



*Protecting Our Guardians.*

October 2, 2014

**By Electronic Mail**

Dear Mr. Bruce Timms:

**Request for Submission to the NRPA Municipal Election Information Bulletin**

The Niagara Region Police Association (“NRPA”) is the official voice and representative body for Niagara’s professional police personnel. We provide leadership to protect and advance the collective rights and interests of our membership. Our members include over 1100 uniform and civilian members. Most of these members and their extended families reside in the Niagara Region.

The NRPA plans to publish a Special Election Information Bulletin which will be provided to all of our members. We are inviting all Municipal election candidates to provide a brief summary of their position on key issues facing the police sector in Niagara, including:

1. The Arbitration System – The Association of Municipalities in Ontario have launched a campaign to change the collective bargaining and arbitration system in the police sector. The NRPA believes the current system works well and specifically addresses a municipalities “ability to pay”. The vast majority of our collective agreements are settled at the bargaining table outside of the arbitration system. Arbitrators are rarely used. However, when arbitration is necessary the NRPA supports the current system, which we believe is fair, independent and balanced.

**If elected, will you support maintaining the current collective bargaining and arbitration system in the police sector?**

2. The “War Chest” Fund – A proposal was tabled at Regional Council to set aside \$200,000 per year to a special reserve fund. The purpose of the reserve fund was to financially prepare for an appeal by the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission in the event that an Arbitration Award resulted in a requested increase to the police budget which exceeded a predetermined percentage increase cap set by the Region.

This “war chest” was referred to as a tool to assist the PSB in its contract negotiations and to signal to the NRPA that they should prepare for a fully funded fight. The NRPA

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interpreted this proposal as both provocative and an attempt to undermine “good faith” bargaining.

**What is your position on the establishment by Regional Council of a “war chest” of this nature?**

3. The Police Budget – The police budget encompasses the costs associated with providing the residents of Niagara with safe and adequate policing. These costs include fair and reasonable salaries, training and equipment costs. The policing sector is a dynamic environment and the need for experienced, properly trained and equipped officers and civilian support staff is important to both the safety of the residents of the Niagara Region but also for the officers themselves.

**If elected, will you support the police budget recommended by the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board?**

4. Policing Facilities – The existing police infrastructure is dated, inadequate for today’s policing needs and in many cases, the current buildings, pose significant health and environmental risks to our members. In response to these inadequacies, new facilities have been approved and are in the process of being completed.

**Do you support the new police facilities plan which was recommended by the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services, approved by Regional Council and which is currently in the implementation process?**

5. Please feel free to address any other issue relevant to your election platform and the policing sector or that you would like to share with our membership.

We look forward to receiving your response no later than October 10, 2014, which should not exceed 1,000 words. Please send it to my attention at:

Niagara Region Police Association  
1706 Merrittville Highway  
R.R.#2, Welland, Ontario  
L3B 5N5

Or at:

[Leanne@nrpa.on.ca](mailto:Leanne@nrpa.on.ca)

Please feel free to provide a photograph to accompany your response. If you have any questions, please contact either myself or President, Cliff Priest.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. McClay', written in a cursive style.

Leanne McClay  
CAO/General Counsel  
Niagara Region Police Association

Cc: NRPA BOD