Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 16, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 19 Operating Agreement with Province of Manitoba for Operation of Community Safety Team

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to approve, enter into and execute an Operating Agreement with the Province of Manitoba (Manitoba Justice) to permit the operation of a "community safety officer program", as that term is defined in *The Police Services Act*.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Operating Agreement with Province of Manitoba for Operation of Community Safety Team

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
M. Jack	M. Jack	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the 2023 budget, Council approved the creation of what is now referred to as the Community Safety Team, including the creation of 27 Full Time Equivalents and a supporting budget. Once operational, the initial focus of the Community Safety Team will be on the Winnipeg Transit system to enhance safety and security for all stakeholders, including Transit riders and Operators.

In order to fully implement all aspects of the operations of the Community Safety Team in a timely manner, it is recommended that the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) be delegated the authority to enter into an Operating Agreement with the Province of Manitoba (Manitoba Justice) as required under *The Police Services Act*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to approve, enter into and execute an Operating Agreement with the Province of Manitoba (Manitoba Justice) to permit the operation of a “community safety officer program”, as that term is defined in *The Police Services Act.*

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to enter into a legal agreement with another entity, unless that authority is delegated.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no immediate implications to the Recommendations of this report. The CAO will have the delegated authority to approve, enter into and execute an agreement with the provincial Minister of Justice to permit the City of Winnipeg to operate a "community safety officer program", as that term is defined in *The Police Services Act*. Funding for the program has been approved by Council through the 2023 budget.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In the 2023 budget, Council approved the creation of what is now referred to as the Community Safety Team, including the creation of 27 Full Time Equivalents and a supporting budget. Once operational, the initial focus of the Community Safety Team will be on the Winnipeg Transit system to enhance safety and security for all stakeholders, including Transit riders and Operators.

Recent amendments to *The Police Services Act* (that are yet to be proclaimed) will permit the City of Winnipeg to create and operate this Community Safety Team. One prerequisite under the Act is for the City to enter into an Operating Agreement with the provincial Minister of Justice.

Some of the relevant provisions of the Act (as recently amended) are as follows:

Agreement re community safety officer program

77.3(1) A municipality that seeks to operate a community safety program must, after consulting with the local policing authority, enter into an agreement with the minister respecting the operation of the program.

Required terms of agreement

77.3(2) An agreement respecting the operation of a community safety officer program must address the following issues:

(a) management of the program;

(b) financing of the program;

(c) the direction and supervision of community safety officers;

(d) the relationship between the local policing authority and community safety officers;

(e) the process for dealing with complaints respecting the conduct of community safety officers;

(f) termination of the agreement.

Robust discussion has occurred between the Public Service and counterparts within Manitoba Justice, and a draft Operating Agreement is in the final stages. Proclamation of the legislative

amendments is expected to occur imminently, and must occur before the Operating Agreement can be finalized and entered into by the parties.

The City has hired 21 Safety Officers to comprise the Community Safety Team, and those recruits are set to begin training in mid-January. Those who successfully complete the training will graduate on February 16, 2024.

It is the hope and expectation that the graduates will be legally able to exercise their full range of duties as soon they graduate and, for that reason, the recommended delegation of authority may be necessary to ensure an Operating Agreement will be approved and in place by that date.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: January 9, 2024

Project Name:
Operating Agreement with Province of Manitoba for Operation of Community Safety Team

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Community Safety Team
- Manitoba Justice

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Goal: Environmental Resilience
2.9 Reduce Road Congestion: Increase the efficiency, convenience and usage of the active and public transportation system, to improve air quality, provide a viable alternative to the automobile, and reduce current and future road congestion.
Goal: Economic Prosperity
3.17 Sustainable Transportation Connectivity: Prioritize enhancements to the integrated and sustainable transportation system that improve its viability and access to places such as educational institutions, employment opportunities, recreation and library facilities, providers of essential goods and services and health providers, especially for children, and for neighbourhoods most impacted by poverty.
Goal: Good Health and Well-Being
4.6 Community Safety: Facilitate a culture of safety and crime prevention across the City and community, by building trusting relationships to enable collaborative action.
4.10 Transportation Safety: Design, construct, maintain, and regulate an integrated and sustainable transportation system and related infrastructure that optimize safe, connected and reliable mobility, and minimize severe injuries and fatalities for all road users.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

This report aligns with the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy's Guiding Principles to Promote and Maintain the Welfare of all Residents and Develop Trust and Meaningful Partnerships to find solutions and drive change; the 10 Year Objective Goal 5 (C) that collaboration with community partners improves access to safe and secure transportation by all residents; and the 10 Year Objective Goal 8 (B) that there is increased safety and security of Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQ+ people, and youth, as the City pursues partnerships and joint initiatives, and prioritizes safety in its decision-making.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the CAO
Prepared by: Michael Jack
Date: January 9, 2024