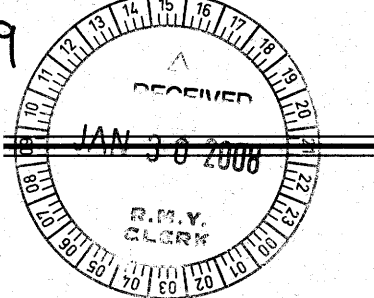




Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, Ontario Canada L3Y 4W5
905-895-1231 or Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675 Ext. 7906
Fax: 905-895-5249 Web Site: www.yrpsb.ca

To Make a Difference in Our Community



January 30, 2008

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

P03

✓ Chair
✓ CAO

Chairman

Danny Wheeler
Regional Councillor
and Deputy Mayor

Vice-Chairman

Joe Persechini
Provincial Appointee

Members

Bill Fisch
Regional Chairman
and C.E.O.

Barbara Munro
Regional Council
Appointee

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Regional Council
Appointee

Sam Herzog
Provincial Appointee

Joanna Yu
Provincial Appointee

Executive Director
Connie Phillipson

Dear Mr. Kelly:

At its meeting on October 24, 2007, the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board received a presentation by Chief Armand P. La Barge and his team on *Drugs and More Drugs*. The Board heard about how the Drugs and Vice Enforcement arm of York Regional Police is leading the war on illicit drugs by detecting, disrupting and dismantling drug houses and clandestine labs with significant increases in arrests, charges and guns seized in 2007. The Board also learned that the demand and profits associated with the manufacture, trafficking, importing and exporting of illicit drugs is increasing worldwide.

On November 21, 2007, the Board endorsed the attached resolution on *Penalties for Crimes Involving Illicit Drugs* and requested that it be forwarded to a number of stakeholders, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. At its January 23, 2008 meeting, the Board was advised by its Executive Director that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities required the Board's resolution to be passed by a municipal council prior to its consideration of it.

In response to the Executive Director's Report, the Board passed a resolution requesting Regional Council to endorse and forward its resolution on Penalties for Crimes Involving Illicit Drugs to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for action.

Therefore, in accordance with the Board's resolution, I request that you forward this correspondence to Regional Council for its consideration.

Yours truly,

Connie Phillipson
Executive Director

Attachment

c. Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler, Chairman

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK POLICE SERVICES BOARD
RESOLUTION – PENALTIES FOR CRIMES INVOLVING ILLICIT DRUGS

WHEREAS police services must ensure the safety and security of all persons and property;

WHEREAS illicit drugs are the foundation of organized crime and the source of property and violent crime in our communities;

WHEREAS the sources or reach of illicit drugs knows no boundaries or cultural barriers;

WHEREAS many drugs in Canada are exported to the United States in exchange for other drugs, guns and illicit products that are used by criminals in Canada;

WHEREAS the demand and profits of the illicit drug market are increasing worldwide;

WHEREAS the law enforcement community is consistently aggressive in its efforts to detect, disrupt and dismantle illicit drug operations, including marihuana grow operations and clandestine labs;

WHEREAS the health of children in marihuana grow operations and the well-being of neighbourhoods is compromised by various hazards, including electrical, carbon dioxide, exhaust, toxic mould, chemicals and explosive materials;

WHEREAS the availability of illicit drugs is a significant threat to young people who, by experimenting with their peers, risk cognitive and physical impairment, psychosocial problems, and addiction;

WHEREAS the federal government has made a commitment to implement the National Anti-Drug Strategy giving law enforcement agencies powers to take on those who produce and push drugs on our streets;

WHEREAS the provincial and federal courts have the responsibility to deter the manufacture, trafficking and importing of illicit drugs into Ontario and Canada through tough sanctions;

WHEREAS conditional sentences and other minimum sentences for crimes involving the manufacture, trafficking, and importing and/or exporting of illicit drugs have proven ineffective in combating the lucrative drug trade and putting its operators permanently out of business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls on the judiciary to consider the deleterious effects of drugs on individuals and communities in sentencing criminals who manufacture, traffic, and import and/or export illicit drugs; and that the judiciary impose stiffer sentences available to them within the current legislative framework.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls on the justice system and provincial and federal Justice Ministers to increase penalties for crimes involving the manufacturing, trafficking, importing and/or exporting of illicit drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, the Canadian Association of Police Boards, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police demonstrate support for this resolution by advocating increased penalties for crimes involving the manufacturing, trafficking, importing and/or exporting of illicit drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be circulated to Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.