Report - Executive Policy Committee - October 3, 2008

Item No. 3 Ceasing the selling of bottled water in Civic Facilities
File FB-1

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 3, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee submitted the following to Council:

1. That the September 24, 2008 Council Motion relative to ceasing the selling of bottled water in Civic Facilities be filed.

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:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 3, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee recommended that the September 24, 2008 Council Motion relative to ceasing the selling of bottled water in Civic Facilities be filed, and submitted the matter to Council.

Further on October 3, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee received submissions from the following:

In opposition to the September 24, 2008 Council Motion relative to ceasing the selling of bottled water in Civic Facilities:

- Russell Loewen, Canadian Bottled Water Association, submitted a communication dated October 3, 2008
- John B. Challinor, Director of Corporate Affairs, Nestlé Waters Canada, submitted a presentation, a communication dated October 3, 2008, as well as a document entitled "In the Know - Your Guide to Bottled Water and Nestlé Waters Canada", and a fact sheet entitled “Myths and Facts about Bottled Water Facilities”.

With respect to the September 24, 2008 Council Motion relative to ceasing the selling of bottled water in Civic Facilities:

- Justin Sherwood, Refreshments Canada, submitted a communication dated October 3, 2008, as well as a brochure entitled “Bottled Water: A Healthy Hydration Choice”.

COUNCIL:

On September 24, 2008, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

WHEREAS bottled water is many times more expensive than water from the tap, even though bottled water is just filtered municipal tap water;

AND WHEREAS plastic bottles release dangerous toxic chemicals and contaminants into the air and water contributing to environmental degradation when they are manufactured;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL (continued):

AND WHEREAS toxic contaminants such as arsenic, mercury and bromides have been found in independent, peer reviewed scientific studies of bottled water;

AND WHEREAS the bottled water industry suggests that their product is more pure and healthy than tap water, when tap water is tested more stringently by the Water and Waste Department (hundreds of tests a month) while bottled water is tested by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency once a year;

AND WHEREAS by continuing to allow the sale of bottled water at civic facilities we are telling Winnipeggers that tap water is an inferior product;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we cease selling bottled water in city facilities.