



Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada L3Y 4W5
(905) 895-4444 or Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675 (Ext. 7906)
Fax: (905) 895-5249 Web Site: www.yrpsb.ca

To Make a Difference in the Community

MEDIA RELEASE Police Services Board Meeting Highlights

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| <p>Election of Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman</p> | <p>At its January 27, 2010 meeting, the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board unanimously re-elected Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler as Chairman and Mr. Joe Persechini as Vice-Chairman for 2010. Speaking to the citizens of York Region, Chairman Danny Wheeler said: “We are facing many challenges, and as a Board we want to ensure that York Region continues to be one of the safest communities in Canada, and we want to ensure that it is done in a manner that is accountable, responsive, open and effective. This year, the Board will begin the process for the 2011-2013 Business Plan. We will continue to seek input from our citizens, our stakeholders and from our elected officials. The Board is looking forward to the completion of its Investigative and Support Services building in the fall. We will also be experiencing significant personnel changes.”</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Joe Persechini also thanked the Board for his re-election to the position of Vice-Chairman. “I am very passionate and committed to this position and to keeping York Region safe. I look forward to working with my fellow Board Members and the Chief so that we can keep York Region the best place to live.”</p> |
| <p>Chief La Barge presents 2010 Policing Priorities</p> | <p>Chief Armand La Barge outlined York Regional Police priorities for 2010. He stated that front-line policing continues to be a top priority with an increase in patrol officers and an increase in police visibility. He noted that Criminal Code offences have decreased since 2004 including violent crimes and crimes against property. Since 2008, there has also been a decrease in incidents of impaired driving. York Regional Police will continue to focus on traffic enforcement and education, expansion of Guns and Gangs and Anti-Youth Violence Strategy and a Zero Tolerance approach to Hate Crimes. Chief La Barge will continue to build on programs for youth, seniors and vulnerable persons, crime prevention, drug eradication and education and is developing a Common Roof Family Justice Centre which will involve a more comprehensive, multi-agency approach to addressing the issue of Domestic Violence in our communities. See www.yrpsb.ca for the Chief’s presentation.</p> |
| <p>Board appoints 16 new Officers and Five Experiences Officers</p> | <p>The Board appointed 16 new officers as Cadets-in-Training to the York Regional Police, effective December 7, 2009. The officers, about 20 per cent of whom are visible minorities, began their 12 weeks of training at the Ontario Police College on January 7, 2010. The new officers are well-educated and bring a vast array of life skills and linguistic abilities to their new positions. Their ability to speak Sign Language, Portuguese, French, Italian, Cantonese and Russian will help York Regional Police provide services to the Region’s diverse community of over 1,020,000 citizens. The Board appointed five experienced officers with extensive skills and experience and who will enhance front-line policing in our communities. The authorized number of officers is 1,402.</p> |
| <p>Board Supports</p> | <p>In response to a funding request from Sergeant Todd Hillhouse, Toronto Police</p> |



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| FBI Training Conference | Service, the Board approved a contribution of \$1,000 towards the FBI National Academy Associated Training Conference in Boston from July 23-28, 2010. Training will focus on criminal, technological and financial crimes and on transnational, cross-border, e-crime and best practices. |
| Board Resolution on Marihuana Medical Access Regulations- Licensed Marihuana Grow Operations | <p>The Board passed a resolution on Marihuana Medical Access Regulations -</p> <p>WHEREAS in June 2001, the federal government implemented the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations (MMAR) which allows for licensed marihuana grow operations. The MMAR authorizes Health Canada to issue licenses to possess, as well as produce, marihuana for persons with certain medical conditions. It also allows for designated third parties to produce marihuana for persons with medical conditions.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board recognizes that there are substantial health risks associated with indoor marihuana grow operations, legal or illegal, due to mould, elevated levels of carbon dioxide, electrical hazards and other chemicals and pesticides used to foster plant growth.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS administered by Health Canada, the MMAR do not supersede other legislation including municipal by-laws. Individuals licensed under the MMAR are required to observe all other laws such as zoning, fire and electrical regulations. Health Canada maintains that it is not part of their mandate to verify the safety standards of each production site.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS there is no mechanism in place to ensure that individuals licensed to grow marihuana under the MMAR adhere to federal, provincial laws and municipal building, fire and electrical regulations. Consequently, there is an increased and unaddressed risk to building occupants and others including emergency personnel.</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls upon Health Canada to require electrical, fire and building inspections as a condition of licensing to produce marihuana in accordance with MMAR.</p> <p>AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls upon Health Canada to notify local governments and police services of locations licensed to produce marihuana in accordance with MMAR, therefore, enabling regional and municipal authorities to ensure sites are</p> |



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| | <p>compliant with pertinent laws and regulations.</p> <p>AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls upon the Canadian Association of Police Boards to express their support of this resolution.</p> |
| Next Police Services Board Meeting | <p>The next Police Services Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, Committee Room A, Region of York Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Gerry McNeilly, from the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, will make a presentation on the new public complaints process.</p> |

Contact: Mafalda Avellino, Executive Director, Police Services Board: 905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext.7906. E-mail: psb@yrp.ca. Actual text of all Board resolutions can be obtained from the Board or viewed on our web site at www.yrpsb.ca under Police Services Board – Minutes.