SUBJECT: Funding Agreement: Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (SCOPP) with Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for Additional Funding for Front-line Officers (City Wide) (PSB05-055f)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the Funding Agreement: Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (SCOPP) respecting additional funding for front-line officers between the Province of Ontario, the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Police Services Board, such agreement to be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Lois Morin, Administrator
Police Services Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Police Services Board met on Monday, February 20, 2006 and respectfully submits the above recommendation which, the Police Board approved. As outlined in the attached report (PSB 05-055e), the agreement was to be forwarded to City Council for execution. The Funding Agreement: Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (SCOPP) has been reviewed and approved by Legal Counsel to the Police Service.
BACKGROUND:
(see attached report PSB 05-055e)

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES:
(see attached report PSB 05-055e)

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:
(see attached report PSB 05-055e)

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
(see attached report PSB 05-055e)

CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES:
(see attached report PSB 05-055e)

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:
(see attached report PSB 05-055e)

Attachment: PSB 05-055e - Funding Agreement: Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (SCOPP)

cc Chief Brian J. Mullan, Hamilton Police Service
Marco Visentini, Legal Counsel
HAMPTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD
- RECOMMENDATION -

DATE: 2006 February 8
REPORT TO: Chairman and Members
Hamilton Police Services Board
FROM: Brian J. Mullan
Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Funding Agreement
Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program
(SCOPP)
(PSB 05-055e; see also PSB 05-055a, PSB 05-055b)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board direct the Chair to execute the Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Agreement between Her Majesty in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the City of Hamilton, and the Hamilton Police Services Board, in a form satisfactory to Legal Counsel, to the Police Service; and

That the Board direct the Administrator for the Board to refer the Agreement, together with this Report, to the City of Hamilton, for execution of the Agreement by the City of Hamilton.

Brian J. Mullan
Chief of Police
FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

FINANCIAL - During the last Provincial Election, the Government outlined its commitment to provide funding for 1,000 new officers at a rate of 50% the base salary, up to a maximum of $35,000.00 per officer, per annum. That commitment has continued over the last two (2) years with a renewed emphasis placed onto it recently.

The budget impact of participating in this Program, in terms of both compensation and equipment, was set out in detail in PSB 05-055a.

STAFFING - As a result of participation in this Program, the authorized strength of the Hamilton Police Service will increase from 708 to 745 by September, 2006. Of that, 37 officers will be supported financially through this new Program.

LEGAL - The Agreement has been reviewed by Legal Counsel. The Super Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program Agreement between the Board, the City of Hamilton, and the Province of Ontario provides grant funding to the Municipality to enhance Community Policing and increase enforcement in other Targeted Areas. The proposed Agreement is similar in structure to other Agreements between the Board, the City and the Province, dealing with funding programs. The salient terms of the Agreement are as follows:


2. The Ministry shall cost-share the costs of salaries, overtime and payroll benefits to approximately 50% up to a cap of $35,000.00 per officer per annum for officers hired under the Program and engaged in full-time Community Policing and/or Targeted Area Activities. The Ministry’s share of overtime will be 50% to a maximum of $5,000.00.

3. The Municipality and the Board shall indemnify the Ministry from and against all costs incurred as a result of a claim or proceeding related to the Municipality’s or Board’s activities under the Program, unless caused by the negligence or willful act of an officer, employee or agent of the Ministry.
4. The Ministry shall not be liable for any incidental, indirect, special or consequential damages, injury or any loss of use or profit of the Municipality or the Board arising out of or in any way related to the Program or the Agreement.

5. The Municipality and the Board shall ensure proper accounting records are kept in respect of the Program. The Ministry also reserves the right to audit the Program at any time.

6. The Municipality and the Board shall maintain all materials and records associated with the Program for a period of seven (7) years, following termination of the Agreement.

7. There must be strict compliance with the Grant Funding guidelines. Schedule “A” to the Agreement specifically states that the Grant shall be used by the Board and the Municipality “solely for the purposes of enhancing the Service’s Community Policing and Targeted Area(s) capacity, as well as contributing to court efficiencies, as applicable, and for no other purposes”. Moreover, the Grant shall not be used for purposes related to maintaining the existing complement of front-line police officers, as defined by the October 23, 2003 Benchmark Complement, due to the assignment of police officers to non-Community Policing and non-Targeted Area Activities.

BACKGROUND:

On May 19, 2005, the McGuinty Government announced more detail in relation to their election promise to assist communities in Ontario in the hiring of 1,000 new police officers. The information, released by the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Monte Kwinter, highlighted the Government’s intent to fulfill the $35 million promise by the end of their current mandate.

The Program will be similar to the Community Policing Grant Program (CPGP) that has been in existence since 1998. The CPGP allowed the Hamilton Police Service to hire 29 police officers, with their wages supported by the Government. The CPGP has been extremely beneficial to our Service and other police services in Ontario.
The specifics of the new Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (SCOPP) are such that the Province shall cost-share approximately 50% of the cost for each officer hired under the Program, up to a cap of $35,000.00 per year.

At the Police Services Board meeting on August 8, 2005, the Board approved PSB 05-55a. This report outlined, in detail, the hiring of 34 new officers under SCOPP. Subsequent to that report, several incidents arose across the Province, and specifically in Hamilton, which illustrated a growing trend with guns and gangs. Media attention was focused on this problem and it was recognized that guns and gangs activity has increased. As a result of this growing problem, the Board approved the amendment of the SCOPP Application to enhance our ability to combat gangs and guns in our community by seeking to increase our Gangs and Guns Unit by two (2) additional officers (see PSB 05-055b). Lastly, the Province recognized one (1) previous hire, an Organized Crime Analyst, as coming under the Program. As such, the Grant Application of the Hamilton Police Service was accepted by the Province to provide partial funding for a total of 37 additional officers.

The participation of the Hamilton Police Service in SCOPP requires the execution of an Agreement between the Board, the City of Hamilton and the Province. This Agreement sets out the parameters of the funding for the Program, whereby the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services grants funding to cost-share the costs of salaries, overtime and payroll benefits to approximately 50%, up to a cap of $35,000.00 per officer per annum, for officers hired under the Program and engaged in full-time Community Policing and/or Targeted Area Activities. According to Schedules “A” and “B” to the Agreement, the 37 police officers have been allocated as follows: 23 for Community Policing (Street Patrol, Core Patrol, Centralized Breath Technician and Traffic Enforcement Unit) and 14 for Targeted Areas (Youth Crime, Marijuana Grow Operations, Crime Analyst, Guns and Gangs).

BJM/mv
Attachment: Agreement – Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program

cc: Ken Leendertse, Deputy Chief, Field Support
    Thomas Marlor, Deputy Chief, Community Policing
    Ted Mason, Chief Accountant
    Rosemarie Auld, Manager, Human Resources
    Marco Visentini, Legal Counsel