



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – 2023 Emergency Task Unit Half Marathon
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board
Report Date: 2023-05-17

Recommendation

That the Niagara Police Services Board authorizes a Special Fund donation of \$1000.00 to sponsor members of the Emergency Task Unit who will run a half marathon to raise funds and awareness in support of the McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$1,000.00 donation to sponsor members of the Niagara Regional Police Service Emergency Task Unit who wish to support the McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation.
- Last year, the Emergency Task Unit members who ran the half marathon raised \$700.00, but this year, their goal is to raise \$1000.00 to help a hospital unit that has helped the families of our own members as well as the public.
- The ETU Members will run a half marathon (21.1 km) in support of this charity for the second consecutive year at the end of May 2023.

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 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 for \$1,000.00 will ensure that the Emergency Task Unit (ETU) members will meet their fundraising goal. This request falls within the guidelines of the Police Services Board By-Law 392-2021 – Special Fund Administration, Limitations and

Guidelines. If this request is approved by the Board, a cheque can be made payable to the Niagara Regional Police Service in care of Inspector Dave Gomez.

Analysis

McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation provides funding for vital equipment and patient amenities, innovative research initiatives, redevelopment of patient care spaces, and the education and training of health care providers. They provide the clinical teams with the tools and environments to do their best work when caring for children and their families.

McMaster Children's Hospital is home to the country's largest neonatal intensive care unit where a multidisciplinary team provides expert care in such areas as, minimally invasive surgery, nutrition, respiratory health, ophthalmology, social work, pastoral care and other specialty services.

McMaster Children's Hospital is also home to the largest paediatric mental health program in Canada through its inpatient program and complementary outpatient programs. Their paediatric mental health specialists are working to erase the stigma associated with mental health and conducting ground-breaking research to deal with the root causes of some mental health issues.

Furthermore, McMaster Children's Hospital is the only hospital in south-central Ontario that provides specialized cancer care for children, and supporting the care of paediatric cancer patients is particularly important.

Members of the ETU recognized an opportunity to help struggling families and infants in our community by choosing McMaster Children's Hospital Foundation as a most worthwhile charity to support.

Alternatives Reviewed

To not support this request.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

Supporting the work and research of the McMaster Children's Hospital directly aligns with the objective of promoting anti-stigma and mental health literacy under the goal of member wellness and resiliency in our 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan. Similarly, by running this half marathon, our ETU members are also clearly demonstrating our commitment to strengthen relationships and continue to build trust with our community.

Relevant Policy Considerations

By-Law 392-2021 – Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines.

Other Pertinent Reports

Not applicable

This report was prepared by Dave Gomez, Inspector, Office of the Chief, and reviewed by Brett Flynn, Acting Chief of Police.



Submitted by:

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Acting Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable