

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **May 9, 2011**

Agenda Item **Monitoring Report: Community Policing**



Recommended Motion:

**THAT the Board finds that all provisions of the Community Policing Ends Policy have been complied with.**

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**Community Policing**

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy “Community Policing” according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**BROADEST POLICY PROVISION:**

*The mission, philosophy and values of the Durham Regional Police Service emphasize the importance of working in partnership with citizens communities. Working in collaboration with community partners fosters trust and confidence in the police.*

*It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that police services in Durham Region shall be delivered in partnership with communities and citizens to proactively address and resolve community problems. These partnerships will focus on the root causes of crime, aim to reduce fear of crime, and maintain and enhance high levels of community safety.*

**Reporting**

An assessment of community policing in Durham Region shall rely upon quantitative and qualitative analyses of relevant data, information and public input.

## **Interpretation of the Chief of Police:**

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Community Policing is directly related to Section 1, principle 3 of the *Police Services Act, 1990* – Principle #3 identifies “*The need for co-operation between the providers of police services and the communities they serve*”. The Community Policing Board End is also responsive to sec 4(2) of the *Police Services Act* regarding adequate and effective police services involving: Law Enforcement and Crime prevention.

The definition of “community policing” has evolved over the years, both within the Durham Regional Police Service and across the Ontario policing sector. From our perspective within the DRPS, the commitment has been developed out of a shared directional statement issued in 2007 (see Appendix “A”) and endorsed by the Regional Chair, the Chair of the Police Services Board and the Chief. The overarching philosophy of Problem Oriented Policing (POP) supported through Problem Based Learning (PBL) examines the root cause of community safety issues, including crime and the fear of crime and leveraging the appropriate subject matter expertise through credible partnerships to prevent or address the issue with meaningful and ideally permanent solutions.

The DRPS community policing philosophy has evolved since then and is now being aligned with the Province of Ontario’s recent Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing (see Appendix “B”). This model has been accepted by Ontario’s Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and is currently taught as part of the recruit curriculum at the Ontario Police College.

The provision of policing services necessitates engagement in formalized agreements with other police services, government agencies and services providers within the community. From a Board Ends perspective Community Policing must encompass reporting on those structured agreements. A list of formalized agreements and Terms of Reference shall be presented to the Board as part of the annual reporting.

It is my further interpretation that this policy also focuses on the community engagement and Community based partnerships that are developed by the Service as result of the activities within the current Business Plan, or arising from community requests, or issues based exigent/emergent circumstances that demand some response to an identified community safety need. The Service shall provide to the Board regular operational updates that confirm our commitment to the POP/PBL philosophies through such organizational activities.

Caution must be exercised to ensure the Service is partnering with credible community partners and that matters are within the mandate and influence of our current capacities. Reporting will also include, where appropriate, the diversion of resources to address exigent circumstances, and the collateral effect on the Service’s established commitment(s) within the Business Plan.

The Board End measures of success involve both quantitative and qualitative measurements. Given the number of partnerships established across the Service, the Board in consultation with Senior Command will identify the programs and partnerships that are worthy of an annual review. The Service will then report on the nature of the formalized partnerships; the activities, frequency of contacts and services delivered within those partnerships, and any measure(s) of effectiveness that are being gathered to satisfy the resource commitment, value added and sustainability of the partnership.

The qualitative measures will involve year over year internal and external comparisons of the outputs and outcomes of those partnerships and initiatives that focus on root causes of crime, fear of crime; the community’s knowledge of what police/partner initiatives have been undertaken, and what the community’s understanding is of the impact that these initiatives are having on both individual/collective safety and well-being. These measures can be incorporated into our regular environmental scans and community surveys.

**Data Support:**

Durham Regional Police has built the corporate knowledge base to support Community Policing. The following chart demonstrates the number of members who have benefited from courses structured to enhance the philosophy over the past 5 years. A total of 427 members, with 136 being recruits are equipped with the ability to better serve our communities.

Course	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Problem Based Learning	17	18	37	20	22	114
Patrol Training Officer	22	92	30	13	0	157
Practitioner				20		20
Recruits						136
Total	39	110	67	53	22	427

*“One size does not fit all! ...each community and neighborhood needs to be looked at individually ...”*  
 This was determined through the consultation of stakeholders across Ontario, but also very much applies to our Region. Our eight municipalities, encompassing both urban and rural communities have varying degrees of policing requirements and community engagement/mobilization. Illustrated below are examples of three Community Policing initiatives suited for the diversity of our communities.

