Agenda – Council – April 24, 2013

Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 3, 2013

Item No. 2 Incentives for Location of Grocery Stores in "Grocery Shopping Deserts"

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 3, 2013, the Executive Policy Committee submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of March 20, 2013 be received as information.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 3, 2013, the Executive Policy Committee received as information the Council Motion of March 20, 2013, and submitted the matter to Council.

Further on April 3, 2013, Executive Policy Committee received a communication from Councillor Eadie, Mynarski Ward, in support of the Council Motion of March 20, 2013 with respect to Incentives for Location of Grocery Stores in "Grocery Shopping Deserts".

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 20, 2013, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's core area and shoulder neighbourhoods are seeing the private sector close up their grocery operations such as Zellers in The Bay building, Extra Foods on Main Street and Notre Dame and Food Fare on Arlington.

AND WHEREAS many residents do not have home rental and home purchase options other than in the core area and shoulder neighbourhoods while also not being able to afford a motor vehicle;

AND WHEREAS attracting people to live in the core area / downtown and in shoulder neighbourhoods requires full service options to make their lives comfortable;

AND WHEREAS New York City has determined that there is a lack of grocery shopping options in some areas within the five boroughs as described at http://www.nyc.gov/html/misc/html/2009/fresh.shtml

AND WHEREAS New York City's incentives are based on locating grocery operations in the grocery deserts of their city;

AND WHEREAS their incentives involve both zoning and financial options;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service investigate the New York City incentive program to determine the possibilities to assist residents who find themselves living in grocery shopping deserts.