



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – Niagara Regional Police Service Bicycle Registry Program

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2023-03-08

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board approve a contribution of \$6,320.00 from the Board's Special Fund to purchase 2,000 Project 529 Garage Shields to support the crime prevention tool of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) Bicycle Registry.

Key Facts

- In 2022, the NRPS partnered with Project 529 Garage to launch the NRPS Bicycle Registry program.
- In 2021, the Board approved the distribution of \$5,800.00 from the Special Fund to assist with the Service's 2022 launch of its Bicycle Registry Program.
- The Service is seeking to acquire 2,000 Project 529 Garage Shields to maintain and expand the program.

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 with Board By-Law 392-2021, Administration, Limitations and Guidelines of the Special Fund. 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.

To assist with the program maintenance and viability, the NRPS is seeking 2,000 additional Project 529 Garage Shields to distribute free of charge to members of the community to aid in bicycle registration.

A quote from the supplier received March 8, 2023, for 2,000 Shields came in at \$6,300.00 plus \$20.00 in shipping costs. The annual subscription fee for the program is funded through the NRPS operating budget.

Analysis

In 2022, the NRPS partnered with Project 529 Garage to launch the NRPS Bicycle Registry Program. The bicycle registry program is a free self-registry program for the community. People can register their bikes for free through our website [niagarapolice.ca, https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/community/529-garage-community-watch-for-your-bike.aspx](https://www.niagarapolice.ca/en/community/529-garage-community-watch-for-your-bike.aspx) , through the 529 Garage App, or via the following QR code.



The NRPS provides Project 529 Shields (tamper resistant stickers with unique serial numbers) to the community at all NRPS front desks, organized registration events, and some municipal offices.



Project 529 Garage is an international bicycle registration program with a searchable database of over 2 million bicycles on it.

There are currently 3,064 bikes self-registered on Project 529 Garage within a radius of Niagara and 249 bikes that the NRPS have helped people register. There are also 122

active stolen bikes in our radius area on Project 529 Garage, and 4 stolen bikes in our area have already been returned to their rightful owners through Project 529 Garage.

Due to demand, the inventory of Project 529 Shields is diminishing.

In 2023, the NRPS is expanding the search capabilities of the program to frontline officers through a mobile application on all NRPS devices and in patrol vehicles on the mobile workstation. The NRPS also anticipates placing the Project 529 Garage QR Code on patrol vehicle to facilitate roadside public registrations.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not Applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

Approving this request aligns with and will advance the Board's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan in the following areas:

Goal 1 Public Safety - Objective 2.0 Reduce Property Crime – Metric 2.1

Goal 2 Community Engagement and Collaboration – Objective 2.0 Foster Transparency and Enhance Public Understanding of Police Services - Metric 2.1, and 2.3

Relevant Policy Considerations

Police Services Board By-Law 392-2021 – Administration, Limitations and Guidelines of the Special Fund

Other Pertinent Reports

8.2.2021.09.23 – Special Fund Request – Niagara Regional Police Service Bicycle Registry

This report was prepared by Richard Frayne, Superintendent, Corporate Services and recommended by Bill Fordy, Deputy Chief, Support Services.



Submitted by:

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