Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 18, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Financial Support for the Main Street Project Van Patrol Outreach Program

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 25, 2021, Council concurred in the March 17, 2021, recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, as amended, and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, as well as the St. Boniface Street Links mobile community support unit, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba."

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 25, 2021, Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Main Street Project's Van Patrol mobile support services unit provides emergency shelter warm clothing, blankets, water, coffee and food to unsheltered community members in the western part of the city;

AND WHEREAS St. Boniface Street Links also provides similar mobile support services to the community in the eastern part of the city;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Recommendation 1. of Item 7 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 25, 2021 be amended to read as follows.

"1. That the Winnipeg Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, as well as the St. Boniface Street Links mobile community support unit, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba."

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 17, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba.

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

and submitted the matter to Council.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 25, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS Main Street Project (MSP) currently operates the only van patrol outreach program for unsheltered residents that operates 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year;

AND WHEREAS MSP's van patrol program is supporting unsheltered residents, and a principal partner in the City of Winnipeg's Voluntary Transport Protocol, Emergency Cold Weather Response System and non-emergency related transportation for those in need;

AND WHEREAS during the cold snap outreach teams receive hundreds of calls every night from concerned Winnipeggers; including calls from the City of Winnipeg's 311 unit; to which they respond by seeking out those in the community who appear to be at risk providing help such as a ride to their emergency shelter, or to provide warm clothing, water, coffee, food and harm reduction supplies;

AND WHEREAS MSP has written to all members of Council seeking funding support for ongoing operating costs for its van patrol outreach program;

AND WHEREAS MSP advises that it currently only has confirmed funding from Canada for the overnight portion of its van patrol beyond March 2021, leaving no funding for the van patrol outreach program during the evening or daytime;

AND WHEREAS all three levels of government have a role to play to ensure the safety and well being of unsheltered residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31st, 2021 and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba.