Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Anonymous Participation in the Council Committee Process for Assault Survivors

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 9, 2021, the Assiniboia Community Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back on a process to allow citizens who are survivors of assaults and sexual violence to remain anonymous when participating in the Council committee process.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 9, 2021, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS it's incredibly difficult for survivors of assaults and domestic violence to be vocal on their experiences and opinions in public forums; including with members of the public service, within legislative settings and council or committee meetings;

AND WHEREAS lack of voice from survivors of assaults and domestic violence, excludes a portion of the population from participation in key democratic processes which influence how the public service, police forces, and society view and deal with assaults and domestic violence;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg already takes steps to remove barriers to accessing and participating in the democratic processes and governance of the City of Winnipeg in areas such as disabilities, age, newcomers, indigenous cultural practices and French language rights;

AND WHEREAS it's a key function of democracy to give voice to those marginalized and silenced by current societal cultures and associated governance structures;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Charter states that the Purposes of the city 5(1)(a) includes "to provide good government for the city.";

AND WHEREAS breaking down barriers to participation in the democratic process and in civic governance is recognized to be beneficial to the City and society as a whole, and not only for the individuals facing the barriers;

AND WHEREAS the City has developed an Accessibility Plan, last updated in 2019, and should act to continuously improve on this policy;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Accessibility Plan must be reviewed at least every two years under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act, with a review required in 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on a process to allow citizens who are survivors of assaults and sexual violence to remain anonymous when participating in the Council committee process.