Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 7:59:48 PM

Personal information
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Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 12: proposed grant intake and review process - Appendix 1: community and neighbourhood grant program by-law

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A
Comments in writing: Hello, I am writing in as a member of the community to address the proposed plan to cut community grants. These grants as they currently exist are already insufficient, leaving community organizations and resources in a constant struggle to even serve the people and community they exist for. Cutting them essentially ensures that the most vulnerable individuals in this city will without any doubt fall through the cracks.

This is especially true in regards to organizations that work with youth; there is a clear correlation, well-known from many many years of tireless sociological research, between providing youth with recreational activities in a positive environment and the reduction of youth crime and increase of community safety. These youth are so often already failed by the systems in place around them--CFS, schools, home--but spaces that allow for them to engage with others in a positive pro-social manner can aid in keeping these youth from falling into gangs, drugs, etc. Police that are meant to deal with these issues through the means of arrest and incarceration are far more expensive and only act once these youth have already been allowed to slip through the cracks. It is absolutely essential for organizations working with youth to exist with adequate funding lest we spend exponentially more on police intervention for problems that could have been prevented entirely if community resources had the funding and support to function as they intend.

So, if I may conclude: I, as well as many who live in this city, do not believe this proposal should be passed. Our most vulnerable are in dire need of the services these grants fund and I truly cannot overstate enough that this is genuinely a life or death issue for hundreds of people in this city. You have a responsibility as elected representatives of the City of Winnipeg to everyone who calls this city home, regardless of class, ethnicity, education level, disability, or anything else. You are meant to represent all of us, rich and poor alike, I ask you do not forget that.

Thank you for your time,