

REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE
TO
THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Board Report Number:

Date of Report: August 23, 2007

Date of Meeting: August 30, 2007

Chair Larry Iggulden and Members of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board

Reference:

Background reports for Niagara Regional Police Service Long Term Accommodations Strategy.

Recommendation:

That the Police Services Board:

- 1) Receive the following reports for information:
 - i. Niagara Regional Police Service Needs Assessment and Accommodation Plan prepared by Rebanks, Pepper, Littlewood Architects
 - ii. Cost Benefit Analysis/Accommodations Strategies prepared by MHPM Project Managers Inc.
 - iii. Executive Summary prepared by BTY Group
 - iv. 6 District Operations Analysis

- 2) Arrange a special public meeting of the Police Services Board to receive a presentation of the reports by the consultants who prepared the materials.

- 3) Distribute the reports to the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the Council of each of the area municipalities.

- 4) Attend Regional Council to introduce the reports and outline the process for finalizing the Long Term Accommodations Strategy.
- 5) Arrange times, numbers and dates of public consultation sessions.
- 6) Arrange subsequent Board meetings to review submissions from the public consultation process and debate options.
- 7) Attend Regional Council to present final recommendations for the Long Term Accommodations Strategy once approved by the Police Service Board.

Background:

The Police Capital Program includes projects that comprise Phase 1 of the Long-Term Accommodations Strategy for the Service (ZPO0509, ZPO0407, ZPO0608, and ZPO0702). To date, the total capital expenditure budget for the Phase 1 portion of the long-term accommodations plan is \$51.3 million. This includes \$42.3 million of capital budget allocations that have not yet been initiated.

After approval of the 2007 Capital Budget in principle by Regional Council, Police Service staff began to conduct additional analyses to facilitate the development of final recommendations prior to the initiation of the remaining capital projects for the Long-Term Accommodations Strategy.

Report:

The adequacy of facilities is a long-standing issue for the Niagara Regional Police Service. The configuration of operating units spread over the existing 12 facilities inhibits the realization of operational efficiencies and most of the buildings require significant capital expenditures to address modernization as well as health and safety and other liability concerns.

Replacements and/or renovations to achieve adequate facilities were first introduced in the Police Service capital forecast in 2003. The 2007 Capital Budget and Forecast included projects for the implementation of a Long Term Accommodations Strategy. The development of a comprehensive long-term projection has not previously been undertaken.

In conjunction with the 2007 Capital Budget approval process, the Chief presented an overview of the Long Term Accommodations Strategy to Regional Council on March 1, 2007. The presentation indicated that the Service intended to conduct a number of reviews to accumulate relevant background information to facilitate the development of recommendations regarding the optimal service delivery model and building configuration. The results of the reviews are documented in the following reports:

- 1) Niagara Regional Police Service Needs Assessment and Accommodation Plan (Rebanks, Pepper, Littlewood Architects): This report provides an assessment of existing facilities and projections of the space needs of the Service within a minimum 15 year horizon. The report proposes options for consideration, taking into account factors such as operational effectiveness, prudent financial measures, physical improvements, security improvements and accessibility issues.
- 2) Cost Benefit Analysis/Accommodations Strategies prepared by MHPM Project Managers Inc.: This report presents high-level facility configuration options and the associated operational impacts. The consultants recommend the option that best supports the achievement of the Business Plan objectives of the Niagara Regional Police Service as well as next steps for the implementation of the Long Term Accommodations plan.
- 3) Executive Summary prepared by BTY Group: A comprehensive cost analysis for the various options under consideration.
- 4) 6 District Operations Analysis: A report prepared by Service staff to compile statistical information on the operations of the Port Colborne District.

As well, ad hoc reviews and analyses will be compiled to assess further efficiencies and risks as appropriate.

Service staff have reviewed and validated the quantified impacts of the consultant reports. The reports are enclosed with this Board report. Due consideration has been given to confidentiality guidelines as articulated by the Municipal Act and the Police Services Act. The reports prepared by consultants may offer recommendations for the Long Term Accommodations plan. Service staff will consider these recommendations in conjunction with the information from other reports and a stakeholder consultation process to be held as part of the next steps for finalizing the Long Term Accommodations Strategy. A summary of the next steps is:

- 1) Distribution of reports to provide stakeholder access.
- 2) Introduction of reports to Regional Council.
- 3) Public stakeholder consultation sessions.
- 4) Development of final recommendations by Service staff for the Long Term Accommodations Strategy.
- 5) Consideration and approval by the Police Services Board.
- 6) Consideration and approval by Regional Council.
- 7) Project initiation reports for each facility included in the final Long Term Accommodations plan.
- 8) Assessment of land availability and costs.
- 9) Undertake next steps activities outlined in the Cost Benefit Analysis/Accommodations Strategies report prepared by MHPM.

Conclusion:

The Niagara Regional Police Service is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive Long-Term Accommodations Strategy. Due to the implications for the delivery of adequate and effective policing services and the materiality of the Police Service budget in Niagara Region, the Police Services Board and Executive Management team have directed that rigorous due diligence is conducted in formulating recommendations regarding facility and operational unit configuration.

To that end, a number of reports have been compiled to provide all relevant information. These reports will be presented to key stakeholders to obtain feedback and final recommendations will be compiled for the Long Term Accommodations strategy. It is anticipated that a final report will be presented to the Board early in the Fall.

Prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted by:

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