STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

MOTIONS

Minute No. 441
Moved by Councillor Steeves,
Seconded by Councillor Nordman,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg applies, in certain circumstances and pursuant to policy, pesticides designed to abate or lower mosquito populations within the district of the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the License to apply these pesticides is granted by the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS to receive a license to apply these pesticides, the City of Winnipeg is required to offer a "buffer zone" of non-application to any building owner who requests that their property not be subject to the application of pesticides, and that this buffer zone policy can only be usurped by the Province of Manitoba in cases of declared emergency;

AND WHEREAS the City currently offers a 100 meter buffer zone on both sides of a property as well as a distance behind the property and frontage to any citizen who makes that request;

AND WHEREAS a 100 meter buffer zone, in the context of an actual city block, can mean a non-application area of as many as 32 - 40 houses on one street or in one area;

AND WHEREAS the interpretation of the size of the buffer zone is based on the report as done by the Clean Environment Commission in 1982, which spoke of the 100 meter buffer zone;

AND WHEREAS the instigating of a buffer zone in a community is extremely volatile, divisive and misunderstood;

AND WHEREAS the size of the buffer zones, as they currently exist, could result in more and more private application of pesticides;

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg Council ask the Winnipeg Public Service to review this Buffer Zone Policy with the following questions, along with any information the public service feels is relevant, specifically to be responded to:

1. Given the type of Pesticide used and the conditions under which they are applied, for safety reasons, is a 100 meter buffer on either side of a property zone still appropriate for property owners who request the buffer zone;

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2. Does any other city in Canada utilize a buffer zone and if so how does the buffer zone calculation and size in Winnipeg compare to other cities in Canada who fog for mosquitoes;

3. What is the Responsibility of the City of Winnipeg when it comes to the specific issue of setting the size of buffer zones for pesticide application, and what is the process for review;

4. In their report, was the Clean Environment Commissions' request of 100 meters a total amount, or designed to be applied to all sides of a property?

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,

That the rule be suspended to allow consideration of the item at this time.

The motion to suspend the rule was put and declared lost.

Automatic Referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law