



The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

To Make a Difference in Our Community

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November 29, 2016

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch
Independent Civilian Police Review
MacDonald Block, Box 160
77 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N3

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Mafalda Avellino

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Jaclyn Kogan

Dear Justice Tulloch:

Further to the questions that you posed to Police Service Boards in Ontario on September 29, 2016, I am pleased to provide you with the responses of the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board in relation to the Independent Civilian Police Oversight review.

Our Board is committed to fulfilling the mandate provided to it pursuant to section 35 of the *Police Services Act* and, in doing so, to preserve and enhance public trust and confidence in policing in York Region.

Of particular interest to us, as your review proceeds, is the potential for strengthening and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various police oversight bodies, particularly where those roles and responsibilities may not comfortably intersect. As well, while we enthusiastically support the concept of accountability, including our own—"oversight for the oversight bodies" as we have referred to it in our responses—we are respectfully cautious of how that might ultimately play out. Accordingly, the Board would like to take an opportunity to highlight the Province's decision in 2014 to exclude police services boards from the scope of the Ombudsman's expanded jurisdiction under the passage of Bill 8, the *Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act*, which our Board supported. We suggest that police services boards are already scrutinized by a number of provincial bodies, and we respectfully submit that the addition of the Ombudsman's authority to the list would only serve to render the process more confusing and more difficult to navigate. Our Board, and many other stakeholders, also recommended in its submission to the Province on the *Police Services Act* reform greater support for and stronger emphasis on police governance in Ontario which we expect the Province to address in its Strategy for a Safer Ontario.

We thank you for undertaking this important review and for seeking feedback from police service boards. On behalf of the Board, I look forward to our meeting on December 2, 2016 to provide further information or elaboration. We look forward to your insight, guidance and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti, Chair
Mayor of the City of Markham

Attach. (1): Responses to Questions by Justice Tulloch on Police Oversight Review