



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – 2024 Ride to Remember
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2024-04-24

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) authorize a Special Fund donation of \$6,000.00 to assist in costs associated with participation by Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) members in the 2024 Canadian Police Memorial Ride to Remember (R2R) to the National Police and Peace Officers' Memorial in Ottawa.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$6,000.00 Special Fund Donation to support costs incurred by members as they represent the NRPS during this year's memorial tour ride from the Ontario Police College (OPC) on Wednesday, September 25th and finishing on Parliament Hill on Saturday, September 28th, 2024.
- The goal of the ride is to pay homage towards officers that lost their lives in the line of duty and to provide visible support those officers' families, friends, and colleagues. The event also raises funds for various police related and community organizations.
- This year's ride will raise money for the National Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Fund, the Ontario Police Officers' Memorial Fund, the OPC Path of Honour, and the Camp FACES charity. 100% of these funds are used to maintain memorials, assist with the cost of the memorial services, and provide programming and support for the families of our fallen brothers and sisters.
- Additionally, 10 new bicycles and helmets will be donated to deserving youth in need in various communities along the ride route.
- This year, 10 members of the Service have committed to undertake the challenge of riding the approximate 750km from the Ontario Police College to Ottawa to represent the Service during this event.

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 Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), and also with Board By-Law 403-2024

Administration, Limitations and Guidelines of the Special Fund. Section 258(2) of the CSPA establishes that the 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 the request is approved by the Board, the cheque can be made payable to Detective Sergeant, Jason Myers, the Niagara Cycling Team/R2R Team Captain.

Analysis

The ride, now known as the Ride to Remember (R2R), was an event started by members of the NRPS in the year 2000. From 2000 until 2009, only members of the NRPS participated in the ride which then started in Niagara Falls and ended in Ottawa. Rider participation numbers ranged from as little as 3 riders, up to 10 riders.

In 2010, Niagara members solicited participants from other Services including the Toronto, Hamilton and Peel Police Services. At present, 13 various Police Services participate in the ride, with a total of 200 riders.

This community engagement event, R2R, has been well received in previous years. In addition to bringing positive attention and awareness to peace officer line-of-duty deaths, money has been raised for the National and Provincial Police Memorials, the OPC Path of Honour, and the Camp FACES charity.

During this four-day ride to Ottawa, participants from police services from across the country unite as a team to reflect on the memories of friends and colleagues who made the ultimate sacrifice. The official send-off takes place from the OPC in Aylmer before dignitaries from participating police services and the current recruit class. Upon completion of the fourth leg of the ride, riders are permitted to ride onto Parliament Hill where a closing ceremony takes place. During this ceremony, family members of fallen officers are presented with tributary plaques.

This ride covers a significant distance (750 km over 4 days) and requires extensive training and preparation to complete. Participants train on average 3 times week and cover distances of 40-100 km during each training ride.

Each member will be responsible for individual and combined team expenses. The team will be supported by 2 auxiliary members who are donating their time to help during the event. The team has historically, covered their associated costs. It is estimated that each team member will incur costs of approximately \$1,100.00 to participate in the ride, not including individual mechanical and equipment expenses.

For the 2023 R2R, the Board graciously donated \$600.00 per rider participating in this event. It is respectfully requested that a similar donation per rider be approved for this year's event for a total of \$6000.00.

Alternatives Reviewed

To support the request with an alternative donation total.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This is a community engagement event that allows members of the NRPS the opportunity to participate in public events that enhance the image of the Service and its members in our community. This event also aligns with the community engagement goals and objectives of the Service's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and builds public trust with our community.

Relevant Policy Considerations

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

Other Pertinent Reports

Not applicable

This report was prepared by Staff Sergeant Brett Atamanyk, District Operations, in consultation with and reviewed by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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

Appendices

Not applicable