**(1) West Division (19) Project Arrowhead**

This property crime investigation commenced in June 2010, lasting in excess of six months with incredible results: in excess of 50 arrests, over 600 charges and to the present date 80% of the accused parties have pled guilty to their offences. One Durham Region resident, an identified prolific property crime offender has been sentenced to five years in custody.

Focusing on scrap metal thefts, in particular, stolen scrap metal, vehicles, copper wiring and other metals being crushed and loaded into shipping containers and sold to various companies involved in the recycling of various metals. The Project Team utilized a variety of investigative techniques and leveraged the appropriate subject matter expertise through credible partnerships. Many of the identified agencies were authorized by warrant to be present during the take down operation. These agencies participated in the investigation throughout, collected evidence and initiated parallel investigations.

**Revenue Canada** - Criminal investigative steps revealed that the primary source of income was based on criminal activities. That income is now the focus of Revenue Canada investigators who have identified a series of federal offences relating to the reporting of income and taxation.

**Ontario Ministry of Revenue** - Investigated provincial taxes relating to the employees and taxes relating to fuel being sold

**Technical Standards and Safety Authority** - a non-profit organization has powers to enforce and create public safety rules in such areas as elevators, ski lifts, upholstery, amusement rides and fuels in order to protect lives and the environment. Investigation revealed that employees of the targeted business routinely committed infractions pursuant to Technical Standards and Safety Act relating to the collection, storage and distribution of fuel

**Ministry of Environment** - cooperated with and became involved in the inspection of the land occupied by the targeted business and their business practices

**Ministry of Transportation** - focused on the enforcement of commercial vehicles traveling to and from the targeted business, specifically assigned to “take down” dates

**Ajax By-law** - Conducted building inspections and by-law enforcement related to regulatory business practices

**Go Transit Security** - Collected and provided video surveillance of offences

**Cellular Telephone Companies** – Provided subscriber information, telephone records (obtained by way of warrant when necessary and cooperation when allowable)

**Insurance Bureau of Canada** - Provided investigative support, vehicle identification and inspection of vehicles found on the targeted property, suspected of being stolen and/or having Vehicle Identification Numbers removed or masked

**Verdian Connections, Trans Canada Transformers, Hydro One** - Provided copper wire to be used by police during the under cover portions of the project

**Measurements Canada** - a federal agency with enforcement powers assisted once it was determined through investigative means that the scales at the targeted business were inaccurate having an effect on monies being paid to customers/clients by AAW for scrap metal

**Ajax Fire Dept.** - Inspection authorities, assessed the buildings and grounds to determine safety infractions

**Social Services** - Provided access to grounds for law enforcement purposes

**Software manufacturing company** - Provided court authorized access to protected data bases owned and operated by targeted business.

**Police Services** - York Regional Police, Provincial Auto Theft Team (P.A.T.T.), Quinte West Ontario Provincial Police and Peterborough Lakefield Community Police – assisted throughout the investigation, as required.

Community Mobilization was demonstrated through the number of community partners, and application of problem-oriented policing practices towards this successful initiative.

## **(2) Central East Division (17) – Project Middleton**

Prostitution and the related ills of society have plagued the City of Oshawa for years. While this initiative was presented to the Board in 2010, the positive outcomes are still resonating throughout the community.

Broken into three phases, combining law enforcement and crime prevention, phases 1 and 2 ran for a total of 41 days resulting in a total of 64 female sex trade workers and 150 johns being charged for communicate for the purpose of prostitution. There was only one repeat offender arrested twice in the project. An additional 45 drug related charges and multiple other related offences were also laid.

Phase 3 consisted of the education and awareness of the affected community, where officers, proactively walked the area, providing pamphlets and speaking on the perils of prostitution. Of those charged, 119 males attended John School raising \$55,250 in donations, which was applied to infrastructures to address the root causes of drug addiction, mental illness and homelessness. All charges resulted in Diversion. The multi-disciplined community based approach proved beneficial in addressing the complexity of issues and people involved.

