



Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada L3Y 4W5
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Fax: (905) 895-5249 website: www.yrpsb.ca

To Make a Difference in the Community

MEDIA RELEASE **Police Services Board Meeting Highlights**

Reappointment to the Police Services Board	<p>Chairman Danny Wheeler congratulated Mr. Sam Herzog of the City of Vaughan on his reappointment to the Police Services Board by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The appointment is effective June 22, 2010 for a further period of three years. Mr. Herzog was first appointed by the Province on June 22, 2007. Since 1977, Mr. Herzog has been a principal owner of Lifetime Urban Development, a successful real estate development firm. Mr. Herzog was born in Israel and moved to Canada over 45 years ago.</p> <p>The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board is a seven-member civilian body that governs the York Regional Police. Four Members are appointed by Regional Council and three by the Province of Ontario.</p>
Mental Health Issues and the Police Response	<p>In their presentation on Mental Health and the Police Response, Superintendent Paul Pedersen, Staff Sergeant Mike Fleischaker and Karen Dean of York Support Services Network, highlighted the prevalence of mental illness in our community. One in five residents in York Region experiences mental health issues at some point during their life and two per cent of York Region's population suffers from a permanent mental illness. Providing community support and addressing the social and economic barriers facing persons living with a mental illness are key factors. The Mental Health Support Team – a partnership between York Regional Police and York Services Support Network - provides on-scene response and follow-up including support, resource information and assessments. Police officers are trained in crisis intervention, mental health awareness, applied suicide intervention and use decision-based scenarios in their training program. The Community Treatment Court assists the judiciary in supporting people with mental health needs and their families with the legal process through referrals and consultations.</p>
Board supports Future Aces Foundation	<p>The Board contributed \$1,750 to the Amazing ACES Awards Gala to be held at the Grand Baccus Banquet and Conference Centre in Toronto on May 20, 2010. Funds raised will assist the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation in working with schools and community organizations to foster good harmony and to build strong citizenship and self-esteem among our youth.</p>
Board supports Community Safety Village	<p>The Board agreed to be a sponsor of the 5th Annual Community Safety Village Golf Tournament at the Copper Creek Golf Course in Kleinburg on June 25, 2010. Since the Community Safety Village opened in May 2005, over 140,000 children and their families have participated in educational programs on traffic, pedestrian, bicycle, internet and fire safety. The Board's \$10,000 contribution will support significant learning opportunities for youth.</p>
Board supports Yellow Brick House	<p>In support of the Yellow Brick House, the Board approved a sponsorship toward the organization's 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner to be held on April 30, 2010 in Markham. York Regional Police and the Yellow Brick House are community partners in responding to domestic violence. Yellow Brick House is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides emergency shelter, supportive counselling and services to abused women and children. Nearly 4,000 women and children received services from Yellow Brick House in 2009.</p>



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Use of Force Statistics	Acting Chief Bruce Herridge reported that police officers draw their firearms when they believe, on reasonable grounds, that it is necessary to protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm or to destroy an animal. In 2009, firearms were discharged in 33 incidents, 32 of which were used to humanely destroy seriously injured animals and one incident involved a dog attack. Conducted Energy Devices (tasers) are only approved for use by trained members of the Emergency Response Unit. No taser weapons were deployed in 2009 compared with nine incidents in 2008.
Next Police Services Board Meeting	The next Police Services Board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 , Committee Room A, Region of York Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street at 1:00 p.m. Chief Armand La Barge and his team will make a presentation on the CANINE UNIT .

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