

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

SPECIAL CONSTABLE WORKING GROUP

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services recommends that the position included in the 2004 budget, Enforcement Services Project Manager, be filled and that Council provide direction on the City appointees to the Special Enforcement working group proposed by the Chief of Police.

Purpose

This report is to provide information and identify representatives from the City of Vaughan to sit on a working group with York Regional Police to further the discussions relating to Special Constable authority in the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council at its meeting of February 10, 2003, directed the Senior Manager, By-law Enforcement to make application to York Regional Police Services Board to have some By-law staff appointed as Special Constables.

On March 26, 2003, the Director of Legal Services and the Senior Manager, By-law Enforcement attended the monthly meeting of the Police Services Board and a deputation was made requesting limited authority as Special Constables for up to 15 By-law staff members. A copy of the Business Case was provided to the Mayor and Members of Council. The Police Services Board instructed the Chief of Police to meet with representatives from Markham and Vaughan to discuss their requests and report back to the Board.

A meeting was held on July 25, 2003 with the Commanders of York Regional Police, 2 & 4 Districts, York Region Legal Counsel, and two Staff Sergeants to discuss the Vaughan proposal.

A meeting was held in April 2004 with all municipalities in the Region being represented. At this meeting the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan all indicated their desire to acquire this enhanced enforcement status. The other municipalities did not have an interest in the program. All municipalities were asked to respond in writing to the Chief's report of September 17, 2003 and then subsequent meetings would be held. Vaughan complied with this request.

Subsequent to the presentation to the York Regional Police and the Police Services Board resolution from Council dated June 14, 2004, a meeting was held on August 17th with the Chief of Police, Chair of the Police Services Board, several members of City of Vaughan Council, and several staff members to discuss the next steps in the process. As a result of the discussions it was decided that a Working Group will be established to continue discussions and to determine what issues and solutions can be identified, including the use of Special Constable authority.

The police representatives in the Working Group are expected to be a Command Officer, a Field Officer, and the Chair of the Police Services Board (or an alternate). For City of Vaughan, it is proposed that representation should be the Enforcement Services Project Manager, a member of the Enforcement Services Special Enforcement Unit, and one member of Council (with an alternate).

It was both the Police and City of Vaughan's position that the work of this group should commence as soon as possible. Once a member of Council is appointed, the group will plan out the work ahead.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision as it is in keeping with the goal of creating a safe community.

This report is in keeping with the provisions previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

One member of Council and an alternate should be appointed to the Working Group to further the progression towards obtaining Special Constable Status.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Robert Swayze
Commissioner, Legal & Administrative Services