



## The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

17250 Yonge Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada L3Y 6Z1

905-830-4444 or Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675 Extension 77906

Fax: 905-895-5249 Board Website: [www.yrpsb.ca](http://www.yrpsb.ca)

To Make a Difference in Our Community

### MEDIA RELEASE

### Police Services Board Meeting Highlights

January 21, 2015

#### Swearing in of New Board Member

**Regional Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson** was officially sworn in as a member of the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board at its meeting on January 21, 2015. Chairman Emmerson has more than two decades of political experience, most recently as the Mayor of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. He has served on a number of standing committees and has a breadth of knowledge and political experience on all levels of government and has worked alongside York Regional Police in playing a large role in community safety. He was instrumental in the development of York Region's Community Safety Village - a 10,000 square foot interactive, educational facility where children learn about fire, traffic and personal safety.

#### Re-appointment of Board Members

At its meeting in December, Regional Council re-appointed three members to the Police Services Board – **Mayor Frank Scarpitti** of the City of Markham, **Mayor Virginia Hackson** of the Town of East Gwillimbury and citizen appointee **Barbara Bartlett**. Please visit our website for biographical information.

#### Elections of Board Chair and Vice Chair

At its meeting on January 21, 2015 the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board re-elected Mayor of the City of Markham, **Frank Scarpitti** as the Board Chair and **Mrs. Barbara Bartlett** as Vice Chair for 2015. Mayor Scarpitti has served as Chair for four consecutive terms (since 2012). In accepting the position as Chair, Mayor Scarpitti thanked the members of the Police Services Board for their support and looks forward to continue working with them and with the York Regional Police Executive Command Team.

The Police Services Board re-elected Barbara Bartlett as Vice Chair of the Board for 2015. Mrs. Bartlett was first appointed to the Board in 2008 by resolution of Council and re-appointed by resolution of Council in 2010 and in 2014 and has been elected Vice Chair of the Board six consecutive times.

#### 2014 Award for Civic Leadership

Police Services Board **Chair Frank Scarpitti** and **Chief Eric Jolliffe** presented **Dr. Aubrey Zidenberg**, with the 2014 Award for Civic Leadership in recognition of his work as a dedicated advocate for positive change, support for community safety and success in initiatives aimed at eliminating conflict, discrimination and injustice in our community. The Board created its Award for Civic Leadership in 2006 to



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recognize the highest level of excellence in civic duty. Recipients of the Award for Civic Leadership are stellar leaders in their fields who enhance community safety and promote positive relations between the citizens and York Regional Police.

### 2015 Police Budget and Priorities

**Chief Eric Jolliffe and his team** presented the **2015 Police Budget and Priorities**. Trends and influences that impact the nature of the service delivery include: large and diverse geography, high population growth, urban intensification, traffic and employment growth, aging population, ethnic and cultural diversification, linguistic diversification and vulnerable residents. The 2014-2016 Business Plan priorities include youth engagement, victim support, responsive and sustainable service, recruitment, diversity and inclusion and public trust. The 2015 Capital and Operating Budgets were also presented in the public session. The 2015 Police Operating Budget is \$287 million representing a 3.2% increase which is the lowest increase in 19 years and includes the addition of 33 sworn officers and 13 civilian staff. The planned additional sworn officers and civilian staff will join various areas including: investigative services, risk and accountability, continuous improvement and civilianizing police positions. York Regional Police has one of the lowest cost per capita ratios among its policing comparators. The 2015 Capital Budget is \$42.1 million which includes facilities renovations, radio system, vehicles, information technology and specialized equipment.

For a full breakdown of the 2015 Police Budget and Future Outlook presentation please visit the Board's website.

### Public Complaints Statistics

In 2014, there were a total of 115 public complaints against York Regional Police officers. This represents a 6% decrease in public complaints from 2013. Forty-six public complaints were investigated with one resulting in discipline towards an officer. Fourteen complaints were informally resolved, eleven were withdrawn, six determined to be unsubstantiated as well as one service complaint was unsubstantiated. Thirteen complaints are still under investigation. Sixty three were not accepted by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director because they were determined to be frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith; could be better dealt with under another statute; were not in the public interest and were over six months old.



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#### Board Supports Yellow Brick House

The Board purchased a corporate leader sponsorship in support of **Yellow Brick House 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mending Hearts - Creating Dreams Gala** to be held on April 24, 2015. The Yellow Brick House is a non-profit charitable organization that provides emergency shelter, counselling and supportive services to abused women and children.

#### Board Supports Character Community Celebration

The Board approved an Evening sponsorship in support of the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Character Community Awards Celebration** to be held on April 29, 2015. The Character Community Foundation of York Region is committed to making York Region a Character Community by nurturing positive character attributes and enhancing York Region as a desirable place to live, learn, work and play.

#### Report on Diversity Policy

The Board received a report from the Chief on numerous community engagement initiatives to date. Annual events hosted by York Regional Police include police-initiated Canadian Citizenship ceremonies; Black History and Asian Heritage Month celebrations; Menorah Lighting ceremonies; Places of Worship Tours; Multicultural Day Celebrations; Commemorations of International Human Rights Day; International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

A new police initiative is the Internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training. In partnership with community stakeholders, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Bureau identified appropriate learning that supports and builds upon police members' competencies, knowledge and skills to provide inclusive police services to York Region's diverse communities. Training included:

Ongoing development and delivery for Level 3 Recruit Training on:

- Community Policing
- Hate Crime Investigations
- Places of Worship Tour – also made available to police members and external partners.



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#### **Next Police Services Board Meeting**

The next Police Services Board meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015 at the York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, in Committee Room A at 1:00 p.m.

**For further information** please contact Executive Director, Mafalda Avellino at 905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675 extension 77906 or email: [psb@yrp.ca](mailto:psb@yrp.ca). Please visit the York Regional Police Service Board website by clicking [here](#) for a copy of the presentation, Board Reports and Minutes from the Board meeting.

**Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.**