Citizen Equity Committee
Bureau d'extension en matière d'équité

Citizen Equity Office
Phone: 204-986-4167 Fax: 204-986-8283

Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB
R3B 1B9

April 16, 2018

Dear Executive Policy Committee:

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg's Citizen Equity Committee, our members are unanimously asking the City of Winnipeg to consider adopting an official Access Without Fear policy.

On September 11, 2017, the Citizen Equity Committee welcomed a delegation including Abdikheir Ahmed, Director of Immigration Partnership Winnipeg, Karen Hamilton, Co-chair of the Migrant Worker Solidarity Network and Diwa Marcelino, Program Coordinator at the Migrante Manitoba to make a formal request that the City of Winnipeg adopt an "Access Without Fear" policy for undocumented immigrants in the City of Winnipeg.

Based on an in depth review of the presentation, but needing further study on the matter, at its November 20, 2017 meeting, the Citizen Equity Committee requested that Mr. Michael Jack, Corporate Support Services Officer, study the policies of other Canadian cities and report back to the January 2018 meeting of the Citizen Equity Committee.

The Administrative Report on January 15, 2018 pointed out that across Canada many cities including Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, have put an "Access" policy in place to ensure that all residents have full access to city delivered services, regardless of immigration status. The policy ensures that the most vulnerable residents are aware that they can receive essential services (housing, water, garbage/ recycling, emergency services, and more) without fear of being detained or deported. The policy would also provide clear direction and relevant information to city employees to assist them in carrying out their duties.

The Citizen Equity Committee is proud that the City of Winnipeg believes strongly in the many voices that represent our city. We are happy to serve as an advisory and advocacy agency on equity and diversity for the Mayor and Council on issues as they impact on the City of Winnipeg policies, procedures and services – and in this capacity we believe it is important to advocate for migrants in our city who may be uncertain about their rights to access essential services.

It is our understanding based on the Administrative Report submitted in January 2018, that the City of Winnipeg already largely embraces the spirit, intent and principles of an Access

Without Fear policy. However, it is the recommendation of the Citizen Equity Committee that the City of Winnipeg:

1. Develop an "Access Without Fear Policy" based on similar scope and enforcement as implemented in cities across Canada; and
2. Provide training for front line staff and managers to ensure that undocumented residents can access services without fear.

The development of this policy will further solidify Winnipeg's commitment to inclusivity and openness.

Thank you for your consideration. The Citizen Equity Committee members would be happy to offer our consultation on this matter if needed.

Sincerely,



Councillor Jason Schreyer
Chair of the City of Winnipeg's Citizen Equity Committee

Attachment: January Administration Report, January 2018

3rd Floor, 510 Main Street • 510, rue Main, 3eme étage • Winnipeg • Manitoba R3B 1B9
tel/tél. (204) 986-4167 • fax/télec. (204) 986-8283