STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION,

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS

MOTIONS

Minute No. 489
Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

WHEREAS all provinces in Canada have civilian governance for police services through boards or commissions that provide oversight to their local police service;

AND WHEREAS these police boards or commissions are governed by different provincial legislation and bylaws;

AND WHEREAS jurisdictions across Canada have different requirements, policies, and procedures for completing background security checks on potential public board members;

AND WHEREAS the Police Services Act Police Board Regulation 2 (3) requires that, "Before being appointed to a municipal police board, a person must provide the appointing authority with a signed consent authorizing inquiries to be made into the person's background, including a search of the child abuse registry established under The Child and Family Services Act and inquiries to determine whether the person has been convicted of, or found guilty of, contravening a federal or provincial enactment, or has any outstanding charges for contravening a federal or provincial enactment awaiting court disposition ";

AND WHEREAS Article 12 of the City of Winnipeg Bylaw No. 148/2012 "Winnipeg Police Board Bylaw" requires that "potential Board members must pass background security checks, without limitation, any background security checks pursuant to the [Police Services] Act";

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Police Commission submitted a report to the Minister of Justice in July 2013 entitled "A Report Examining Security Clearance for Municipal Police Board Appointees" wherein it was recommended that security clearances continue to be provincially regulated and that a person who consented to a background check has an option to request an alternate police service perform the check and if they do so, it is further recommended that it be the RCMP;

AND WHEREAS the current application for a background check states that an applicant can request that the RCMP complete the check;

AND WHEREAS the aforementioned report includes a cross jurisdictional study on the type of background check required for various police boards which provide oversight to their local policing agency;

AND WHEREAS Council, as the appointing authority, wishes to be assured that police board members are capable of exercising their role free of any vulnerability or influence that could bring the administration of justice into disrepute and to ensure that public confidence in the board as a whole and/or as individuals is maintained;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED in order to ensure maximum transparency and neutrality when conducting a background check for the purposes of being appointed to the Winnipeg Police Board, that the Winnipeg Public Service report back in 90 days with an up to date cross jurisdictional review regarding security checks for the purposes of serving on the Winnipeg Police Board that examines:

A. Which Canadian jurisdictions require a background security check;

B. Which agency preforms said background security check;

C. The breadth of the background security check conducted;

D. The intended purpose of the background security check.

Automatic Referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law