STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

MOTIONS

Minute No. 181
Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS hookah lounges have become popular in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS many other municipal and provincial governments are looking into specific requirements for establishments that serve hookah on their premises;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and City of Winnipeg should be reviewing existing best practices and working together to ensure the health and safety for patrons and employees of hookah lounges;

AND WHEREAS research that shows that both tobacco and non-tobacco hookah use may expose users and bystanders to hazardous levels of air pollutants, including elevated levels of carbon monoxide;

AND WHEREAS Many of the Hookah lounges are open after hours for parties and events and there are no regulations over seeing these venues and ensuring the safety of those visiting, working and or living near to hookah lounges;

AND WHEAREAS studies suggest that non-tobacco hookah smoke contains high levels of carcinogens, carbon monoxide and other harmful pollutants;

AND WHEREAS carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer and is very hard to detect because it is odorless, colorless and the symptoms are hard to detect in a timely manner;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services have had to abruptly shut down hookah lounges due to high-levels of carbon monoxide in the air and concerns for the safety or patrons and workers of the establishments;

AND WHEREAS there have also been concerns with respect to the higher-than-normal carbon monoxide detected at buildings and apartments surrounding hookah lounges;

AND WHEREAS there are currently no specific requirements in place for establishments that serve hookah on their premises as the establishments are often licensed as either dining or beverage rooms;

Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Motions (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

1. Conduct a jurisdictional scan of regulatory practices around hookah use in provinces and larger Canadian municipalities.

2. Consult with the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba to determine appropriate regulations for hookah establishments, including but not limited to:

    A. additional ventilation system requirements.

    B. licensing conditions and additional safety measures to ensure the health and safety of patrons, workers and the general public in the vicinity of hookah establishments.

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

Automatic Referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law