

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 15, 2010

APPOINTMENTS TO YORK REGION ROAD WATCH COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The Safe City Committee recommends:

1. That the appointment of Mr. Frank Civichino and Councillor Bernie DiVona to the York Region Road Watch Committee be reconfirmed for the remainder of the term;
2. That Mr. Robert Leonardis be appointed as alternate member to the York Region Road Watch Committee for the remainder of the term;
3. That the City of Vaughan's contribution of \$500.00 per year to Road Watch to be taken out of the Safe City Committee budget, be approved; and
4. That the \$500.00 per year contribution to Road Watch be included in the Safe City Committee budget in each subsequent year.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

The \$500 contribution to the York Region Road Watch Program is to be funded from the Safe City Committee budget.

Communications Plan

The York Region Road Watch Committee will be advised of the appointments through correspondence to be sent from the Office of the City Clerk.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit for Council's approval the recommendations of the Safe City Committee with respect to the appointment of City of Vaughan appointees to the York Region Road Watch Committee, and further to respond to a request from the York Region Road Watch Committee that each participating municipality contribute \$500 to fund education and marketing for the program.

Background - Analysis and Options

By letter dated April 21, 2010 addressed to Mayor Jackson, the York Region Road Watch Committee requested that the City of Vaughan appoint a member of council and a community member to the York Region Road Watch Committee. The letter is set out in full in Attachment 1 to this report.

The letter was referred by staff to the Safe City Committee meeting of June 10, 2010, which meeting gave rise to the recommendations set out in this report.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

This report facilitates the City of Vaughan's participation in the York Region Road Watch Committee.

Conclusion

The Safe City Committee has recommended the appointment of Mr. Frank Civichino and Councillor Bernie Di Vona to the York Region Road Watch Committee. Upon approval by Council, the appointments will be in effect for the balance of this term, concluding November 30, 2010.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Letter to Mayor Jackson dated April 21, 2010, from York Region Road Watch Committee

Report prepared by:

Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Bernie Di Vona
Chair, Safe City Committee

April 21, 2010

Mayor Linda Jackson
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON
L6A 1T1



Re: York Region Road Watch Committee

Dear Mayor Jackson:

In 1995, a group of concerned citizens initiated the Road Watch Program in response to the number of fatal collisions in the community of Caledon. Since then, the Road Watch Program has been adopted by a number of other communities throughout Ontario, including York Region.

Road Watch is a community-based initiative that gives residents and visitors of York Region an opportunity to report aggressive and unsafe drivers to the police. The program targets aggressive and unsafe driving through awareness, education and enforcement. When reports are received and validated, a letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them of the behaviour and encouraging safer driving. If multiple reports are received, an officer is sent to speak to the owner personally.

Originally, it was established that each municipality in the Region would be represented at the Regional Road Watch Committee level through the appointment of a member-of-council and a qualified community member. Unfortunately since then, several municipalities including Vaughan have stopped participating.

The York Region Road Watch Committee is requesting that the City of Vaughan appoint a member-of-council to be responsible for the Road Watch portfolio. This appointment would require periodic attendance at quarterly meetings; the monitoring of Road Watch related issues and the appointment of a qualified citizen to participate in regular committee meetings. The council member would act as the liaison between the regional committee and Vaughan council.

The Regional Road Watch Committee continues to raise awareness about the program throughout the region by attending community events and seizing marketing opportunities as they present themselves. However, those marketing opportunities are as limited as our resources. Advertising in local newspapers, producing posters, handouts and other marketing material is and would continue to be an effective way of promoting Road Watch. For those reasons the committee is requesting that each municipality contribute \$500.00 per year to Road Watch to be used for education and marketing. Cheques should be made payable to the York Region Road Watch Committee c/o the York Regional Police Traffic Bureau, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 4W5.

In keeping with raising awareness, the Regional Road Watch Committee is asking each municipality in York Region to declare the week of May 17 – 23, 2010, Road Watch Week. This may assist in highlighting the program in the public eye and hopefully bring more attention to road safety.

If all municipalities appoint individuals to the Regional Road Watch Committee who are dedicated and passionate about road safety; annually contribute funding and declare a Road Watch week every spring, the potential exists to provide our citizens with an efficient and effective avenue to report aggressive and dangerous driving and to take ownership of road safety.

If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to call York Regional Police Sergeant Edmond Villamere, Supervisor of Traffic Safety Education at 1-866-876-5423, extension 7706.

Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility. Your anticipated support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Linda Pabst,
Councillor, Township of King
Co-Chair, York Region Roadwatch Committee



Staff Sergeant Bradley Bulmer
Traffic Bureau Commander
York Regional Police
Co-Chair, York Region Roadwatch Committee