Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – December 3, 2014

REPORTS

Item No. 21 Long Term Strategy to end Homelessness in Winnipeg

The following resolution is submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration, namely:

WHERERAS Cities all around North America are realizing that it is possible to shift from managing homelessness to ending it, and have seen the number of people who are homeless in their cities decreasing;

WHEREAS the cost of homelessness includes direct costs such as shelters and services, as well as indirect costs, such as increased use of health services, policing and the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS we believe it is our community's responsibility -- from government to corporate to community-based organizations to those who have been or are now homeless -- to prevent and end homelessness;

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council has organized a community task force to develop a Long Term Strategy to End Homelessness including Strategic Consultations on Preliminary Goals, Strategies and Actions;

WHEREAS the Long Term Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg sets direction in four key areas including, Prevention, Creating a Person-Centred System of Care, Housing Supply and Measurement;

WHEREAS we believe it is time to change the way we think about homelessness and a new non-profit organization with a cross sector board, Indigenous leaders at the table and a single outcome in mind will best drive results;

WHEREAS we believe in a focused commitment to end homelessness with clear and measurable program-and system-level targets and public accountability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that subject to annual budgetary approvals, the City of Winnipeg provide a grant of $150,000 per year commencing in 2015 and continuing for a five year period ending in 2019 to the United Way to be utilized by the Poverty Reduction Council to develop the Long Term Strategy to End Homelessness and that the Public Service be directed to review and assess the program and funding commitment after five years and report back to Council;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to find a funding source from within existing budgets in 2015 and that future year funding commitments be referred to the respective budget processes;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City enter into a grant agreement with the United Way and that the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the grant agreement in accordance with this motion and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg appoint Clive Wightman as the City's representative to the Board of the new organization outlined in the Long Term Plan to End Homelessness;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg be an active partner with the new organization in facilitating opportunities to create housing for people who are homeless.