



MEDIA RELEASE

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YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2007 POLICE BUDGET

York Regional Council today approved the 2007 police operating and capital budgets, giving York Regional Police the tools it needs to maintain and enhance its community-based crime prevention and law enforcement services as the region continues to grow.

The net operating budget for 2007 is \$180 million. The capital budget totals \$17.8 million.

In keeping with the York Regional Police Five-Year Staffing Plan, 67 officers and 35 civilians will be added to the force in 2007, with 37 of the 67 officers going to frontline duties.

“These new officers and civilians will assist us in responding to issues the community has identified as important, including traffic safety, police visibility, violent and drug-related crime, proactive policing and youth crime,” said Chief Armand La Barge. “I would like to thank the Members of Regional Council and the Police Services Board for their continued strong leadership and their support of safer communities. Safety and security are important issues to our citizens and I am confident York Regional Police will continue to exceed their expectations in this area.”

Twenty-seven of the 67 new officers will be assigned to District operations which include frontline patrol and the Community Oriented Response Units. Twenty officers will be assigned to Investigative Services, which includes such units as Drugs and Vice, Crimes Against Children and Intelligence. Ten officers will go to Traffic, Incident Response and the Canine Unit. Five will be assigned to Community Services and Youth Programs and five officers will be assigned duties in Staff Services.

David Barrow, Chair of the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board, said all board members worked hard to ensure the budget increases were understood and approved by Regional Council. “With the growth York Region is experiencing, the additional officers will not only improve police visibility across the region, it will also ensure we remain one of the safest communities in Canada,” he said.

The operating budget will benefit from funding from the provincial Safer Communities – 1,000 Officer Partnership Program. In 2007, York Regional Police will receive an estimated \$2.9 million in cost sharing funding for 100 officers.

The capital budget allows for the purchase of additional vehicles and vehicle replacement; plans for a new Investigative and Support Services facility to move forward; several Information Technology projects to move ahead and the purchase of specialized policing equipment.

Prepared by: Kathleen Griffin
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