STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 177
Councillor Angus questioned why the Executive Policy Committee was not keeping its commitment to consult the public in regards to the Public Use Facility Study.

Councillor Steeves noted that all of the Councillors have had a chance to meet with their ward residents and the administration on the PUFS report and talk about their specific ward and larger issues in terms of the City as a whole. He questioned if there was a benefit to opening up the study to a mass public consultation or if time would be better spent on specific ward issues that require public consultation.

Councillor Benham questioned why the City would not want to consult the public on creating an overall strategy for pools, libraries and recreation facilities.

Councillor Steeves advised that there has been, from his perspective, no final decision on consultation. He noted that they were not going to attempt to make any of the hard decisions without any consultation, but whether or not the consultation involves the massive document or more specific ward issues, still had to be decided on.

Councillor Angus questioned the status of the Fire and Ambulance services amalgamation.

Councillor Steeves noted that the Mayor had had discussions with the Chief and union members, but that he was not in a position to say what those discussions were about.

Councillor Angus questioned if the Standing Committee Chairperson had had any communication with the Fire Paramedic Chief.

Councillor Steeves confirmed he had had communications with the Chief but that he was not in a position to offer up any more information.

Councillor Magnifico made reference to the vice, robbery and gang units of the Winnipeg Police Services working only day shifts with weekends off and noted that manned evenings and weekends were paid at a rate of time and a half; he questioned whether this could be looked at and changed in the next contract agreement.

Councillor Steeves noted that this was fundamentally a question of overtime pay and that the Winnipeg Police Services were looking at the issue currently.

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Councillor Magnifico questioned when the current agreement ended and was advised the date was December 23, 2004. Councillor Steeves cautioned that the negotiation process with the police union was an In Camera matter.

Councillor Wyatt questioned if the issue of requiring 24 hour, two officer cruiser cars across the City was on the table for discussion to which Councillor Steeves advised he would not entertain any questions on contract negotiation discussions.

Councillor Wyatt asked if the Chairperson would be prepared to call a Special In Camera meeting of the Standing Committee to discuss these matters. The Deputy Speaker ruled the question out of order.