



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – 2024 Shopping with Cops
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2024-11-06

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board authorizes a Special Fund donation of \$4,000.00 to purchase gift cards for the Shopping with Cops Annual Event at Pen Centre in St Catharines.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$4,000.00 Special Fund donation to purchase gift cards for the annual Shopping with Cops event (previously known as Cop Shop).
- The funds will be used to purchase a total of forty (40) \$100.00 gift cards for the students participating in the program.
- The event will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines.

Financial Considerations

- \$4,000.00 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 the Chief's Office in care of Inspector Nilan Davé.

Analysis

The Annual Shopping with Cops event (aka Cop Shop) has occurred for over ten years and involves young students being paired with officers to shop for Christmas gifts at the Pen Center.

The children chosen for Shopping with Cops are recommended by their school staff for a variety of reasons, including need, recognition of specific academic or sports achievement or because of volunteer efforts that are making a difference in the community.

The children are transported to and from the Pen Centre utilizing local companies. They are partnered with officers to shop, provided lunch, and arrangements are made to have their purchases delivered to their homes. The event has been an overwhelming success in years past.

Pen Centre contributes a \$200 gift card for the children to use to make purchases while paired with police officers. The request for an additional \$100 in funds would provide further support to this initiative: assisting the children and their families.

These funds will contribute to a worthwhile event that is a positive experience for all involved and has been shown to have an enormously positive, heartfelt impact, including on the families of the children involved.

Alternatives Reviewed

To not support this request.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This is a community engagement event that allows the Niagara Regional Police Service to demonstrate its support and recognition of those in our community, especially young people, in a positive and meaningful way that strengthens our relationships. This is related to the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 2: Community Engagement and Collaboration - Objective 1.0 To strengthen relationships and build trust with our community. This enhances our relationships with our community, especially the young, showing our support of this outstanding initiative and partnership with the Pen Centre, the Niagara Parks Police, The OPP Niagara and our area schools and students.

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