



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

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**Subject:** Special Fund Request for NRPS Citizen Police Academy  
**Report To:** Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board  
**Report Date:** 2024-09-25

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### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Niagara Police Service Board approves a special fund request of \$5,000.00 for the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) Citizen Police Academy Program to assist with program costs (NRPS related items to hand out to the participants, incidental costs, and a graduation event).

### **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 Service (NRPS) Citizen Police Academy program that will highlight NRPS Units and equipment.
- Participants in the NRPS Citizen Police Academy will have the chance to engage with subject matter experts from the NRPS, including high-ranking officers and experienced staff. There will be a wide variety of topics over the course of the Academy.
- The NRPS Citizen Police Academy will commenced in September of 2024 and runs weekly from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for 8 weeks, with week 9 being a graduation event.

### **Financial Considerations**

- \$5,000.00 Special Fund request
- 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 the Chief's Office in care of Inspector Nilan Davé.

## **Analysis**

Citizen police academies were first formed in the late 1970s in the United Kingdom. Since that time Citizen Police Academies have become quite popular across North America. Multiple police services in Ontario have programs including the Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police Service, London Police Service, Waterloo Police Service, Halton Police Service, Brantford Police Service, South Simcoe Police Service, Hamilton Police Service, Owen Sound Police Service, Durham Police Service, and Chatham Kent Police Service.

A citizen academy is a free opportunity for members of the communities to meet and interact with police personnel and learn firsthand what police officers do every day. Over the duration of the multi week program the NRPS would have opportunities to engage with members of our communities which will foster a better understanding of policing and create community based, knowledge backed champions. Taught by NRPS subject matter experts, students will also gain a better understanding of how they can partner with us to keep our communities safe.

The NRPS Citizen Police Academy will provide citizens of Niagara with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the policing profession. Through interactive sessions and firsthand experiences, participants will develop a deeper understanding of the role of modern-day policing in the region.

The Citizen Police Academy is / was not intended to train or encourage community members to be police officers. Instead, the hope is that by giving community insight into police services and operations, residents will have a better understanding of the NRPS, the services provided, and the decisions made, sometimes in an emergency or crisis.

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

To not support this request.

## **Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities**

This is a community engagement event where members of the Niagara Regional Police Service will interact with the community and enhance the image of the Service while providing NRPS branded items for visitors in a positive setting.

This program also aligns with the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 2: Community Engagement and Collaboration - Objective 1.0 To strengthen relationships and build trust with our community by giving members of the Niagara Regional Police Service the opportunity to participate in events that enhance the image of the Service and its members in our community and with our partners.

## **Relevant Policy Considerations**

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

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

Not applicable

*This report was prepared by Constable Phil Gavin, Media Relations Officer, in consultation with Corporate Communications Manager Stephanie Sabourin and reviewed by Bill Fordy, Chief of Police.*



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### **Submitted by:**

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

## **Appendices**

Not applicable