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AVAILABILITY OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends that:

1. Council pass the following resolution; and
2. the Regional Clerk forward a copy of the resolution to the Attorney General of Ontario, the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, the Associate Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice/Coordinator of Justices of the Peace, and to each of the Area Municipalities seeking endorsement of the resolution by their respective councils.

WHEREAS the Attorney General entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with The Regional Municipality of York and the nine Area Municipalities within York Region on July 12, 1999, under which the Attorney General transferred court administration, prosecution and court support functions under the *Provincial Offences Act* to the municipal partners (the “MOU”);

AND WHEREAS the guiding principles of the MOU reflect the overarching objective of ensuring public confidence in the justice system and the continued responsibility of the Attorney General to be responsible for the integrity of the administration of justice in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General is responsible to superintend all matters connected with the administration of justice and the administration of the courts, pursuant to the *Ministry of the Attorney General Act* and the *Courts of Justice Act*, and as such is responsible for the provision of judicial resources necessary for the proper administration of courts to protect the integrity of the administration of justice;

AND WHEREAS the number of Justices of the Peace currently available to sit in the Central East Region (which includes York Region) declined from 46 as of December 2003 to 38 in December 2004 despite the increase in the demand for judicial resources, resulting in the closure of the Intake Court in York Region on 109 occasions in 2004;

AND WHEREAS the inadequate judicial resources in Central East Region is impeding the ability of the Region to meet its obligations pursuant to the MOU through no fault of its own;

AND WHEREAS members of the public are being inconvenienced by the lack of adequate judicial resources in the Provincial Offences court, resulting in the potential loss of public confidence in the integrity of the administration of justice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Regional Council hereby requests that the Attorney General immediately appoint 11 new Justices of the Peace for the Central East Region, and that further appointments be made promptly in the future to reflect the demand for judicial resources.