Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – February 10, 2010

REPORTS

Minute No. 142 Early Intervention Programs – Youth Advocate Program
eFile GF-2

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended 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.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Deputy Mayor Swandel to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz,

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:

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

(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.

Carried

The Chairperson resumed the Chair.