) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Financial Implications

(X) Within approved current and/or capital budget

( ) Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s):
There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services provides policy advice and recommendations to Council on jurisdictional matters concerning Winnipeg Police Services, as well as public services provided under the mandate of the Community Services Department.

HISTORY:

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety was created by Council in 1999 with a mandate to support community action on citywide safety concerns. The primary goal is to support, assist, stimulate and mobilize the community on safety concerns.

On July 26, 2006 Council approved the Executive Policy Committee's recommendations related to Neighbourhood Safety and Crime Prevention, which included the development and implementation of Crime Stat.

DISCUSSION:

Crime and public safety present some of the most important challenges for municipalities across Canada. A sense of safety is one of the most important aspects in building a healthy and vibrant community. Further, it is increasingly recognized that a balanced approach between crime suppression and crime prevention is the best method to a safe community. As such, this report proposes the establishment of a 'LiveSAFE in Winnipeg policy' and which includes the development of an interconnected crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg.

What is the Context?

In 2005, Manitoba had the second highest rate for youth crime (9,578 incidents per 100,000 population). In Winnipeg, youth are active targets for recruitment by street level gangs, primarily for the purpose of drug dealing. As well, youth are particularly at risk of involvement in auto theft, which is seen by experts to be a precursor to a career of criminal activity.

More and more evidence suggests that the early intervention in the lives of at-risk children and families, along with focusing on the conditions that foster crime including improving environmental safety conditions will have an immensely positive effect on reducing crime, victimization, and fear. Winnipeggers are concerned about crime and

identify public safety as their number one priority – a sense of safety is one of the most important aspects in building a healthy and vibrant community.

A 'Balanced Approach' to Crime Prevention - Why?

It is increasingly understood that a balanced approach between crime suppression and crime prevention is the best method to a safe community. Prevention is an essential goal and requires an integrated approach. Crime prevention focuses on reducing the number of victims and offenders, and involves more than policing in order to accomplish this reduction. It is also critical to address the root causes of crime through integrated and strategic actions aimed at promoting the wellbeing of the community through social, economic, health, educational and recreational measures, with a particular emphasis on children and youth. Such efforts contribute to reducing the levels of insecurity in neighbourhoods and to increasing citizen perceptions of a safer and vibrant community as a whole.

Best practises[2] in the development of comprehensive crime prevention strategies have demonstrated the need to be inclusive. Successful crime prevention efforts are those that aptly engage other levels of government, as well as encouraging the participation of the private sector, non-profit organizations, community groups, and citizens. Given the nature and mandate of public services provided by the City of Winnipeg, the municipal level of government is positioned to provide leadership and coordination of an interconnected partnership strategy aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety in Winnipeg.

Current City of Winnipeg Initiatives Related to Crime Prevention:

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety:

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety was created by Council in 1999 with a mandate to support community action on citywide safety concerns. The primary goal is to support assist, stimulate and mobilize the community on safety concerns. The Committee is comprised of one member of city council, eight members of the community, and has also included representation from the Province of Manitoba. The Committee is applying for Winnipeg to become designated by the Safe Communities Foundation which is a non-profit group dedicated to making Canada a safe place to live, one community at a time. The Safe Communities Foundation is an internationally designated affiliate of the World Health Organization. The Safe Communities Foundation believes a safe community is one in which all sectors of the community work together by forming partnerships to promote safety, manage risk and increase the safety of its most vulnerable members.

