



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Special Fund Request – 2024 Holiday Hero Campaign
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2024-12-06

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board authorizes a Special Fund donation of \$5,000.00 to purchase gift cards for the 2024 Holiday Hero Campaign supporting Community Care.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a \$5,000.00 Special Fund donation to purchase gift cards for the 2024 Holiday Hero Campaign.
- The gift card funds will be provided to the families supported through Community Care.
- The Holiday Hero Campaign is underway with donations currently being made by members of the Service and our partners in the community.

Financial Considerations

- \$5,000.00 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

For many years the Service hosted an annual fundraising Holiday Breakfast event celebrating the holiday season and new year. The funds collected from this event were then distributed to Community Care.

In 2020, with the Covid pandemic restricting gatherings like the Holiday Breakfast, the Service initiated a donation campaign that requested members and community partners donate funds for the purchase of gift cards for Community Care. This new method of collecting donations has continued since 2020 and realized an increase of funds collected that appealed to contributors.

In the 2024 holiday season the Service has embarked upon a Holiday Hero Campaign that includes a poster of three illustrations. The illustrations are the winning selections from students in Niagara who participated in our Holiday Hero contest. The contest invited JK to Grade 3 students in Niagara to create a drawing of "What it means to stay safe in their community".

The Holiday Hero poster, with the three winning illustrations, has been distributed to collect donations for gift cards for Community Care as part of our campaign.

Community Care has been meeting the needs of those facing challenges in our community for over 100 years. The fundamental principles on which the agency was founded have not changed over time, however, the community need has grown and to support the on-going aid required, there over 20 programs. Community Care compassionately provides vital services and assistance to individuals and families that meet their basic needs.

The funds raised through the Holiday Hero Campaign will contribute financial assistance via Community Care to provide funds to support families in our area.

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 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 showing our support to Community Care that contributes to the well being of those in our community that need assistance.

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:

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

Appendices

Not applicable