

COUNCIL REPORT

February 22, 2010

To: Mayor & Council

From: Bill Preisentanz, CAO

Re: Community Police Advisory Committee

Recommendation:

For Information Only

Background:

At its last Committee meeting, Council was giving consideration to the establishment of a police advisory committee under authority of the Municipal Act as opposed to the present community policing advisory committee established under the Police Services Act. In speaking with the City solicitor, both Acts support the establishment of this advisory role, however, the key question is what role would this advisory committee provide under the municipal council.

Pre-amalgamation, there had been a long-standing tradition of community policing advisory committees in Kenora acting as a liaison between the community and the two police forces. It has served as a link between the community and the police forces. With the dissolution of the Kenora Police Service, there remains one community policing advisory committee in place.

Creating a community police advisory committee under authority of the Municipal Act creates a reporting relationship to Council. If the mandate of the advisory committee remains that of liaison with the OPP on community policing matters then communication between the advisory committee and the OPP Police service has become unnecessarily complicated. One would then question the effectiveness of a community police advisory committee reporting under Council by creating this additional layer of reporting.

With respect to fund-raising, currently under the DARE program, the City administers the funds and any proceeds from the sale of found and stolen property would flow through the Kenora Police Services Board.

Key to this issue will be the terms of reference of such an advisory committee reporting to Council.