



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – 2024 Youth Resources Niagara Basketball Game

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-06-13

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) authorize a Special Fund request of \$500.00 to support costs associated to providing a participation BBQ for event attendees and a monetary donation to the Wagner House to purchase required household items.

Key Facts

- Youth Resources Niagara (YRN) provides rehabilitative and supportive programs, mentors, systems, and safe protective environments that facilitate personal growth, change, accountability, and responsibility for youth with their families and communities.
- YRN is comprised of three locations, David S. Horne, Wagner House, and Genesis Group Home.
- Police Constable Sara Flowers, who is a current board member of YRN, is organizing a charity basketball game between volunteer members of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and YRN youth to facilitate a rapport building opportunity.
- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$500.00 Special Fund Donation to support costs associated to providing a participation BBQ for event attendees and a monetary donation to the Wagner House to purchase required household items.

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, Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines. 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 the request is approved by the Board, a cheque can be made payable to Police Constable Flowers, in care of Youth Resources Niagara.

Analysis

The history of YRN began in October of 1974, when a committee of concerned community professionals formed to explore the possibility of establishing a Niagara-based detention facility for young people from the Niagara Region. In 1978, the committee developed a proposal for an Open Detention Residence, to be in the Fonhill area and designed to be operated as a houseparent model residence. In August of 1979, a 10-bed Open Detention Residence, also referred to as a group home, was opened.

In June of 2000, the agency opened a second, 11-bed home behind the original site. The new detention and custody facility name was selected in memory of David Stanley Horne, a sergeant with the NRPS, who was instrumental in establishing Youth Bureaus in the Welland and St. Catharines area.

In 2001, under the guidance of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, there was a refocus of efforts for the growing need for group homes in Niagara, to service high risk/needs young people. This included the building of a new 8-bed group home, the Ray and Pat Wagner Home, to provide a caring and safe residential home for young people from our community.

In April 2006, in collaboration with Family and Children's Services (FACS) Niagara, the Ray and Pat Wagner Home was founded.

In 2019, YRN in partnership with FACS expanded their services and opened a 9-bed residential home for female youth, Genesis. This residential program allowed for the repatriation of many youths, who had been moved out of their home communities due to a lack of available beds.

Members of the NRPS often respond to calls for service to these facilities. This event allows officers in attendance to interact with program youth under positive circumstances that stands to foster positive relations.

Alternatives Reviewed

To support the request with an alternative donation amount.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This event is reflective of several objectives and performance metrics outlined throughout Goal 2 of the Service's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan; namely, to strengthen relationships and continue to build trust with our community and foster youth engagement.

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 Sara Flowers, Police Constable, 3 District, in consultation with Brett Atamanyk, Acting Inspector, 3 District, and reviewed by Mario Lagrotteria, Superintendent, District Operations. Recommended by David Masotti, Acting Deputy Chief, Operational Services.

T. WASELOVICH

Submitted by:

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Appendices

Not applicable.