Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 12, 2018

REPORTS

Item No. 19. Methamphetamine Crisis

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Provincial and Federal Governments be immediately called upon to establish an intergovernmental task force with the City of Winnipeg, with a mandate to identify prevention and treatment strategies to help individuals suffering from addiction to methamphetamine.

2. That the Federal Government be immediately called upon to do all things necessary to bolster its efforts at international border crossings throughout Canada to prevent methamphetamine entering Canada and specifically Manitoba.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

WHEREAS the increased presence of methamphetamine (meth) in our community is taking a significant toll on the health and well being of many of our citizens;

AND WHEREAS the use of meth is not confined to any specific area or demographic of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS recent crime statistics and police analysis point to increase in crime that is directly related to meth;

AND WHEREAS according to the Winnipeg Police Service a significant amount of the meth currently available in Winnipeg is produced internationally and imported into Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the increased presence of meth on the streets of Winnipeg is requiring increasing amounts of time and resources from the police, paramedics and other health care professionals;

AND WHEREAS although police budgets continue to be increased annually to historic levels, arresting and/or temporarily housing individuals that are addicted to meth is not a long term solution;

AND WHEREAS the causes of meth addiction are complex, the treatments to overcome an addiction to meth are also complex, time and resource intensive and differ according to individual client needs;

AND WHEREAS the City has launched an Illicit Drug Strategy focusing on enforcement, intervention and education;

AND WHEREAS the City has taken steps to make land available for a 50-bed addiction recovery treatment facility at the site of Vimy Arena;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS there is currently a motion before the Standing Committee on Protection Community Services and Parks to establish a "Crystal Meth Crisis Task Force" at the civic level that endeavors to examine the causes and options to treat and prevent the use of meth in our community;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary that governments at all levels commit to work together to address the root cause of meth addiction in our community and develop comprehensive prevention and treatment to help people suffering from an addiction to meth;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate that the current Council call upon our federal and provincial governments to immediately work together with the City of Winnipeg to address the current meth crisis in our City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Council immediately call on the provincial and federal governments to establish an intergovernmental task force with the City of Winnipeg, with a mandate to identify prevention and treatment strategies to help individuals suffering from addiction to methamphetamine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Council immediately call upon the federal government to do all things necessary to bolster its efforts at international border crossings throughout Canada to prevent methamphetamine entering Canada and specifically Manitoba.

and the matter be forwarded to Council.

Carried