

**ROAD WATCH PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

The Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Senior Manager of By-law Enforcement and the Safe City Committee recommends:

That a Road Watch Program be established for the City of Vaughan;

AND That a Road Watch Committee be established in accordance with the recommendation of the Safe City Committee.

AND that a by-law be enacted authorizing execution of a licence agreement with Road Watch Canada Inc.

**Purpose**

To report to Council as directed.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

On September 10, 2001, Council resolved:

That City of Vaughan and the Region of York endorse the Road Watch Program in principle; and

That Safe City Committee requests that staff provide a report on the feasibility of implementing the Road Watch Program in the City of Vaughan, and investigate any possible funding and/or grants available to implement the Program.

A Regional Road Watch Committee was struck, of which Councillor DiVona is a member. The mandate of York Regional Road Watch Committee is to assist municipal Road Watch Committees by sharing information, promotional material, educational material and standardizing forms. The York Regional Road Watch Committee consists of representatives from each municipality within York Region. The York Region Road Watch Committee with the assistance of the York Regional Police and Ontario Provincial Police will address aggressive driving in York Region.

The Road Watch Program is an avenue for the public to report unsafe and aggressive driving practices.

The Road Watch process begins with the public reporting aggressive driving. This can be done by either completing a Citizen Report form on the City Web page and e-mailing to the Police, or by completing a Citizen Report form that will be dropped off in drop boxes at City locations such as community centers. Persons who complete reports remain anonymous.

The completed forms will be delivered to #4 District of York Regional Police.

The York Regional Police will then send a letter to the vehicle's registered owner advising that their vehicle had been reported through Road Watch and request that they observe the traffic rules. A database will be maintained by York Regional Police of the dates and license plates reported. Complaints about recurring vehicles will result in subsequent letters and if warranted, a personal visit by the police.

There are no charges laid through Road Watch, as the Police do not witness the violations taking place.

Staff contacted York Regional Police regarding the initiative and were awaiting a formal response. On April 7, 2003, the attached letter was received from Chief Labarge, Chief of the York Regional Police.

Pursuant to Council's approval in principle, the Safe City Committee looked into available grants and applied for funding from the Ministry of Transportation. Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) was confirmed and when received will be forwarded to the Finance Department for deposit in a Road Watch account.

Some assistance from City Staff will be required for sign installation, web site maintenance, and financial administration.

### Road Watch Committee

The Road Watch Committee is a Citizen Committee. The Committee would fundraise by seeking sponsors of the program. Funds would be used for such items as signs, vehicle decals, drop boxes, printing of pamphlets and report forms, and postage for letters sent by police. Committee Members also speak to students at schools and other interested groups and generally assist with the program.

The Safe City Committee has established an interim subcommittee called the Road Watch Committee comprised of Safe City Committee Members. The Safe City Committee is recommending that this interim Committee remain in effect until November 2003, at which time a formal Road Watch Committee can be struck, with Council providing direction on the composition.

By way of example, the Richmond Hill Road Watch Committee was to be comprised of a Regional Councillor, two Local Councillors, two City Staff, one representative from York Regional Police, four Richmond Hill citizens and two local business representatives from the Chamber of Commerce.

### Licence Agreement

Road Watch Canada Inc. is a federal not-for-profit organization which developed a road watch safety program for use by municipalities. Road Watch Canada Inc. requires municipalities wishing to use this program and implementation manual to execute a standard licence agreement.

The term of the agreement is one year, automatically renewable for one year for a fee of \$100.00. Execution of the agreement would allow the City of Vaughan to use the recognizable Road Watch signs.

### Conclusion

The three main components of the Road Watch program are awareness, education and enforcement. Enforcement alone may not work. Awareness, through promoting general road safety and education, encourage citizens to participate to improve road safety.

### Attachments

None

**Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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