Minute No. 358
Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 18, 2023

Item No. 4 Use of TikTok on City of Winnipeg Issued Devices

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the use of TikTok on City of Winnipeg issued devices be prohibited effective immediately, unless authorized for a specific purpose by the Chief Technology Officer of the City of Winnipeg.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

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

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 18, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the Council Motion of March 23, 2023, and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 23, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Duncan,

WHEREAS TikTok is a social media platform that has been linked to potential security risks;

AND WHEREAS according to TikTok's privacy policy, the app can access a user's personal data among other information; aside from using this data to personalize its algorithm, it can also share it with other social networks or to advertisers and other subsidiaries or affiliates with its corporate group;

AND WHEREAS other governments including the Federal Government of Canada has joined the US and EU in enacting a sweeping ban preventing TikTok from being installed on all government-issued mobile devices;

AND WHEREAS many chief information officers across Canada have determined and stated publicly the app "presents an unacceptable level of risk to privacy and security”;

AND WHEREAS all data is stored within China, as a result there are mounting concerns this information will be shared with the Chinese government for intelligence purposes and surveillance;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS government issued devices may contain sensitive and personal data of residents that must remain protected to ensure the high level of integrity that exists when communicating with residents and non-public data can be accessed or released and users may be vulnerable to surveillance, TikTok can use a phone's SIM card or IP address to track your location even if you aren't currently using the app – as it has access to other apps on the phone;

AND WHEREAS the use of government issued devices should be limited to activities that are necessary for the performance of official duties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the use of TikTok on City of Winnipeg issued devices be prohibited effective immediately, unless authorized for a specific purpose by the Chief Technology Officer of the City of Winnipeg.

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