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E.K. police to form own radio network

East Kildonan police are establishing their own radio network and will no longer use the Inner City police radio, city council finance committee was told Tuesday, but the reason for the change was not made clear to councillors.

Coun. Norm Stapon (ICBC-Springfield Heights), East Kildonan community committee chairman, told the finance committee that the community was setting up its own network because service from Winnipeg had been unsatisfactory.

It had been the former Winnipeg police force's policy to transmit East Kildonan

messages only when the Winnipeg network was clear. This caused delays of up to five minutes in despatching a cruiser car. The situation had been acceptable until after Robert Taft had resigned as police chief, Coun. Stapon said, but since that time East Kildonan had been unhappy with the service.

However, at the same committee meeting, a letter expressing contrary sentiments from East Kildonan Chief Constable Chris Einfield to Mayor Stephen Juba was read.

In the letter, Chief Constable Einfield wrote, "after twenty years of excellent co-

operation, I am personally very sorry that the communication by radio with the Winnipeg City Police Department will be terminated. space does not permit me to enumerate the many advantages we in a smaller police department have enjoyed from the co-operation of the members of the Winnipeg Police Department. You may rest assured that these incidents would be too numerous to mention."

East Kildonan will continue to be a part of the 999 emergency telephone service and the city's emergency radio network. The change means only that the East Kildonan

patrol cars will be in touch with East Kildonan police headquarters and will not have to go through the Inner City network to receive messages.

The finance committee referred the matter to the sub-committee on protection of persons and property for a report on the matter.

Mr. Taft, now councillor for Riverview ward, said in an interview he could not comment on Coun. Stapon's charges because he did not know what conditions had been since he retired six years ago. "I can say that co-operation was excellent at the time I retired, though."

Inner City police chief Norm Stewart, in a telephone interview, labelled the charges "utterly ridiculous." Never at any time have we had any complaints from Chief Einfield. I would like to think that he's the type of man who would have complained if there was something wrong. If he didn't, he would be remiss in his duties."

"I was superintendent for some time in the communications centre. I saw how the messages were handled. They went out in accordance with their priority. If anything we leaned over backwards for East Kildonan. Let him (Coun. Stapon) prove his charges."