Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 11, 2018

REPORTS

Item No. 18 Scent Free Workplace

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council that an extension of time of 90 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan

That Executive Policy Committee recommend to Council that an extension of time of 90 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On April 26, 2018, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE:

On April 11, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council and submitted the matter to Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 4, 2018, the Governance Committee of Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Administrative Standard on Safety, Health and Organizational Wellness recognizes that "every employee can expect to work in a safe, healthy work environment that supports well-being.";

AND WHEREAS the current City of Winnipeg practice / guideline, as attached, only provides methodologies for dealing with incidents involving scents rather than establishing a workplace policy;

AND WHEREAS environmental sensitivities can occur when individuals are exposed to scented products such air fresheners, cleaning products, perfumes, hairsprays, cosmetics, lotions and body sprays, which may contain respiratory irritants that can trigger sensitivities or aggravate asthma and allergies in certain individuals such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, and skin irritation;

AND WHERESAS the Canadian Human Rights Commission Policy on Environmental Sensitivities identifies environmental sensitivities as a "disability and those living with environmental sensitivities are entitled to the protection of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.";

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Safety Council lists that "chemicals used in fragrances can cause health problems such as shortness of breath, headaches and migraines, nausea, muscle pain, and cold-like symptoms. Asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, and allergies can all be adversely affected by the chemicals found in scented products. According to the Lung Association, one study found that 72 per cent of people with asthma had adverse reactions to perfumes."

AND WHEREAS large organizations including Universities and Health Organizations in Manitoba have implemented scent free / clean air policies to deal with this issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chief Administrative Officer and the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 90 days with a policy on establishing a scent free workplace prohibiting the use of scented products in City of Winnipeg workplaces.

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Further, On April 4, 2018, the following persons submitted communications in support of the matter:

Nancy Boni, Manitoba Anaphylaxis Information Network (MAIN)
Neil Johnston, The Lung Association, Manitoba