

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 5, 2005

YORK REGIONAL POLICE SATELLITE OFFICES

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture and the Director of Building and Facilities recommends:

1. That Council receives this report for information purposes; and,
2. That staff continue to work with the York Regional Police to enhance safety and promote public awareness and education in the community.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the feasibility of implementing York Regional Police satellite offices in City of Vaughan facilities.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 1, 2004 Council directed staff to explore the possibility of implementing York Regional Police satellite offices at various City of Vaughan facilities. This was intended to encourage community safety, and enhanced communications between police officers, staff and the residents of Vaughan. This would also provide a location for police officers to have a satellite location to assist their Community Policing Program and establish a presence in city facilities.

Through the recommendation of York Regional Police Chief La Barge, staff met several times with representatives from York Regional Police to discuss the opportunity of creating satellite offices and to explore opportunities to enhance communication between the two organizations. During these discussions, York Regional Police briefed the City of Vaughan on their community policing program. The City also provided York Regional Police with information on the community recreation facilities and services that are provided to the residents of Vaughan and also expressed their wishes to establish satellite police offices to enhance community safety.

While York Regional Police were appreciative of the opportunity to partner with the City of Vaughan to create satellite offices, they concluded that this initiative was not feasible at this time due to other commitments and limited resources. Both parties agreed that more needs to be done to support Council's vision of enhancing community safety and several other opportunities/initiative were discussed.

York Regional Police agreed to add all community centres and designated city-owned heritage buildings as part of their community beat for police officers. City of Vaughan staff will provide York Regional Police officers with access to facilities and services (access to phones/workstation, washroom facilities, etc.) as required. City staff will also provide the names, addresses and hours of operation for city-operated facilities to York Regional Police and update the facility information on an as needed basis.

York Regional Police through their community relations program will also provide public education presentations to residents on an as needed basis. Staff will explore these opportunities with

various user groups such as senior's clubs and youth drop-in programs as part of the ongoing programming at the centres.

City of Vaughan staff will also display community safety information provided by York Regional Police at city-operated facilities. This will enhance public education and awareness of various community safety topics.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities set by Council in Section 1.1.4 -- Identify and implement improvements to existing City facilities and parks to optimize community safety of Vaughan Vision 2007.

Conclusion

City of Vaughan staff was directed to explore the possibility of implementing York Regional Police satellite offices at City of Vaughan community centre facilities. Staff met with representatives from York Regional Police. Due to other community policing resource priorities satellite offices are not feasible at this time. The City of Vaughan agreed to provide York Regional Police with community centre and city-operated heritage buildings information so police officers can include the facilities as part of their community police beat. City of Vaughan will also provide police officers when visiting the community centre with access to services such as telephones and a workstation on an as needed basis. Community safety information (i.e. brochures) will be displayed in the community centres and staff will also invite York Regional Police representatives as future guest speakers for Senior's Clubs and youth drop-in programs.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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