Minute No. 608
Report – Governance Committee of Council – June 13, 2011

Item No. 1 Council Wards

On September 21, 2011, the Executive Policy Committee referred back the June 13, 2011 recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council for further review and report back in 60 days.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 21, 2011, the Executive Policy Committee referred back the June 13, 2011 recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council for further review and report back in 60 days.

On June 15, 2011, the Executive Policy Committee laid the matter over for up to 60 days.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 13, 2011, the Governance Committee of Council passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS Winnipeg City Council Wards continue to increase in terms of population, with the average Council Ward population now at 41,713;

AND WHEREAS the three largest Winnipeg City Council Wards in terms of population size, St. Norbert, St. Boniface and St. Vital, each have populations of almost 50,000;

AND WHEREAS by comparison, the 31 Provincial Ridings within the City of Winnipeg average 20,433 in terms of population;

AND WHEREAS City Councillors provide the most direct service to constituents of any of the three levels of government;

AND WHEREAS the increasing population of City Council Wards makes it difficult for City Councillors to communicate effectively with their constituents as well as provide the service that constituents require;

AND WHEREAS the 2009 Winnipeg Wards Boundaries Commission - Final Report recommended that City Council should increase the size of City Council by two additional wards at least 18 months prior to the date of the 2014 General Civic Election, which would trigger a new Wards Boundaries Review to reshape City Council Wards for the 2014 General Civic Election;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS *The City of Winnipeg Charter* provides City Council with the authority to increase the size by two positions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council increase the number of Council Wards as provided for in *The City of Winnipeg Charter* by 2 wards to 17;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public service do all things necessary to implement this direction including the creation of a by-law and the undertaking of a Public Hearing;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk be directed to undertake a Wards Boundaries Commission complete review following third reading of the by-law to configure the 17 wards; with the new number and configuration of City Council Wards taking effect for the 2014 General Civic Election.