Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – February 4, 2015

REPORTS

Item No. 5 Whistle-blower Protection for Civic Employees

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the Council Motion of January 28, 2015 and recommended to Council:

1. That the Province of Manitoba be requested to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter or The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle-blower Protection) Act, to include statutory whistleblower protection for civic employees consistent with the protections given to employees under The Province of Manitoba's Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle-blower Protection) Act.

2. That all new employees of the City of Winnipeg receive as part of their orientation information on the Fraud, Theft or Related Irregularities Administrative Standard.

3. 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:

His Worship Mayor Bowman called Deputy Mayor Pagtakhan to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the Council Motion of January 28, 2015 be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Bowman resumed the Chair.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 28, 2015, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is home to a public service that works hard every day to deliver the essential services that all Winnipeggers rely upon;

AND WHEREAS the public considers improving accountability at City Hall as one of their top priorities and wants to see concrete actions to that end;

AND WHEREAS the public has recently witnessed numerous audits;

AND WHEREAS in July of 2006 the CAO of the City of Winnipeg approved the Fraud, Theft or Related Irregularities Administrative Standard which applies to all civic employees and includes whistleblower protection;

AND WHEREAS the Standard requires that an employee who becomes aware of any incident of fraud or a violation of the code of conduct must report such incidents to their manager or supervisor or if they choose through the City's Fraud Hotline;

AND WHEREAS Council authorized the creation of an anti-fraud hotline and website;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to enhance whistleblower protection for City of Winnipeg staff when reporting waste, mismanagement or unethical behaviour using the proper channels, such as the anti-fraud hotline, to include statutory protection under The City of Winnipeg Charter or The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba in the 2014 Throne Speech has indicated a desire to partner with the City of Winnipeg to make changes to the City of Winnipeg Charter to bring greater accountability at City Hall;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council request the Province of Manitoba to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter or The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle-blower Protection) Act, to include statutory whistleblower protection for civic employees consistent with the protections given to employees under The Province of Manitoba's Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle-blower Protection) Act;

THEREFORE LET IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that all new employees of the City of Winnipeg receive as part of their orientation information on the Fraud, Theft or Related Irregularities Administrative Standard.