



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Donation for the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2024-10-04

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board approve a Special Fund donation of \$5000.00 for the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band to assist with off-setting costs for major drum equipment upgrades.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$5,000.00 Special Fund donation for the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band to assist with off-setting costs for major drum equipment upgrades. This equipment has not been upgraded for over ten years and is no longer reliable, the band has delayed replacement for as long as possible.
- The Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band has been in existence since 1977 and has served as an ambassador of the Niagara Regional Police Service at many community and charitable events over the years.
- The Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band currently consists of 35 members, both male and female, ranging in ages from 8 to 73. Of the band members, 12 are under 25 years of age and are either in grade school or high school, college or university, or employed part time. The Pipe Band serves as a great mentoring program for these young participants.
- Members volunteer their own time to the Pipe Band through participation in training sessions and various events.
- The Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band, while utilizing the Niagara Regional Police Service's name and displaying Niagara Regional Police Service insignia, is a separate entity from the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Financial Considerations

- \$5,000 Special Fund donation
- 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 this request is approved by the Board, the cheque can be made payable to Niagara Regional Police Pipes and Drums.

Analysis

The Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band performs locally, across Canada, and the USA in various Scottish Highland Games and other Celtic events both as a concert and competition Pipe Band. The Pipe Band has encountered great musical success over the years with the most recent being a competitive win at the 2022 North American Pipe Band Championships in Maxville, Ontario, competing at the Grade 4 level.

The Pipe Band participates in many events which include the National Police Memorial in Ottawa, Provincial Police Memorial in Toronto, Chief's Galas and ceremonial events, the annual Tug-of-War event held on the Rainbow Bridge, and many other community events which include multicultural festivals, wine festivals, and community parades. Pipers from the Band play at Remembrance Day Services across the Niagara Region, Service events including graduations and conferences, and at numerous competitions representing the Service proudly and respectfully.

The NRPS Pipe Band members have received and raised funds throughout the years to finance their travel and attendance at the events mentioned and the 2020 and 2023 World Pipe Band Championships held in Glasgow, Scotland. As many as 29 members of the Band have attended these Championships for competition.

The Pipe Band is currently in a position where major drum equipment needs replacement at significant cost. The Pipe Band has always held fundraising efforts of its own, but this equipment cost is not part of the regular ongoing costs. Resultantly, it is requested that the Board approve a \$5,000.00 Special Fund donation for the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band to assist with off-setting costs in the purchase of replacement drum equipment. This will assist the Pipe Band to continue representing themselves and the Niagara Regional Police Service with a professional and reenergized appearance at the many future events in which they are an integral and highlighted participant and mainstay.

Alternatives Reviewed

To not support this request

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

The Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band in its participation of various events enhances the image of the Niagara Regional Police Service for members of the community who participate in the Band and those who witness the Band perform. This also aligns with the community engagement goals and objectives of the NRPS 2022-2025 Business/Strategic Plan Goal 2: Community Engagement and Collaboration - Objective 1.0 To strengthen relationships and build trust with our community. The NRPS Pipe Band enhances the image of the Service and its members by participating in and supporting events in the Niagara Region and competing nationally and internationally.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-law 403-2024, Special Fund Administration, Limitations and Guidelines

Other Pertinent Reports

Not Applicable.

This report was prepared by Nilan Davé, Inspector, Chief's Office and reviewed by Bill Fordy, Chief of Police.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable