**Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development dated June 27, 2002**

**Proposed Amendment to Procedure - Street Name Changes of a Minor Nature**
**File SC-3.14 (Vol. 11)**

12. The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development has been advised that the current process for street name changes involves submission of an administrative report to Community Committee, recommendations by the Community Committee and the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, consideration by Executive Policy Committee, followed by a decision by Council. In the case of street name changes of a minor nature, such as spelling corrections, it would be more efficient for the Planning, Property and Development Department to prepare the by-law and send it directly to Council.

Section 500 of The City of Winnipeg Act gives the City certain authority in regard to naming of streets, and provides that "no by-law for altering the name of any street shall have any force or effect until registered in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office". Current procedure requires that all street name changes be submitted through the relevant Community Committees for a recommendation then forwarded on to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and then on to Council for approval.

The Planning, Property and Development Department has been charged with the maintenance of the street naming system within the City of Winnipeg. The naming of streets and changes to existing streets is processed under the following circumstances prior to reports being prepared:

1. New Plan of Subdivision in which new street names are required; or
2. Individuals or groups requesting a street name change to reflect private preferences; or
3. The Administration itself requests a name change to correct spelling, eliminate duplication, or correct street types.

The current process requires that all such proposed changes be referred to the relevant Community Committees. Following recommendation by the Community Committee and Standing Policy Committee, all changes to existing street names must be approved by Council, and include a recommendation that a by-law be prepared by the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services for approval by Council. A by-law is necessary to change a street name registered by Plan in the Winnipeg Land Titles Offices. Approval of new street names to be used on new plans of subdivision require only Community Committee approval for the designation, but are processed through Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and Council as part of the plan approval for the subdivision to have the names registered.

Recently, through a number of housekeeping initiatives, a significant number of name changes falling under the third category above have been required and it is expected that this will

continue as records are reviewed. For the most part they involve street name incongruities, which have been of a very minor nature with no impact on any citizens. A few examples of the above changes include the following:

- DeBaets to De Baets (to correct spelling and reflect common usage)
- Cascade Bay North and South to Cascade Bay (to reflect common usage)
- Durham Bay East and West to Durham Bay (to reflect common usage)
- Small piece of Sparling Avenue to Harrow Street to correct an oversight on a previous plan registration

In each of the above cases the change was of a minor nature with no impact to any owners. However all of the changes were required to go though the full review by Community Committee, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and Council.

In cases such as the above, the Administration is of the opinion that the changes could be processed in a similar fashion to an "Errors and Omissions" By-law. This form of by-law is used to make amendments to existing by-laws, which are of such a minor nature that the Administration sends the amending by-law directly to Council rather than following the full Committee process.

Therefore the Planning, Property and Development Department is seeking authority for the Administration to be able to submit a street name change by-law directly to Council in those cases where the street name change is of a minor nature with no foreseeable impact on citizens or business and no other costs will be incurred.

However under this authority, new street names and street name changes where residents are impacted would continue to be processed through the relevant Community Committees.

This issue was reviewed and discussed with the Legal Services Division of the Corporate Services Department. It was concluded that Council could authorize the Director of Planning, Property and Development to directly submit street name change by-laws of a minor nature as described above to Council without the necessity of a Committee involvement. Such authorization could be accomplished by amendment to the City Organization By-law.

On June 27, 2002, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development did not concur in the recommendation contained in the report dated June 13, 2002, from the Director of Planning, Property and Development, to refer the matter to all Community Committees for comment, but rather recommended approval of the proposed procedural change.

The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development recommends:

I. That the Planning, Property and Development Department be delegated the authority to send Street Name Change By-laws directly to Council where the changes are of a

"housekeeping" or minor nature, without the need to have them processed through the relevant Community Committee and the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

II. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be requested to prepare for submission to Council the necessary by-law amendment to implement the intent of the foregoing.

III. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.