Agenda – Executive Policy Committee - June 2, 2010

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Extension of the Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant Program
eFile EX

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 19, 2010, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS the Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant program, originally passed by Council in May of 2007, has been a huge success with the program funds being largely exhausted and with an expiry date set for June 1, 2010;

AND WHEREAS the program has facilitated the development, redevelopment and conversion of existing properties for new residential dwellings and leveraged millions of additional investments for the purpose of renewal of existing and older neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS the Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant Program is an innovative program that encouraged renewal of existing neighbourhoods, the use of existing civic infrastructure, the development of new street level commercial activity and greater urban density, all consistent with Plan Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS in March of 2009, due to the tremendous success of the program, Council increased the program by $10 million, from a $5 million limit to a $15 million limit;

AND WHEREAS in March of 2009 Council voted to direct the WPS to ensure "that discussions with the Province of Manitoba to expand this program to include a grant in respect of education taxes, as well as the municipal taxes", would take place;

AND WHEREAS the $15 million authorized by Council, based on a maximum tax grant of $15,000 per dwelling unit for units with an assessed value of less than $250,000, has made it possible for previously economically marginal housing projects to proceed, creating employment in the construction industry and more affordable housing in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS on April 28, 2010, Council approved the new Downtown Residential Development Grant Program, which included a "partnership with the Province of Manitoba in which there would be provincial participation under the structure of the Province's Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act with incremental education-related taxes";

AND WHEREAS the new Downtown Residential Development Grant Program now has a subscription limit of $10 million of education taxes and $10 million of municipal taxes, making marginal housing and housing conversations more economically viable;

AND WHEREAS the Council direction of March, 2009, is still outstanding with regard to engaging similar provincial participation in the original Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed Use Building Grant Program, and yet there are many older neighbourhoods in Winnipeg that require renewal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council direct the Winnipeg Public Service to renew or extend the existing Neighbourhood Multiple Family/Mixed-Use Building Grant program for another three years with a new subscription commitment of $15 million of municipal taxes;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service work with the Province of Manitoba to expand the program to include a grant in respect to education taxes, as well as the municipal taxes, as done in April, 2010 for the Downtown Residential Development Grant Program.