Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 15, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 8 Restaurant Business Tax Reduction

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee be received as information.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 22, 2020, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on June 18th, 2020 the Executive Policy Committee did not support the motion moved by Councillor Klein on May 29, 2020 to reduce property and business taxes for independently owned restaurants within the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS it was said that a reduction in residential and business tax would not provide much benefit to independent restaurants in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS owners have indicated the above statement is inaccurate given many of these businesses have lost 50% or great in revenues;

AND WHEREAS approximately 4% of independent restaurants have closed indefinitely since the beginning of the pandemic;

AND WHEREAS The Restaurant Association provided the following in formation a) restaurants will be down almost $500 million in sales if they remain restricted until the end of June, b) This closure has resulted in approximately 28,000 lost jobs in Manitoba, c) 36% of restaurants reporting being completely closed;

AND WHEREAS Phase Three of the Provincial Government's restrictions do not allow for restaurants to return to full capacity as the 2-metre physical restriction remains and will negatively impact independent owners, residents, in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS a number of residents, who are the independent restaurant owners, feel the City of Winnipeg is ignoring their concerns, issues, and suggestions;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Policy Committee Finance Chair stated the City could consider a reduction in businesses taxes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg reduce the business taxes imposed on independently owned and operated restaurants by 50%, from June 1, 2020 until November 1, 2020 or until such time the Provincial Government eliminate the 2-metre physical distancing restriction, whichever comes first.