Minute No. 371
Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2021

Item No. 18 Support of Canadian News Media

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That Council recognize that a healthy, professional news media is important to the proper functioning of democracy in our city.

2. That Council place on record its support for future legislation and regulation which support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada.

3. That the Federal Government be urged to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians.

4. 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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Pursuant to The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act, The Speaker, Councillor Sharma advised that she would refrain from entering the discussion and from voting on this item because of a potential perceived conflict of interest. Councillor Sharma called the Deputy Speaker to the Chair and left the Chamber.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

His Worship Mayor Bowman called for the yeas and nays which were as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Eadie, Gilroy, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Schreyer 10

Nay: Councillors Chambers, Gillingham, Klein, Lukes and Nason 5

Absent: Councillor Sharma 1

and the motion was declared carried.

Councillor Sharma hereby returned to the Chamber.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 21, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS a healthy, professional news media is important to the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal, and international levels;

AND WHEREAS the Public Policy Forum declares in its report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* that “real news is in crisis”;

AND WHEREAS Canadians have lost the services provided by roughly 3,000 media workers across Canada due to temporary and permanent layoffs from the time the COVID-19 pandemic began;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government acknowledged in its 2019 Budget that “a strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy.”;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS the news media in the Winnipeg area has been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have accurate local information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommend to Council:

1. That Council recognize that a healthy, professional news media is important to the proper functioning of democracy in our city.

2. That Council place on record its support for future legislation and regulation which support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada.

3. That the Federal Government be urged to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians.

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