Minute No. 502
Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 16, 2021

Item No. 15 Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That Council endorse the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Cities Appeal.

2. That the Government of Canada be urged to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons put forward by the United Nations on July 7, 2017 and supported by 122 nations.

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

Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 16, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 16, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council and submitted the matter to Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 9, 2021, the Human Rights Committee of Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth and can destroy an entire city, potentially killing millions, jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. The dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence;

AND WHEREAS although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare—in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—about 14,500 reportedly remain globally. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a difficult challenge;

AND WHEREAS the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in 100 countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and the Human Rights Committee of Council's Sub-Committee on Access and Inclusion both recommended support of the ICAN Cities Appeal;

AND WHEREAS residents of Winnipeg including Co-chairs of the first-ever Youth Nuclear Peace Summit which was held at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights have approached the City of Winnipeg with concerns about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world;

Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 16, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS Canadian municipalities may be a target in the event of a nuclear exchange either by accident or through intent, or inadvertent escalation of tensions;

AND WHEREAS the lives of Canadian residents in municipalities could be affected through any nuclear exchange with potential issues of global climate change, world food production and national or global economic order;

AND WHEREAS national treaties fall under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada, municipalities will be responsible for dealing with the fallout of a nuclear exchange using municipal services and emergency services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Committee of Council recommend to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That Council endorse the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Cities Appeal.

2. That the Government of Canada be urged to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons put forward by the United Nations on July 7, 2017 and supported by 122 nations.

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