[2] Johnson, H. and Fraser, F 'Making Cities Safer: International Strategies and Practices'. Institute for the Prevention of Crime. University of Ottawa. March, 2007.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention:

The City of Winnipeg is represented on this Standing Committee of the FCM that includes elected officials from across Canada. The FCM has published a policy statement on Community Safety and Crime Prevention as follows:

> '*The Community is the focal point for effective crime prevention and strategies for preventing crime should be sensitive to local needs. Community-based, holistic approaches to combating crime can be developed and delivered most effectively through intergovernmental and community-level partnerships'.*

Public Service Delivery:

It is estimated that the City of Winnipeg spends approximately $26 million annually in support of crime prevention efforts including recreation and literacy programs, community development activities, social grant programming and various police services. Specifically, the Winnipeg Police Service has implemented a number of crime prevention programs including for example:

- The Winnipeg Auto Theft Suppression Strategy (WATSS) which focuses on the most chronic young offenders. Since its introduction in 2005, WATSS has contributed to a significant and sustained effect on vehicle thefts.
- School Resource Officer Placements in the Winnipeg School Division's North district, which are intended as a proactive resource for reducing crime, mentoring and building relationships with youth. This program will be expanded to several schools in the South District.

Further, it is estimated that several more millions are spent annually by the City of Winnipeg through urban planning services that contribute to safety and crime prevention such as street lighting and graffiti removal, as well as practicing 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in urban planning and development' via site planning and design review processes and through the development of neighbourhood plans. Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision encourages *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* through:

- 1A-03 Promote a Safe Downtown
- 1B-02 Promote Neighbourhood Safety
- 4A-01 Engage Communities in Building Safe Neighbourhoods
- 4B-01 Integrate Safety into Overall Planning and Urban Development
- 4B-03 Promote Safety on Streets and Sidewalks

The Public Service also participates in a number of committees and networks dedicated to crime prevention, including the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Crime Prevention Committee and the Municipal Network on Crime Prevention.

LiveSAFE in Winnipeg – Proposed Policy Statement (Appendix A):

The intended goal of the proposed ***LiveSAFE*** in Winnipeg policy is to provide a clear and inclusive vision for an integrated crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg that is focused on collective action. A strategic action framework is included and which is premised upon interconnected and cross-sectoral partnerships with citizens, neighbourhoods, community organizations, business and other levels of government.

The strategic action framework identifies the networking initiatives and partnerships related to crime prevention that the City of Winnipeg is currently involved with, including the Winnipeg Committee for Safety. In addition, a *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg Working Group in partnership with other levels of government, business and the community is proposed in order to identify specific and integrated crime prevention strategies with a particular focus on vulnerable families, seniors, children and youth in Winnipeg.

The proposed *LiveSAFE* in Winnipeg policy statement identifies the following five guiding principles which recognize that crime prevention must involve long term action that is responsive to short term needs.

1. Prevention
2. Leadership and Coordination
3. Interconnectedness and Partnerships
4. Sustainability
5. Accountability

Our efforts must be measurable, both in the short and long term, to ensure accountability and progress towards the overall goal of a safe, vibrant and thriving Winnipeg.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Financial Impact Statement Date:

Project Name:

COMMENTS:

Cindy Fernandes, C.M.A.
Manager of Finance & Administration

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:
Winnipeg Police Services
Community Services Department
Planning, Property and Development Services Department
Public Works Department
Transit Department

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Community Services Department
Prepared by: Kathy Knudsen, Manager,
Strategic and Information Systems Services Division

File No.

Appendix A

LiveSAFE in Winnipeg Policy Statement
An Interconnected Strategy for Crime Prevention

Purpose:

Winnipeg is a wonderfully diverse city – both culturally and economically. Most Winnipeggers highly value the quality of life they experience in our city and have a strong sense of community. We care about and take tremendous pride in our city, our neighbourhoods and our citizens. We also know that one of our primary concerns is public safety – it is recognized that a sense of safety is one of the most important aspects in continuing to build a healthy and vibrant community.

The intended goal of this policy is to provide a clear and inclusive vision for an interconnected crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg that is focused on collective action – to ***LiveSAFE*** in Winnipeg.

