Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - June 18, 2003

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Re-Establishment of Winnipeg Police Commission
File GF-2

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services requested that the Executive Policy Committee clarify the status of the administrative report with respect to the re-establishment of the Winnipeg Police Commission and to advise the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services when the report will be considered.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 9, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services requested that the Executive Policy Committee clarify the status of the administrative report with respect to the re-establishment of the Winnipeg Police Commission and to advise the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services when the report will be considered.

COUNCIL'S DECISION

On May 28, 2003, Council passed following motion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council grant an extension of time of 60 days for the Executive Policy Committee to report back to Council with their recommendation relative to the re-establishment of the Winnipeg Police Commission.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 5, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter to the Chief Administrative Officer for report back.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 26, 2003, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

WHEREAS in August 1974, City Council established the Winnipeg Police Commission to:-

1. Provide a first quality police force and ensure it is properly equipped, housed, staffed and administered,

2. Constitute a body of citizens concerned with the local standing and well being of the police, interested in the maintenance of law and order and able to give advice to, and to formulate policy to be carried out by the Chief of Police,

3. Guarantee prompt, thorough and objective investigation of all complaints concerning the personnel and operation of the Police Department,

4. Play an active role in the fostering of good relations between the police force and the community it serves;

AND WHEREAS until it was dissolved in November 1986, the Winnipeg Police Commission was composed of three members of Council and two electors of the City of Winnipeg, and at time, held overall responsibility for the operations of the Police Department, including budget preparation and administration (subject to Council approval), operating rules and regulations, disciplinary matters, public complaints against the Department or any member, grievance procedures, dismissals, appointment of senior officers, training and recruitment, community relations and crime prevention;

AND WHEREAS other cities in Canada, notably Edmonton and Calgary, are now well served by a police commission with a mandate to balance the requirements of public accountability and police independence and to provide an interface between the police force and elected officials;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council consider the re-establishment of the Winnipeg Police Commission.