



Cobourg Police Service

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Chief of Police

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Re: Potential Encampments

Mayor and Members of Council,

The Cobourg Police Service (CPS) should not be a primary response to many of the issues surrounding homelessness. CPS should be focused on the prevention and resolution of crime. Responses to issues surrounding homelessness should whenever possible be led by a service provider, Northumberland County, the Town of Cobourg Municipal Law Enforcement Team, and the other support agencies that would be involved in supporting the encampments. The Cobourg Police Service actively works in coordination with Transition House, Cornerstone, HCRT, Community Safety and Well Being Team, situational tables and other hubs. MHeart and HARP regularly provide on the ground, real time assistance, to many service agencies and the clients they serve.

The creation of designated encampment(s) will require a concerted police response. This is a real concern as experienced by communities across Ontario that have experience with encampments. This could be an unbudgeted staffing expense that could range from \$102,000 to \$140,000. This is a figure drawn from experience of another community who managed a similar encampment in 2021.

The enhanced and specific police presence incurred in part for the following reasons:

- Increased community concerns for safety,
- Increased calls for service including extortion, theft and violence,
- Increased potential for people to take advantage of vulnerable people including human trafficking and
- The desire to provide a safe community for all neighbourhoods in Cobourg.

Not funding this expense in addition to the current deployment of officers may create service delivery concerns for the entire community. This could mean that the potential additional workload will have to be managed by the current staffing model. The impact of this may be delayed response to calls for service throughout the community. During the summer months, our Town is busier than any other time year

requiring more police activity. This coincides with a time where staff vacancies are higher than the rest of the year.

The Cobourg Police Service continues to collaborate with the community in a variety of ways. We support all community agencies aimed at enhancing community safety and well-being. We recognize that police should not lead in certain matters, but support our partner agencies that are in a position to have maximum impact toward solutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pepper', with a stylized, overlapping initial 'D'.

Board Chair, Dean Pepper

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. VandeGraaf', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Chief of Police, Paul VandeGraaf