



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Police Service: Execution of the Police Officers Recruitment Fund Grant Agreement

Date:	February 19, 2009
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request the Executive Committee to submit a recommendation to City Council to authorize the City of Toronto to enter into the Police Officers Recruitment Fund Agreement between the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Police Services Board covering the five-year period from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2013. This Agreement, received in January, 2009, is retroactive to April 1, 2008.

Under the Police Officers Recruitment Fund (PORF), the Toronto Police Service (TPS) will receive grant funding of up to \$2.66 million annually to cover the salaries and benefits of up to 38 officers. Salary expenditures and offsetting revenue will be built into the TPS budget each year for this grant program. In order to maximize the amount of funding received, TPS must maintain its uniform staffing levels at a predetermined benchmark of at least 5,548 officers; 38 officers above the 5,510 officer benchmark that must currently be maintained for the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program grant funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the Toronto Police Services Board, the Chair of the Board, Alok Mukherjee, recommends that:

1. Toronto City Council authorize the City of Toronto to enter into the Police Officers Recruitment Fund Agreement with the Province and the Toronto Police Services Board, subject to approval as to form by the City Solicitor.

Implementation Points

The Ontario government requires that both the Toronto Police Services Board and the City of Toronto sign the Police Officers Recruitment Fund Agreement. Once City Council authorization has been obtained, the Toronto Police Service will arrange for the appropriate City officials to sign the Agreement.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been presented in the 2009 operating budget request for the Toronto Police Service as the funds from the grant will cover the expenditures incurred for the additional 38 officers.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

On February 26, 2008, the Federal government announced its commitment to funding an additional 2,500 police officers in communities across Canada. Ontario's share of this program - the Police Officers Recruitment Fund - is being administered by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The province has allocated 38 positions to the TPS under the program for the purposes of increasing the number of sworn officers of the Toronto Police Service to enhance police presence within the municipality. The Ministry has committed to pay the salary and benefit costs of allocated uniform hires, to a maximum of \$70,000 per officer per year, for the five-year period from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2013. Based on the allocation of 38 officers, the TPS will receive a total of up to \$2.66 million per year. This revenue will offset the costs of the additional officers over the five-year period of the grant agreement, with no net impact on the operating budget.

As mentioned, the TPS was allocated 38 officers to be funded by the Police Officers Recruitment Fund. TPS is therefore required to maintain a minimum uniform strength of 5,548 officers (Program benchmark of 5,510 officers and 38 additional officers) to receive the full amount of funding offered under the program. Currently, there are agreements in place between the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Police Services Board for both the Community Policing Partnerships Program (for cost sharing of 251 officers) and the Safer Communities 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (cost sharing of 250 officers). These programs are offered in perpetuity and require the TPS to maintain the existing complement of 5,510 officers, for which the Service receives \$16.3 million annually to fund a total allocation of 501 officers under these two programs.

Based on current staffing levels and hiring plans, and the current salary and benefit costs of the additional 38 officers, it is expected that the Toronto Police Service will claim the full amount of \$2.66 million in each year of the Agreement. At the conclusion of the grant term, the Chief of Police and the Toronto Police Services Board will determine whether the program will continue, at which time the on-going costs of the officers would

have to be funded through the Service's operating budget, or whether the program would cease, at which time the uniform hiring target would have to be reduced by 38.

The Ontario government requires that both the Toronto Police Services Board and the City of Toronto enter into the Agreement. It is therefore necessary that Council authorise entering into the Agreement.

COMMENTS

The Police Officers Recruitment Fund Agreement contains terms and conditions substantially similar to those contained in the Agreement with the Province for the Community Policing Partnerships Program. The Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by the City Solicitor prior to its execution.

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