STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION

AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 625
Councillor Gerbasi noted that the Winnipeg Police Board had a unique governance under Provincial Legislation and requirements and asked for clarification as to how issues were placed on the agenda as the Winnipeg Police Board was not a political body such as a Standing Committee.

Councillor Fielding advised that the Winnipeg Police Board followed all the same standard procedures as the City of Winnipeg. He noted that procedure and policies allow an item to be brought up in new business, which was done with the policy item at the Board meeting, or you could suspend the rules and bring a motion forward, similar to the way you would do so at the Executive Policy Committee or whatever standing committee you were on. Councillor Fielding added that he felt that the policy item he brought forward regarding the body worn camera was a good idea and he asked the Police Service to report back on it so they could have a public debate.

Councillor Smith questioned why individuals, who were taking a stroll in a park in the late evening, and were not causing a disturbance, were being arrested and ticketed. Councillor Fielding replied that he did not have the particulars of the case referred to.

Councillor Smith advised that there was an item in the newspaper about an individual who was arrested and ticketed and was now challenging the courts and asked why there was a blanket policy against citizens who want to take advantage of limited green space.

Councillor Fielding replied that a by-law was in place and the question should probably be referred to Public Works.

Councillor Eadie referred to the initiative proposed to the Winnipeg Police Board regarding police officers wearing cameras to protect their integrity and asked what research was done in regard to how this works at the various levels of the Canadian Police Board Association, and whether a FIPPA request would be required to access the footage.

Councillor Fielding advised that there was a poll done and over 75 percent of the citizens supported the proposal and one of the top privacy people in the City advised there were no privacy issues and other Canadian jurisdictions were using the technology.

Councillor Eadie clarified that his question was if he were to be injured by a police officer unduly could he ask the Winnipeg Police Service to send him the video tape for the purpose of proving his case.

Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Fielding replied that he did not have all the information back on the privacy element and they would have to engage some of the experts and take all of that into consideration before making a policy.