

## 2021-5 Police Accountability and the Reallocation of Resources

### Mover: Black History Month Community Collective

**Whereas:** Racial profiling and the disproportionate use of deadly force against Black and Indigenous community members by the Winnipeg Police Service has been compounded by the lack of community resources to address poverty, addictions, and mental health issues.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg is spending the highest percentage of the municipal budget on the police service when compared to other large Canadian cities.

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Police Service budget has continued to increase year over year while community-based organizations have experienced cuts to funding.

**Whereas:** Indigenous community members in Manitoba are 6.6 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population, and Black community members in Manitoba were 4.5 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population.

**Whereas:** While there have been record high investments in policing and incarceration, Winnipeg's violent crime rate has continued to rise over these last six years.

**Whereas:** Addiction and mental health services currently available are not adequately funded to meet the needs of our communities

**Whereas:** Funding currently spent on policing should be redirected to address community building initiatives and mental health care and addictions interventions.

**Whereas:** The current mandate letter from the Premier of Manitoba to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba contains several ideas for addressing the root causes of crime and enhancing community supports, such as focusing on crime prevention, directing offenders away from crime, enhancing supports for survivors of domestic abuse, and modernize and improve the delivery of addictions and mental health services.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg needs to support its Newcomer Welcome & Inclusion Strategy by acting on the measures in the Strategy and addressing systemic racism, including in the Winnipeg Police Service.

**Whereas:** Enhancing police accountability and reallocating police resources supports Community Economic Development by promoting sustainable livelihoods, redirecting resources to community-led development initiatives, community-based organizations, and social economy enterprises, and enhances social capital.

**Whereas:** This resolution supports the following themes: The Local and Fair Economies theme notes that local and fair economies reduce crime; the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access theme area notes that the rate of violent crime against women in Manitoba is double the national average and the second highest rate in the country and recommends applying a gender-based analysis framework to improve socio-economic outcomes for women by ensuring that women are taken into consideration in all government policies, programs and legislation; and the Ending Poverty theme

area notes that there is a direct correlation between low-incomes and poverty and the justice system, the child welfare system, and health services, and that social housing, a form of affordable housing subsidized by public dollars, saves public money through reduced health, social services, and justice system costs.

**Be It Resolved That:**

- A. Manitoba Justice and the City of Winnipeg meet with community-based organizations to co-create policies to address long standing concerns about police accountability, violence, and systemic discrimination against Indigenous and Black communities;
- B. The City of Winnipeg reinstate the funding to community programs that was cut in the 2020-2024 budget process as well as the more recent cuts that were made in response to COVID-19;
- C. The City of Winnipeg establish clear targets and timelines for the measures identified in the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy, including reversing the removal of Access Without Fear section of the policy, and provide adequate funding to meet the targets of the policy
- D. The City of Winnipeg reduce funding to policing at least 10% for the 2021-22 fiscal year, and further reductions in future years based on community input, and redirect the funds to community building initiatives and mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Through the Police Accountability Coalition in consultation with endorsing organizations. CCEDNet members are encouraged to endorse the calls outlined in the Police Accountability Coalition's Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources if they have not already.