

## 2024-5 Police Accountability and the Reallocation of Resources

### Mover: Social Planning Council of Winnipeg as a member of the Police Accountability Coalition

The Province of Manitoba, through Manitoba Justice, and the City of Winnipeg should meet with community-based organizations to co-create policies to address long standing concerns about police accountability, violence, and systemic discrimination against Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities with the goal of decreasing the role and eventually the cost of policing in creating safer and fully inclusive community, not just in Winnipeg but across Manitoba;

#### The City of Winnipeg should:

- A. Expand, rather than cut or reallocate within current recipients, funding to Community Grants program. Create a specific Call for Proposals to expand City investment in programs that promote safety through inclusive community building efforts.
- B. 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.
- C. Engage with the Province to further consult with all racialized communities on how to revise the Police Services Act to expand the role of civilian led police boards to better ensure community expectations of their police services are met through defining what specific roles the police should hold to better meet community belonging and safety for all.
- D. Commit to fund fulsome and responsive community consultations on the expectations prior to the implementation of race-based data collection, the body-worn camera pilot project and the evaluation of the Transit Community Safety Officer program.
- E. Commit to working with community to develop a community led response to people in crisis as opposed to the current police led Alternative Response to Citizens in Crisis (ARCC). Winnipeg, with the Province must reverse their promised continued and expanded investment in ARCC and commit to developing a response that is embedded within community-based organizations as per PAC's position paper.
- F. Fully resource the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy to enable the City to make substantive progress on its two overarching Life Poles of Affordable Housing and Indigenous Children, Youth and Families.

**Because:** Indigenous, Black and other racialized Winnipeggers as well as recent Newcomers to Canada are over-represented in poverty (C2000 MB Reports).

**Because:** 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.

**Because:** The City of Winnipeg continues to spend disproportionately high amounts, when compared to what other jurisdictions spend on policing, on the Winnipeg Police Service. Given that Winnipeg's violent crime

rate rose 26% from 2021 to 2022, we are not seeing improved community safety and wellbeing to justify this investment.

**Because:** The Winnipeg Police Service budget has continued to increase year over year while community-based organizations continue to be under and precariously funded.

**Because:** 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.

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

**Because:** The current mandate letter (2023) from the Premier of Manitoba to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba stipulates a “top priority to ensure that all Manitobans are safe and have access to fair and just treatment before the law. This work includes acknowledging the disproportionate representation of Indigenous Manitobans in the justice system and finding ways to respond that are correspondent to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.” And that the minister “will work closely with your colleagues in other ministries to make our communities safer, address the root causes of crime and protect vulnerable Manitobans.”

**Because:** The City of Winnipeg needs to demonstrate fulsome commitment to the joint community and City led development of its Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Strategy by acting on the measures in the strategy and addressing systemic racism, including in the Winnipeg Police Service.

**Because:** Affected communities deserve input into how race-based data will be collected and then used, including who can and how it will be accessed and shared.

**Because:** The evidence on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras to curb police violence is mixed and other jurisdictions have implemented policies that favour the police over community members, community members here deserve input on when cameras will be in operation, who can and when access the footage and under what circumstances will footage be shared publicly.

**Because:** The Transit Safety Officers are armed and have the authority to detain members of the public while also potentially inflicting harm by denying someone in need of transportation access to Winnipeg Transit Services, the pilot’s evaluation, unlike that of ARCC’s, must involve fulsome and comprehensive community consultations before any continuation or expansion is considered.

**Because:** Both police services and Shared Health are systems that are hierarchical in nature and have failed to deal with the racism and other forms of discrimination within them adequately, ARCC’s pilot proved it to be only a qualified success at best, people who are in a health crisis deserve a health response first and there are proven more effective community based approaches to people in crisis models.

**Because:** Enhancing police accountability and expanding investment in community-based organizations 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.

**Because:** 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.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Through the Police Accountability Coalition in consultation with endorsing organizations. CCEDNet members are encouraged to endorse the above as they represent the evolution, based on the current circumstances, of the original calls outlined in the Police Accountability Coalition's Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources and consider joining PAC if they have not already.