**John Howard Society** – provided assistance, rehabilitation and education to referrals through diversion

**Salvation Army** – assisted with homelessness

**Distress Centre Durham** – provided support to referrals with mental health issues

**Pinewood Centre** – supported referrals with substance abuse illness

**Crime Stoppers** – promoted the safe reporting of crime to community

**Sex Workers Support Circle** – provides continued support to referrals

**Neighborhood Watch** – community program encouraging open communication

**Celina/Albert Street Neighborhood Association (CASNA)** – informal community network supporting residents

**Ministry of Attorney General - Crown Attorney** - initiatives were applied in cooperation with

**Ontario Court of Justice - Drug Court** - provided a non-funded pilot court focused on rehabilitation sex trade workers and drug addiction

Residents and businesses in the downtown core continue to praise the collective efforts of the committed partners for a safer community.

### **(3) East Division (16) – Lock It or Lose It**

An OACP Crime Prevention initiative has been implemented to proactively bring awareness to reported crime in Clarington. Frontline and investigative units worked in cooperation of large retail plaza's and Municipal properties (such as arena's, community center's etc). Officers were encouraged to utilize uncommitted patrol time with the "*Lock It or Lose It*" program. While efforts were more concentrated during the traditional holiday periods, it is important to note that this is a year long program.

During March break approximately 600 vehicles were checked by police in relation to the program. These checks took place on our partnering plazas and in the downtown area. Thirty percent of the vehicles that were checked by police were found to have valuables in plain view, or had the doors unlocked. These vehicles had the "*Lock It or Lose It*" brochure left on them. The personal interaction by officers able to engage the drivers of these vehicles, proved very positive, with East Division receiving feedback from individual members of the community relating to this proven Crime Prevention program. This program and the increased proactive interaction with the community have a direct connection to many areas within the current Business Plan.

Each DRPS Division submitted both their completed 2010 and their current 2011 Community Patrol Plans. These document the activities that serve to support and build upon our 2011-2013 Business Plan, the Chief's vision and the principles of the Ontario Mobilization and Engagement Model of Community Policing. Progress and measures of these operational plans will be detailed in a separate report to the Board later in 2011.

The three identified priorities for the current business plan are: Community Safety, Crime Prevention through Law Enforcement and Organization Excellence.

As part of the development of the 2011 – 2013 Business Plan over seventy measures were created to form a baseline to measure our progress. These indicators look at quantities such as crime rates and clearance rates as well as nuanced or contextual data that gauge opinions and feelings of the community and our own members. A subset of data from the internal and external survey that specifically addresses community issues is included below and a full report on the community survey will be released shortly. As 2010 is a baseline year there is no comparative data until the next iteration of the survey.

- Percentage of the community that feels they are usually or always willing to provide the DRPS with assistance: 91.4%
- Percentage of our employees who rated our performance at educating and providing policing programs for youth as good or very good: 41.5%
- Percentage of the community who rated our performance at educating and providing policing programs for youth as good or very good: 29.2%
- Percentage of employees who feel the community is willing and has the opportunity to be involved in crime prevention (Usually or Always): 17.8%
- Percentage of the community that feels they have opportunities to be involved in crime prevention (Usually or Always): 24.2%
- Percentage of citizens who are aware of how to report non emergency matters to the DRPS: 56.4%
- Percentage of the community that feels they are informed about what the DRPS has been doing over the last 12 months: 54.4%
- Percentage of community members who feel that the DRPS interacts with youth in the community in a mostly positive manner: 26.3%
- Percentage of the community who are familiar with our community partners: 41.1%
- Percentage of the community that feels we communicate the police response to crime and other community safety issues to the public and our partners in a timely manner: 40.7%
- Percentage of community members who are aware of how to access victim services and support groups: 29.0%
- Percentage of community members who feel that the DRPS is at enough community events: 58.5%

As our Service begins to move towards the new Community Policing Model, our police leaders are indexing both the formalized agreements, and compiling a databank of community-based partnerships.

As part of our commitment to all community partners we are developing a survey that asks about the needs of the business community as well as a survey that deals with victims of crime. These will help gain additional information across the spectrum of our community to further gauge our success and identify gaps in service.

As part of our continued commitment to addressing crime, and the fear of crime one of the objectives within the business plan under Community Safety is to “Ensure that crime statistics and figures are easily accessible, current, and put into context for the community”. Putting crime into context is one of the key concepts in this strategy and we are currently reviewing a number of options to address this and give our community increased access beyond our annual report.