Agenda –Council - October 29, 2020

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – October 19, 2020

Item No. 6 Library Fines and Fees

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to waive overdue fines for outstanding library materials and DVD/Blu-Ray account balances to December 31, 2020.

2. That the permanent elimination of fines on overdue library materials be referred to the 2021 Budget Process.

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

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – October 19, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 19, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks passed the following motion:

WHEREAS library fines and fees can be a barrier to basic library access and have a disproportionate effect on youth and low-income households, especially those with children;

AND WHEREAS libraries across North America have adopted fine-free models and are developing policies to support the elimination of late fees and removal of debt for patrons, especially as a measure to address the impact of the global pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is committed to improving efficiency and equitable access to service for all citizens.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks recommend to Council that:

1. The Winnipeg Public Service be directed to waive overdue fines for outstanding library materials and DVD/Blu-Ray account balances to December 31, 2020.

2. Refer the permanent elimination of fines on overdue library materials to the 2021 Budget Process.

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