

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Public Board Meeting
October 25, 2023

Report of the Interim Executive Director

Public Relations Reserve Fund Request for Funding

1. Recommendation

That the Board approve an expenditure of \$25,000 from the Board's Public Relations Fund to support the services of York Region Centre for Community Safety.

2. Summary

This report communicates the request of the York Region Centre for Community Safety (YRCCS) for \$25,000.00 for the delivery of programming that supports victims of intimate partner violence.

The Public Relations Reserve fund balance as of August 31, 2023 is \$226,449.

3. Background

The Public Relations Reserve Fund Policy (PR Fund) is the result of provisions in the *Police Services Act* (Act) that allow for found monies to be directed to uses that are in the public interest.

Sections 132 (2) and 133 (3) of the *Police Services Act* give Police Services Boards the authority to use the proceeds from the sale of unclaimed personal property and money found and seized by the police service for any purpose that it considers in the public interest.

In accordance with this statutory authority, the Board established the PR Fund to be used in compliance with the [Public Relations Reserve Fund Policy No. 08/08](#) (Policy) which outlines how these funds are to be used.

Any unused monies in the fund will be carried forward in the Police Services Board Operating Budget to the next fiscal year.

The Board receives requests from community groups and organizations in need of financial support. The Executive Director reviews each request to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and funding guidelines as set out in the policy.

Monies from the funds are used to support and encourage policing and justice initiatives, promote positive community partnerships and enrich the quality of life in York Region.

4. Funding Proposals

The Board is dedicated to supporting the organizations and its services directly. It is no longer providing donations to support gala events or golf tournaments but rather is considering requests that support the programs and services directly.

YRCSS had previously contacted the Board after it had made the decision to review the administration of the PR Fund and the Policy and was willing to test the eligibility criteria and complete a test of the funding application for review. The application package is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

YRCCS as a partner of YRP, addresses the needs of those affected by intimate partner violence and therefore meets the following eligibility criteria under section 4 of the application:

- a) Community Partnership: agencies or organizations that work with YRP to provide a variety of interventional support and support services throughout York Region, including but not limited to programs that are provided by: shelters, food banks and victim support.

YORK REGION CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY (YRCCS)

YRCCS is an active community partner working with YRP to provide support services to persons affected by intimate partner violence

YRCCS provides a collaborative single access point of services in York Region and offers support for those affected by intimate partner/domestic violence and sexual violence. YRCCS opened its doors in 2013 as a result of the leadership of York Regional Police (YRP), who had visited the family justice centre in San Diego.

They realized there was a need for victims to access multiple services without having to repeatedly tell their stories. YRCCS has established strong partnerships throughout the community and with YRP's Intimate Partner Violence Unit. It has become the first international affiliate of the US Alliance of Family Justice Centres. In 2022, YRCCS supported over 500 survivors and made over 2,600 referrals to essential services.

As a community partner actively working along side YRP's Intimate Partner Violence Unit, providing much needed support services, it is recommended that the Board provide a donation of \$25,000 to YRCCS to support the much-needed services it provides to survivors.

5. Financial

The financial implications of this report are associated with the funding requests.

6. Conclusion

The Board has made significant investments from its Public Relations Fund in recent years in accordance with its PR Fund policy. The funds help support community safety initiatives and help build partnerships with policing and community stakeholders. Providing funding to YRCCS would be in keeping with the desire of the Board to support initiatives that increase community safety and supports the diverse needs of York Region's communities.

Approved for Submission: Anitra Basant Sisavang
Interim Executive Director

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Attachments: YRCCS request for funding