Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 18, 2020

Report 'A' – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – November 16, 2020

Moved by Councillor

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.

Item No. 4 Cannabis Cultivation in Residential Properties

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 17, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development considered the Council Motion of October 29, 2020, and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 120 days with options legally available to the City to regulate or prohibit the cultivation of cannabis for any purpose, including for medical purposes, in residential neighbourhoods and/or in properties with a residential zoning designation.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

On November 17, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 120 days with options legally available to the City to regulate or prohibit the cultivation of cannabis for any purpose, including for medical purposes, in residential neighbourhoods and/or in properties with a residential zoning designation.

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

The following persons submitted communications in support of the matter:

- Dan Stanski submitted a communication dated November 11, 2020
- Douglas and Wanda Tripunovic submitted a communication dated November 11, 2020
- Carmen Nedohin submitted a communication dated November 12, 2020
- Ed Kolodziej submitted photos and a petition purporting to contain the signatures of 198 area residents
- Mark Galarnyk submitted a communication dated November 13, 2020
- Damir Gospic submitted a communication dated November 15, 2020
- Gail Katz submitted a communication dated November 14, 2020
- Councillor Sharma, Old Kildonan Ward, submitted a communication on behalf of Maureen Bergen

COUNCIL DECISION:

On October 29, 2020, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS the cultivation, possession, acquisition and consumption of cannabis for medical purposes has been permitted in residential properties under certain circumstances pursuant to federal legislation for many years;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the federal Cannabis Act came into effect on October 17, 2018 and made Canada the second country in the world, after Uruguay, to formally legalize the cultivation, possession, acquisition and consumption of cannabis and its by-products for both recreational and medical purposes;

AND WHEREAS there are properties within the City where hundreds of cannabis plants are actively cultivated at any one time, ostensibly under the authority of one or more federal registrations to cultivate cannabis for medical purposes;

AND WHEREAS the cultivation of hundreds of cannabis plants within a single residential dwelling has the potential to create or contribute to negative impacts within neighbourhoods, including but not limited to: odour complaints, long-term damage to buildings, and increased likelihood of criminal activity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 120 days with options legally available to the City to regulate or prohibit the cultivation of cannabis for any purpose, including for medical purposes, in residential neighbourhoods and/or in properties with a residential zoning designation.