Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 10, 2010

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Early Intervention Programs – Youth Advocate Program
eFile GF-2

The following resolution is submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration, namely:

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of all levels of government, community groups, and individual members of society to work together to address root causes of criminal behavior by youth;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is committed to creating opportunities for youth to stay out of gangs;

AND WHEREAS on May 16, 2008 Statistics Canada reported that "violent crime among young people increased by 12% in 10 years, and 30% since 1991… In comparison, the overall violent crime rate in Canada declined by 4% between 1997 and 2006";

AND WHEREAS Statistics Canada also reported that between 1991 and 2006 Manitoba experienced a 16% increase in youth crime rates while youth crime rates declined in four provinces (British Columbia -49%, Alberta -41%, Ontario -34%, Quebec -25%);

AND WHEREAS on January 11, 2007, the Government of Canada announced a $16.1 million dollar fund for youth at risk, including $11.1 million to create the National Crime Prevention Centre;

AND WHEREAS on January 9, 2008, the Government of Canada announced $1.9 million through the National Crime Prevention Centre for the Halifax Youth Advocate Program;

AND WHEREAS the Halifax Youth Advocate Program is an intervention strategy targeting youth 9-14 years old to prevent them from engaging in criminal and gang-related activities;

AND WHEREAS the Halifax Youth Advocate Program offers assistance to youth and their families by developing a unique intervention strategy and action plan for each at-risk youth that may include items such as: tutoring, mentoring, life skills, counseling, recreation and sport;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg Public Service be requested to report back to the appropriate committee of Council in 120 days with a report including:

(i) an environmental scan of existing early intervention programs in Manitoba and Winnipeg that focus on preventing youth from joining gangs or engaging in criminal activities;

(ii) a recommendation regarding the merits of developing a made-in-Manitoba version of the Halifax Youth Advocate Program; and

(iii) in the event of a recommendation to proceed with the development of a made-in-Manitoba version of the Halifax Youth Advocate Program:

A. a list of potential program partners;
B. a list of potential funding sources;
C. a discussion of potential synergies with the LiveSAFE process.