



Response from the Interim Chair of Winnipeg Police Board to Mayor Brian Bowman's Mandate Letter

The Mayor released a letter to the Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board on June 19 along with mandate letters to the heads of Standing Policy Committees. The Chair was asked to work with the members of the Winnipeg Police Board and the Winnipeg Police Service to prepare a written submission to Minister of Justice Cliff Cullen that considers changes to *The Police Services Act* to provide for increased board effectiveness including improved civilian governance and police accountability.

The Board has provided a submission that speaks to improved police board administration and a heightened connection to accountability. "The Board has excellent working relationships with city administration and has great experience providing the deliverables set out in law and we are looking to improve effectiveness, transparency and legitimacy of police boards in Manitoba" said Councillor Chambers who is the interim spokesperson for the Board until his appointment as chair is ratified by Council.

The Winnipeg Police Board has been discussing potential improvements since 2017 as it was anticipated that a review of the 2012 amendments to the Act would be conducted within a five-year period.

The Board has suggested that complaints regarding police conduct could be routed through a police board as well as Law Enforcement Review Agency so that there are as many avenues to raise concerns as possible. There are some jurisdictions where the board chair and vice chair are elected by the board even when the mayor is a member of the board or commission. This could contribute to greater independence and strengthen the governance role of a police board. The role of a mayor could be better defined in the statute as well.

Councillor Chambers is pleased to put forward the Winnipeg Board's recommendations to the Minister of Justice and looks forward to continued discussions about policing standards in Manitoba.

Media inquiries should be directed to
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