Minute No. 54
Report "A" – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – November 16, 2020

Item No. 4 Cannabis Cultivation in Residential Properties

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and adopted the following:

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:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 18, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and submitted the matter to Council.

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 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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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;

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.