Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 13, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 7 Decriminalization for Simple Possession of Illicit Drugs

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 17, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee granted an extension of time to its March 14, 2023 meeting for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the following:

3. That subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, to allow for a whole of government approach, that the Public Service be directed to report back in 120 days with a process to review requests for letters of support by Community Based Organizations in Winnipeg who wish to apply to Health Canada for an exemption from provisions of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The process developed by the Public Service should not overburden organizations in their application process but rather afford the entire Public Service an opportunity to ensure organizations making an application have the resources they need to provide the support for the four pillars and six policy and practice recommendations, as outlined in Attachment A and B.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

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David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 26, 2022, Council concurred in the May 18, 2022, recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, as amended, and adopted the following:

1. That Council place on record its support of the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs "four pillar approach", as outlined in Attachment A, including supervised consumptions sites, decriminalization of simple possession, safe supply, and diversion and treatment, and the Policy Brief on Indigenous Harm Reduction approach including their six policy and practice recommendations, as outlined in Attachment B.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

    A. Communicate Council’s support of Recommendation 1 to the Federal Minister of Public Safety and the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs.

    B. Request that the Federal and Provincial Governments take action that would financially support the four pillars and six policy and practice recommendations including treatment and diversion as part of the decriminalization of simple possession of illicit drugs, as outlined in Attachment A and B.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

C. Request an update from the Federal Government on the adoption of a framework that encompasses a comprehensive approach to address drug-related issues and obtain an update on fairness, affordability and accessibility of criminal record suspensions and the progress for Black and Indigenous Winnipeggers and report back to the Executive Policy Committee with this information.

3. That subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, to allow for a whole of government approach, that the Public Service be directed to report back in 120 days with a process to review requests for letters of support by Community Based Organizations in Winnipeg who wish to apply to Health Canada for an exemption from provisions of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The process developed by the Public Service should not overburden organizations in their application process but rather afford the entire Public Service an opportunity to ensure organizations making an application have the resources they need to provide the support for the four pillars and six policy and practice recommendations, as outlined in Attachment A and B.

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