SUBJECT: Funding Agreement: Safer Communities – 1,000 Officers Partnership Program (SCOPP) (City Wide) (PSB05-055h)

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 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, 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 April 21, 2008 and respectfully submits the above recommendation which, the Police Board approved. As outlined in the attached report (PSB 05-055h), 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 05-055h)

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

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

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

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

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

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

cc Chief Brian J. Mullan, Hamilton Police Service
Marco Visentini, Legal Counsel
HAMilton Police Services Board
- Recommendation -

Date: 2008 April 21

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 05-055h)

Recommendations:

a) 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

b) 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 - In keeping with the Ontario government’s promise to put more police officers on our streets, the government has renewed its prior commitment to provide funding for 1,000 new officers across the province at a rate of 50% the base salary, up to a maximum of $35,000.00 per officer, per annum.

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 - In total, 38 officers will be supported financially through this Program.

LEGAL - The Agreement has been reviewed by Legal Counsel. The Safer 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 the previous Agreement between the Board, the City and the Province, dealing with this Program. The salient terms of the Agreement are as follows:

1. The Agreement commences on April 1, 2008 and shall expire on March 31, 2010.

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 fulltime 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 specifics of the 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. 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 fulltime Community Policing and/or Targeted Area Activities. According to Schedule “A” to the Agreement, the 38 police officers have been allocated, as follows: 23 for Community Policing (Street Patrol, Core Patrol, Centralized Breath Technician and Traffic Enforcement Unit) and 15 for Targeted Areas (Youth Crime, Marijuana Grow Operations, Crime Analyst, Guns and Gangs).

BJM/mv

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