TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Police Service: Renewal of the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Grant Agreement

Date:	September 21, 2012
To:	Executive Committee, City of Toronto
From:	Alok Mukherjee, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request the City's Executive Committee to submit a recommendation to Toronto City Council to authorize the City of Toronto to renew the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Agreement between the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Police Services Board for a further two-year period – April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014. This Agreement, received in May 2012, replaces the current agreement, which expired on March 31, 2012.

Under the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program, the Toronto Police Service (Service) receives grant funding of up to $8.75 million annually to cover a portion of the salaries and benefits of up to 250 officers. Although the program is on-going, a formal agreement is entered into every two years. Revenue is built into the Service budget each year for this grant program. In order to maximize the amount of funding received, the Service must maintain its uniform staffing levels at a predetermined benchmark of at least 5,510 officers. Uniform staffing levels have been maintained above this benchmark every year since the inception of the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program in 2005 and the current approved authorized uniform strength is 5,604.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

> Toronto City Council approve the renewal of the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Agreement with the Province and the Toronto Police Services Board, on terms and conditions substantially similar to those contained in the previous Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership

Program Agreement with the Province, 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 Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program 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 identified in the current year's budget for the Toronto Police Service.

As the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program is an on-going program, grant funding, estimated at $8.75 million, is included annually as revenue in the Toronto Police Service Operating Budget. In the 2012 Operating Budget, however, estimated revenue of $8.6M was included due to information available at the time of budget development regarding projected separations for 2012. Although the revenue budget was estimated at less than the full amount of the grant funding, it is anticipated that, due to less separations than originally anticipated, the Service will receive the full $8.75M funding.

Entering into a renewal agreement with the Province in respect of the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program will have no further financial implications or impact; however, failing to enter into the Agreement would result in loss of revenue of $8.75 million annually for the Board and the City with respect to the 250 officers that are partially funded through the grant program.

The renewal of the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Agreement with the Province does not commit the City to any additional expenditures. Although it does require the City to cover salary expenses not covered by the grant, these expenditures would be incurred, regardless, if the Service is to maintain its uniform staffing levels at the authorized strength of 5,604.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program is a cost-sharing arrangement between the Province of Ontario and various municipalities. The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services introduced the Program in 2005 to assist municipalities to enhance community policing and the six targeted areas identified by the government in its fight against crime in Ontario: youth crime, guns and gangs, organized crime and marijuana grow ops, dangerous offenders, domestic violence, and protecting children from internet luring and child pornography, by sharing the cost of an additional 1,000 front-line uniform officers across Ontario. The Province committed to pay up to 50% of all salary and benefits costs of allocated uniform hires, to a maximum of $35,000 per officer per year. Police Services were required to maintain a minimum uniform

staffing level equal to the Program benchmark (actual uniform staffing level reported at October 23, 2003) plus additional officers to be subsidized by the grant.

The Service was allocated 250 officers to be funded by the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program. The City of Toronto is, therefore, required to maintain a minimum uniform strength of 5,510 officers (Program benchmark of 5,260 officers and 250 additional officers) to receive the full amount of funding offered under the program. The Service approved uniform establishment, the number of uniform officers believed necessary to most effectively fulfil operational responsibilities, is set at 5,604 officers.

The renewal Agreement provides that the Province will continue to share the salary and benefit costs for up to 250 police officers above the Program benchmark identified above. Based on current staffing levels and targets, and the current salary and benefit costs of these officers, it is expected that the Service will claim the full amount of $8.75M in each year of the Agreement.

The Ontario government requires that both the Toronto Police Services Board and the City of Toronto sign the Agreement. It is therefore necessary that Council authorise the appropriate City officials to sign all documents related to the Program and the Agreement on behalf of the City of Toronto.

COMMENTS

The Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Agreement contains terms and conditions substantially similar to those contained in the previous Agreement with the Province. The Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by the City Solicitor prior to its execution.

CONTACT

Alok Mukherjee
Chair
Toronto Police Services Board
Telephone No. 416-808-8080
Fax No. 416-808-8082

SIGNATURE

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Alok Mukherjee
Chair

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