Minutes – City Centre Community Committee – May 29, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Coordination with Railway Companies Regarding Encampments on Railway Property

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The City Centre Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to review and report back on amendments to the City of Winnipeg's encampment response protocols and related by-law enforcement practices to ensure that when encampments are identified on railway-owned lands, the City will notify the applicable railway company and coordinate with the railway operator regarding appropriate response and removal actions.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has established encampment response protocols and by-laws intended to protect public safety, connect vulnerable individuals to supports, and address unsafe encampments throughout the city;

AND WHEREAS encampments located on or adjacent to active railway lands present significant safety risks due to proximity to rail operations, dangerous goods transportation, trespassing hazards, and limited emergency access;

AND WHEREAS residents have raised concerns that when encampments are reported on railway-owned lands, the City of Winnipeg has declined to take further action on the basis that the property is privately owned by railway companies;

AND WHEREAS members of the public do not have direct access to the appropriate railway contacts, operational departments, or emergency coordination channels necessary to ensure timely action and safe removal of encampments;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg maintains working relationships and communication channels with railway companies and is in a better position to coordinate responses related to public safety concerns;

AND WHEREAS a coordinated approach between the City of Winnipeg, outreach agencies, and railway operators would improve safety outcomes for both vulnerable individuals and surrounding communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to review and report back on amendments to the City of Winnipeg's encampment response protocols and related by-law enforcement practices to ensure that when encampments are identified on railway-owned lands, the City will notify the applicable railway company and coordinate with the railway operator regarding appropriate response and removal actions.

Carried