Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – June 16, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 7 Request to the Province of Manitoba for the Establishment of Property Insurance to be Provided by Manitoba Public Insurance

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 27, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Eadie
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy

WHEREAS the original intentions for Manitoba Public Insurance included providing affordable public property insurance;

AND WHEREAS properties in many areas of Winnipeg and more than likely other Manitoba cities are finding it very difficult to find underwriters who underwrite property insurance, and upon finding an underwriter, the prices are very high from spreading their total operational losses to maintain their profit margin;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Housing is a big stakeholder in providing affordable housing to Manitobans which becomes very difficult in the face of rising uncontrollable costs;

AND WHEREAS on top of escalating renovation and construction costs, many of the affordable housing entities the City of Winnipeg is trying to support are paying over 30% insurance increases to maintain underwriters' profits;

AND WHEREAS private affordable housing providers in some areas of the city are paying double and triple property insurance increases, resulting in an inability to keep rents down while making a living;

AND WHEREAS group policies can reduce insurance fees and do provide discounts in areas around the cities, but the underwriters still make substantial profits while reducing their risk by having the group delist certain properties from the group depending on where the properties exist;

AND WHEREAS many micro and small businesses are having difficulty obtaining property insurance in struggling areas of the city, and when insurance underwriters can be found, the businesses are paying substantially more than their property taxes, causing decisions to move out of these areas of the city;

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the city commissioned 2018 Fire Underwriters Survey report only dealt with city wide responses to risks with no reference to dealing with other risk factors that exist in postal code areas like R2W, R2X and other postal codes in the inner city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council request the Province of Manitoba to have Manitoba Public Insurance establish public property insurance for areas of Winnipeg and other Manitoba cities to maintain the public interest in viable businesses and properly insured residential properties.