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PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATOR

(Regional Council at its meeting on September 18, 2003, amended the foregoing Clause by replacing by replacing the word "considered" in recommendation 2 with the word "included" and the word "process" be deleted so that recommendation 2 now reads:

- 2. *The funding component for this program be included in the Region of York's 2004 Business Plan and Budget.)***

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council support the public fire safety educator program as part of its commitment to the Community Safety Village of York Region.
2. The funding component for this program be considered in the Region of York's 2004 Business Plan and Budget process.

2. PURPOSE

To provide information on the budget for public fire safety education at the Community Safety Village of York Region (CSVYR).

3. BACKGROUND

In May 2003, it was anticipated that the Community Safety Village might be open in October and so a report (Attachment 1) was prepared providing the rationale and requesting Council's approval for the creation of a Full Time Employee. It was subsequently learned that this completion date was premature. On June 12, 2003 Regional Council directed the Regional Chief Administrative Officer to report to the Fire Services Committee in September 2003 regarding the budget for this position. The Community Safety Village is now expected to be open in March or April 2004.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Position Classification

Staff have developed a job description based on input from the Regional Fire Coordinator, other fire services personnel and a review of similar type positions in York Region and in other municipalities. This position has been classified by the Region's Human Resources Branch.

4.2 Budget Costs

All administration related costs, such as office equipment, telephone, etc. will be included in the Community Safety Village annual business plan and budget. The Region will be responsible for the salary, benefits and education program costs. The initial year salary and benefit costs will not exceed \$70,000. Based on the Region's experience with 9-1-1 children's

education, the financial benefits of purchasing an existing education program outweigh those of developing an in-house program. No decision has been made as to the most suitable program yet. Therefore the "start-up" cost is not known. Annual program costs are expected to be in the range of \$15,000-25,000.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO VISION 2026

Providing support for fire safety education at the Community Safety Village demonstrates the Region's commitment to addressing the safety needs of vulnerable groups and to building stronger partnerships with the Region's communities.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs for the program will be considered during the Region of York's 2004 Business Plan and Budget process.

7. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Additional resources recommended in this report would benefit all local municipalities by becoming a valuable safe community resource. It is planned that 120 students per day will visit the Community Safety Village during the school year. The projected large number of children exposed to this fire safety component will further reinforce local municipal programs such as "Learn Not to Burn" and "Risk Watch."

8. CONCLUSION

The public fire safety educator will increase the versatility of the Community Safety Village team and add significant value to the public safety education program.