EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Minute No. 41
Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over $1.1 trillion;

AND WHEREAS housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians' personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk;

AND WHEREAS those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity;

AND WHEREAS an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while $1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire;

AND WHEREAS coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal / provincial / territorial programs and policies;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch," calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada's housing future;

AND WHEREAS FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS our community has continuing housing needs, such as a severe shortage of affordable rental housing as well as affordable homeownership options, that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership;

Executive Policy Committee – Motions (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorses the FCM housing campaign and urges the Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism.to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of $1 .7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the minister noted above, to the Honourable Kevin Chief, Minister Responsible for the City of Winnipeg, the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to the Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,

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

The motion for suspension of the rules was declared carried.

The motion for adoption of the item was put and declared carried.

Councillor Fielding asked to be recorded as having voted against the item in accordance with Rule 47(7) of the Procedure By-law 50/2007.