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Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 10:37:02 AM

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Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): Item #12. Propsed Grant Intake and Review Process

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A
Comments in writing: We need to invest more, not less, in community grants for inner-city youth. With the rise in violent youth crime and the extreme poverty and conditions that many inner-city youth face, it seems irresponsible and callous to consider removing opportunities that keep youth connected to a sense of safety and a larger support system that cares about their well-being. Relying on policing is not the answer as Winnipeg Police Supt. Dave Dalal states "We can't arrest our way out of this problem, we need other solutions that are addressing the root causes."

Unless there is another alternative and extensive long-term plan that the city has, our best bet is investing in the programs that are already doing this important work of relationship building, providing activities, food security and safe space.

Stated in COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN 2023-2026

Item 1.4 ACTION: Expand access to existing facilities and programming for recreation, library, community gathering and 24/7 safe spaces, especially downtown.

OUTCOME: Improve access to safe community spaces

Item 3.2 ACTION: Co-create a city-wide community safety, well-being and crime prevention action plan in collaboration with community-level partner agencies and stakeholders.

OUTCOME: Increase safety and well-being

Item 3.6 ACTION: Increase funding to implement the Winnipeg Recreation Strategy.

OUTCOME: Improve access to library and recreation services and facilities

The city must implement and fund these plans. I stand in solidarity with community organizations that firmly oppose both the proposed alterations to the Community Grants Program review process and the substantial 62% reduction in funding for the critical initiatives that directly contribute to community safety, development and poverty reduction. Please reconsider these proposed changes and instead:

1. Maintain the existing grants review process.
2. Reinstate the 2.1 million dollars to the fund.
3. Expand the reach of the program by adding additional funds to it.

The cuts and the new review process threaten the stability and effectiveness of organizations that are essential to building a safer, healthier and more inclusive Winnipeg.