



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) 23rd Annual Awards Banquet

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2023-03-02

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board approves a Special Fund donation in the amount of \$500.00 to support the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement 23rd Annual Awards Banquet.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek a \$500.00 donation from the Board's special fund account to help recognize the significant contribution of women in law enforcement across Ontario.
- The Service in partnership with Ontario in Law Enforcement (OWLE) were host agencies for the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) 59th conference that was held in Niagara Falls, September 12-16, 2022.
- This financial support from the Police Service Board serves as its commitment to the importance of Police training and its encouragement to women to consider a career in Policing.

Financial Considerations

The Board has a discretionary pool of funds, which it uses for grants and donations. Disbursements from the fund are in accordance with guidelines provided in the Police Services Act, and also with Board By-law 376-2018, Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines. Section 132(2) of the Police Services Act establishes that the Niagara Police Services' Board has the sole authority for spending the proceeds from the sale of property which lawfully comes into the possession of the police service. The Act stipulates that "the Chief of Police may cause the property to be sold, and the Board may use the proceeds for any purpose that it considers in the public interest." These funds do not form part of the police operating budget and are separate from the Regional tax base.

The request is for \$500 to help offset the awards and banquet expenses.

Analysis

The OWLE Annual Awards Banquet recognizes outstanding achievements of women in law enforcement across the province of Ontario. Included are long service awards for 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service. Also recognized are major awards in the following categories: Leadership, Mentoring, Excellence in Performance, Community Service, Civilian Award of Achievement, Teamwork Award, Bravery, and Police Officer of the Year. It is a very well attended event and typically has representation from every police service in Ontario. The Niagara Regional Police Service has approximately 20 members that attend this event annually with several of those members being nominated for various awards.

The purpose of the Special Funds donation account is to support Police related initiatives that promote community relations, enhance the image of the Niagara Regional Police Service and raise public awareness and education on policing matters which this Annual Award banquet will showcase. Further with the financial support of the Police Service Board serves as an endorsement of this event, its commitment to the importance of Police training and its encouragement to women to consider a career and policing.

Alternatives Reviewed

To deny the request for funding or approve a lower amount.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

The Board is supportive of Service initiatives that promote diversity including encouraging women to consider a career in Policing.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-law 376-2018 Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines.

Other Pertinent Reports

None

This report was prepared by Staff Sergeant Sarah Rose, Major Crime and reviewed by Inspector Gomez.



Submitted by:

Bryan MacCulloch, M.O.M. #5835
Chief of Police