EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Minute No. 263
Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg had previously been involved in a Municipal Partnerships program with the City of Kampala, Uganda to strengthen local government involvement and processes and service delivery initiatives;

AND WHEREAS a Member of Parliament in the Republic of Uganda has proposed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, 2009, that would target lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Ugandans, their friends, families and neighbours and anyone else who fails to report them to the authorities, whether they are inside or outside of Uganda;

AND WHEREAS the proposed law:

(a) would impose criminal penalties up to life imprisonment for persons engaging in consensual same-sex relationships;

(b) might inflict the death penalty on persons who engage in homosexual activity while living with HIV; and

(c) would criminalize third parties who failed or refused to report homosexual activity of their friends, neighbours or relatives;

AND WHEREAS the international community, including the Government of Canada, the U.S. Government, human rights groups and others have expressed concern about serious potential violations of the human rights of homosexual individuals and even any unmarried Ugandan adult resulting from this proposed law;

AND WHEREAS human rights groups have identified this proposed legislation as potentially causing severe health problems, hindering the fight against HIV/AIDS by preventing those with the illness from seeking medical attention;

AND WHEREAS commentators have raised concerns about the impact of this proposed legislation on the political process and the rule of law in Uganda as it has the potential to create a political climate of fear where allegations of homosexuality are used to extort or silence government critics and stifle dissent;

Executive Policy Committee – Motions (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg City Council join with the Government of Canada and the international community to denounce Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill, 2009 and any similar legislative proposal.

Required to Stand as Notice of Motion in Accordance with Rule 17.1 of the Procedure By-law