It is increasingly understood that a balanced approach between crime suppression and crime prevention is the best method to a safe community. Prevention is an essential goal and requires a partnership approach. Addressing the root causes of crime involves integrated and strategic actions aimed at promoting the wellbeing of the community through social, economic, health, educational and recreational measures, with a particular emphasis on families, seniors, children and youth at risk.

Evidence suggests that prevention in the form of early intervention in the lives of vulnerable children and families will have positive impacts on reducing crime, victimization and fear. Focusing on the conditions that can foster crime such as poverty, inadequate housing, inconsistent parenting and behavioural problems will result in long term benefits for the community as a whole.

A safe and vibrant Winnipeg is the absolute objective. A safe and vibrant Winnipeg means more than urban safety – it also means thriving social and economic development in our City and an overall enhanced quality of life for Winnipeggers.

An interconnected crime prevention strategy for Winnipeg is a significant element towards that absolute objective. Our efforts in crime prevention must be a true and significant partnership - one that relies on participation and action from all aspects of our community – citizens, neighbourhoods, business, community organizations and all levels of government.

Guiding Principles:

Prevention

- The City of Winnipeg recognizes that crime prevention employed together with crime suppression efforts will result in enhanced crime reduction in the longer term.
- Preventive efforts will be particularly focused on vulnerable neighbourhoods, families, children and youth, and will be predicated upon evidence-based research.

Leadership and Coordination

- The City of Winnipeg will provide leadership and coordination in the development of an Integrated Crime Prevention Strategy aimed at continuing to build a safe and vibrant Winnipeg.

Interconnectedness and Partnerships

- Successful crime prevention efforts must be interconnected in order to address the multiple root causes of crime. As such, crime prevention strategies should be prioritized and integrated into all relevant economic and social policies and programs including employment, housing, health and healthy living, urban planning, education and literacy.
- The City of Winnipeg will engage citizens, business, community organizations and other levels of government as partners in crime prevention.
- The City of Winnipeg respects the mandates of its service and funding partners and acknowledges their expertise and role in terms of prevention.

Sustainability

- Crime prevention must involve long term action that is responsive to short term needs and that will produce long term community benefit.

Accountability

- Our collective community solutions need to have shared outcome goals as well as be measurable and sustainable in order to affect / achieve any long term results.

Strategic Action Framework:

The City of Winnipeg acknowledges the many efforts that are already underway in our community that relate to crime prevention. The challenge for all of us is to work together in a strategic and collaborative network approach, in order that we can leverage the best results for the safety and vitality of Winnipeg. All partners need to have a clear and transparent role in contributing towards crime prevention efforts, have shared outcome goals and recognize that crime prevention and suppression equate to more effective crime reduction, resulting in a safer Winnipeg with a high quality of life and thriving economy.

WINNIPEG PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION
Network Model



Current Inter-sectoral Crime Prevention Initiatives:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention:

The FCM has published a policy statement on Community Safety and Crime Prevention which states that *"The Community is the focal point for effective crime prevention and strategies for preventing crime should be sensitive to local needs. Community-based, holistic approaches to combating crime can be developed and delivered most effectively through intergovernmental and community-level partnerships.*" A Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention has also been established and includes elected official representation from the City of Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Committee for Safety:

Established by Council, this committee, led by a City Councillor has included representation from the Province of Manitoba and the National Crime Prevention Centre as well as eight community members, has a mandate to support community action on citywide safety concerns. Working with citizens, local organizations and governments, the Winnipeg Committee for Safety is helping to make this a safe and healthy city.

Municipal Network on Crime Prevention:

The City of Winnipeg is a member of the Municipal Network on Crime Prevention. This is a network of municipal administrators who are working together to improve the capacity of cities to develop and sustain crime prevention and community safety initiatives. The municipal network was created by the Institute for the Prevention of Crime at the University of Ottawa which is supported by the National Crime Prevention Council - Canada.

