REPORTS

Item No. 3 Establishing a Partnership between The North End Community Renewal Corporation and Winnipeg Police Service

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the matter as information.

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 28, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
That the matter be received as information.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

On March 10, 2020, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS a number of community organizations have a partnership with the Winnipeg Police Service resulting in discounted or free criminal record check fees;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg and the Executive Policy Committee on April 30, 2019, acknowledged, amongst many antipoverty initiatives either direct or through community organizations, that assist in paying for criminal record checks for training and employment purposes for those who do not have the money to improve their lives;

AND WHEREAS the North End Community Renewal Corporation works at alleviating poverty in the North End through their PATH, pre-employment program and Building Maintenance Mentorship Program in partnership with Manitoba Housing;

AND WHEREAS the North End Community Renewal Corporation already partners with the city on a number of portfolios such as housing and recreation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council be requested to approve a partnership between the Winnipeg Police Service and the North End Community Renewal Corporation to provide free criminal record checks to their employment program clients.

Request from the North End Community Renewal Corporation

I am contacting you today for information and with the hopes that the City can provide assistance for our program. I worked for the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service for over 20 years. For most of that time out of the Public Safety Building, until the tyndall stone became a hazard, then moved to King. During the first 5 years of my career with WFPS, a job task of mine was to get Criminal Record Checks done at the PSB, not only for staff, but also for City initiatives such as "action programs", where the entire City would participate in "paid work experience" with clients experiencing hardship. The turn around time on these checks was 3 to 4 business days. My understanding was there was a reduced price to our department, and primarily a reduced wait time afforded to WFPS. Further to this, I know that Operation Red-nose has an agreement of some kind with the City for Police Checks, and this is through MPI.

The organization I work for is North End Community Renewal Corporation. NECRC operates on principles of Community Economic Development using a development system approach to bring about renewal in the North End. Our seven development themes: housing; employment; culture and diversity; community; safety; economic and recreation and wellness; combined to maximize the impact of our community initiatives. Our client base are marginalized people with multiple barriers. Two work sites we have are PATH, which is our pre-employment program and Building Maintenance Mentorship Program (BCMP), where we work alongside Manitoba Housing to provide paid training to our client base to learn skills, trades, and secure sustainable employment. BCMP is an employment and training program of North End Community Renewal Corporation. BCMP is dedicated to poverty reduction through employment and training.

Because the people we support come to us with no income and/or a criminal past, it is difficult for them to secure employment, as you can imagine. The greatest challenge at this time is finalizing the job offer. Without the required Criminal Record Checks, due to the inability to pay, they can not secure employment. For most, this is the point where they can not move forward. There are currently no community support groups in Winnipeg, who assist with the cost. North End Community Renewal Corporation would benefit from some kind of subsidized package for these checks. Additionally, once hired, these checks take 6 weeks to be completed. In the case with many of our supported clients who have a criminal past, further requirements such as finger printing become necessary, realizing a further cost.