



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request for the Niagara Regional Police Service Women in Police Internal Support Network Mud Girl Run Event

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-04-05

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board approve a Special Fund contribution of \$1500.00 to help offset expenses of Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) members attending the Internal Support Network (ISN) Mud Girl Run event.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$1500.00 Special Fund contribution to cover the costs of a Mud Girl Run physical activity event for members of the NRPS. This event is being organized by the NRPS Women in Policing ISN.
- The Women in Policing ISN was formed following the success of the September 2022 International Association of Women Police Conference in Niagara Falls.
- ISN supports and encourages a culture of inclusion and mentorship within the Service for equity-seeking groups.
- This activity is a team building event that would provide opportunities to further the Women's ISN initiative. The event will create a team building atmosphere amongst members who attend, along with physical and mental strength and empowerment. The event is on June 9, 2024, in Hamilton, Ontario, and consists of a physical 5 kilometre run through mud and 17+ obstacles. Tickets to attend are \$70.00 per participant. Transportation and other costs are additional to the tickets.
- The request of \$1500.00 would aid an estimated 20 members attending the run.

Financial Considerations

- A \$1500.00 Special Fund contribution to cover travel and expenses incurred while registering for and attending the event.
- 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 Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), and also with By-Law 403-2024 Administration, Limitations and Guidelines of the Special Fund. Section 258(2) of the CSPA establishes that the Niagara Police Service 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, including charitable donations." These funds do not form part of the police operating budget and are separate from the Regional tax base.

- If this request is approved by the Board, the cheque can be made payable to NRPS WIP ISN co-chair Detective Sergeant Tara Ryan.

Analysis

Following the success of the International Association of Women Police Conference in September of 2022, the NRPS Women in Policing ISN was formed by the organizing committee.

The ISN consists of members of an identified group coming together to share ideas and support one another, in this case females. ISN exist in some Services for visible minorities, LGBTQ, females, and others depending on the size and composition of the service, both civilian and sworn who are interested in supporting each other. Assistance can be in the form of career guidance, personal guidance, sharing experiences, and providing a safe area or group that you can seek out for assistance.

Ultimately, this ISN will provide a safe zone for members to meet, network, and support other women from across the Service with varying backgrounds of life experience and tenure.

Additionally, through the organization of and attendance at the Mud Girl Run event, the ISN will continue to increase networking, support, and opportunities for members across the Service. This event would also support members in seeking healthy lifestyles.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This funding would directly address the objective of promoting a culture that embraces equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) under Goal 4, Member Wellness and Resiliency identified in the Police Service Board 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. The development of Internal Support Networks for members of equity seeking groups is listed as a performance metric which has been achieved.

Additionally, the funding would speak to Objective 2.0 to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles and the physical well-being of members.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Police Service Board By-Law 403-2024 – Administration, Limitations, and Guidelines of the Special Fund.

Other Pertinent Reports

Not applicable.

This report was prepared by Tara Ryan, Detective Sergeant, and Co-Chair of the Women in Policing Internal Support Network, and reviewed by Mike Tripp, Acting Inspector, Investigative Support Services. Reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Emergency & Investigative Services. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

Bill Fordy, O.O.M. #9615
Chief of Police

Appendices

Not Applicable.