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police – Crime Prevention Committee

The mandate of the CACP Crime Prevention Committee is 'committed to providing leadership in promoting a comprehensive, inclusive approach to addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder. We support positive social change to ensure the quality of life for our communities'. The City of Winnipeg has a Winnipeg Police Service representative on this Committee.

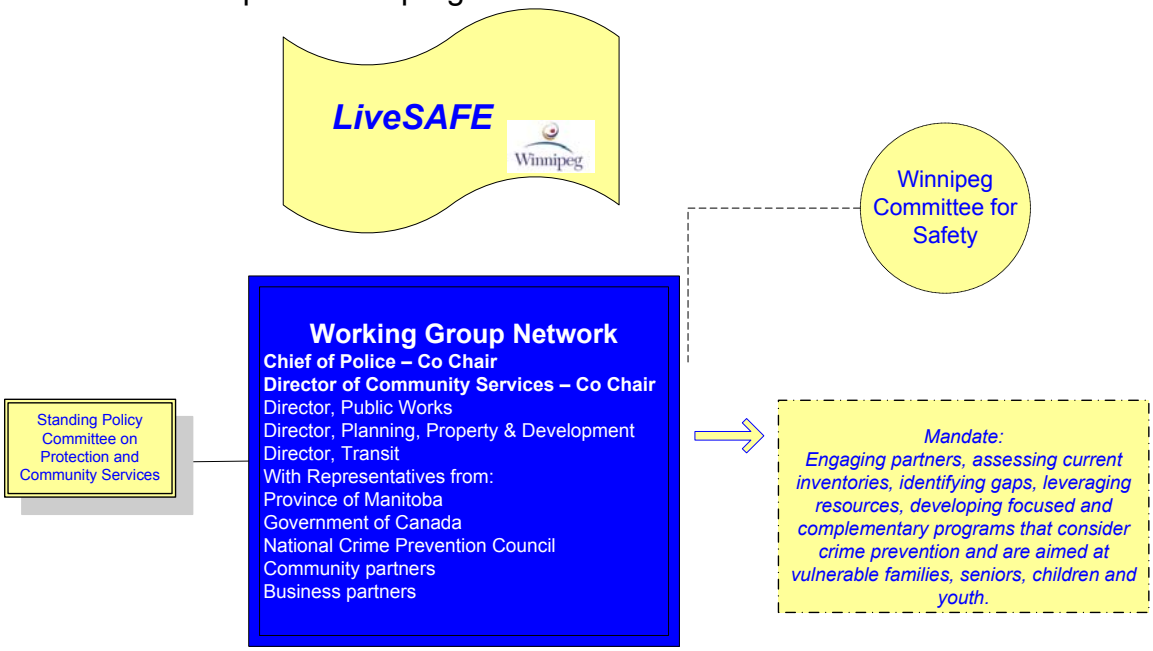
Citizens for Crime Awareness

Citizens for Crime Awareness is a volunteer organization, recognized by the Winnipeg Police Service, dedicated to promoting crime awareness and crime prevention in the community. Their goal is to make the community a safer and better place in which to live.

LiveSAFE in Winnipeg Network:

This policy proposes the establishment of a Winnipeg focused cross-sectoral working group whose ***mandate would be to develop, implement and evaluate integrated strategic action plans for programs and services aimed at crime prevention, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable families, seniors, children and youth in Winnipeg.***

This Working Group would be co-led by the Chief of Police and the Director of Community Services and would include representation from other civic departments, the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, as well as business, academic and community partners. The Working Group would report back to the CAO and Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services with respect to the progress of its mandate.



Measurable Results

Recognizing the interconnected nature that a successful crime prevention effort must take across all levels and sectors within our community, will ensure maximum leverage and synergies.

Providing evidence-based research in support of new programs and services and defining both short and long term performance measures for crime prevention initiatives will justify sustainable partnership funding strategies.

Ensuring complementary programs and services that are focused on assisting the groups most at risk will help to build capacity in our youth, families and neighbourhoods.