Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 5, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 13 Garbage Clean Up at Encampments (Point Douglas Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and approved the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service conduct a cross-jurisdictional scan, included but not limited to, major capital cities in North America of sanctioned encampment sites and report back within 120 days to the appropriate standing policy committee.

2. The Winnipeg Public Service provide a report within 120 days on the resource requirements (including operational implications and funding requirements) to conduct mindful garbage cleanups at all of the encampments throughout the city for two different frequency service options: 1) weekly and 2) bi-weekly;

3. The Winnipeg Public Service provide a report within 120 days on the operational costs on the garbage cleanups of vacant encampments between the years of 2018 to date, together with identifying service gaps in removing large amounts of bulky garbage in a timely fashion (i.e. within 48 hours); and

4. The Winnipeg Public Service engage with existing Outreach Service Providers to determine what role(s) they would be prepared to fulfill in any of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee be concurred in.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 15, 2023, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS there are numerous encampments along the City of Winnipeg riverbanks and parks;

AND WHEREAS there are significant environmental, health, life safety and fire hazards issues at all the encampments;

AND WHEREAS there continues to be ongoing work, collaboration and conversations between all major stakeholders about the root causes to poverty, addictions and homelessness;

AND WHEREAS the City and outreach providers have been working closely with vulnerable residents living in encampments to rectify and deal with the health, life safety and fire hazard issues;

AND WHEREAS one of the long-term solutions to homelessness is providing more housing first models, together with culturally appropriate 24/7 wrap around supports;

AND WHEREAS in the interim there is a desire to have a human rights based approach to supporting the unsheltered residents with dignity, respect and compassion so that the City and outreach providers can assist in a mindful garbage removal at all of the encampment sites across the city;

AND WHEREAS there are still service gaps in removing the large amounts of bulky garbage in a timely fashion, after the encampment has been properly vacated, and the vulnerable person(s) have confirmed to been housed or provided with the appropriate wrap around supports;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee recommend to the Executive Policy Committee that:

1. The Winnipeg Public Service conduct a cross-jurisdictional scan, included but not limited to, major capital cities in North America of sanctioned encampment sites and report back within 120 days to the appropriate standing policy committee;

2. The Winnipeg Public service provide a report within 120 days on the resource requirements (including operational implications and funding requirements) to conduct mindful garbage cleanups at all of the encampments throughout the city for two different frequency service options: 1) weekly and 2) bi-weekly;

3. The Winnipeg Public Service provide a report within 120 days on the operational costs on the garbage cleanups of vacant encampments between the years of 2018 to date, together with identifying service gaps in removing large amounts of bulky garbage in a timely fashion (i.e. within 48 hours); and

4. The Winnipeg Public Service engage with existing Outreach Service Providers to determine what role(s) they would be prepared to fulfill in any of the foregoing.