Minute No. 66
Report – Executive Policy Committee – December 3, 2014

Item No. 12 Long Term Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. 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 the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to review and assess the program and funding commitment after five years and report back to Council.

2. 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.

3. 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 Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

4. 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, and direct the City's representative to report back annually to Executive Policy Committee on the organization's activities and successes.

5. That the City of Winnipeg be an active partner with the new organization in facilitating opportunities to create housing for people who are homeless.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 3, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following resolution:

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;

AND 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;

AND 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;

AND 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;

AND 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;

AND 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;

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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;

BE IT FURTHER 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;

BE IT FURTHER 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 Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City;

BE IT FURTHER 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, and direct the City's representative to report back annually to Executive Policy Committee on the organization's activities and successes.

BE IT FURTHER 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.

and submitted the matter to Council.