




# HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
<b>BOARD MEETING DATE:</b>	January 25, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Provincial Auto Theft (PAT) Grant
<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b>	24-006
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Frank Bergen, Chief of Police
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) That the Hamilton Police Service Board (Board) ratify the agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General, pursuant to the terms, conditions, and duration of the Agreement.
- b) That the Board approve the hiring of one (1) Sworn Detective Constable and one (1) Civilian Crime Analyst for the BEAR Unit to address Auto Thefts for the duration of this funding, increasing the approved headcount by two (2) FTEs.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In November 2023, the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) received notification that they were successful in their application to the Provincial Auto Thefts (PAT) Grant through the Ministry of the Solicitor General.
- The Grant awarded the HPS \$895,760 over three (3) years to address Auto Thefts within the City.
- Based on section 8.1 Delegation of Authority of the Board's Procedural By-law 23-001 (as amended), this 'agreement or contract' was approved by the Chair & Vice Chair prior to the Board's January 25, 2024 meeting to accommodate Ministry deadlines and is being brought forward to this Board meeting for ratification.

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## FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Maximum funding will be provided by the Province up to the amount of \$895,760 over the course of the Grant.

Funding will contribute towards the salary and benefits of the designated members, training and equipment.

Salary and Benefits (Sworn + Civilian)	\$775,006
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Grant coverage (Salary & Benefits)	<u>\$729,403</u>
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Difference that HPS will cover (over three (3) year length of grant)	\$45,603
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Staffing: One (1) Detective Constable and one (1) Civilian Crime Analyst above approved strength. Should the funding not be continued, the members will be reassigned to positions that become vacant through attrition.

Legal Implications: N/A

## INFORMATION

Auto thefts in the City of Hamilton have been rising consistently year over year since 2020, with high-end vehicle thefts increasing and recovery rates decreasing. The HPS has observed an increase in targeted and organized vehicle thefts within the City, with the vehicles being exported overseas.

In November 2023, the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) received notification that they were successful in their application to the Provincial Auto Thefts (PAT) Grant through the Ministry of the Solicitor General. The Grant awarded the HPS \$895,760 over three (3) years to address Auto Thefts within the City. The funds will be dispersed in the following amounts: 2024 - \$299,838, 2025 - \$299,518, 2026 – \$ 296,404.

Funds from this grant will be used to address this problem through increased staffing of the Auto Squad, for the purchase of equipment to assist in investigations and to support efforts for crime prevention and public education.

The increased staffing levels will allow for additional investigators to address the issue, as well as an analyst to conduct more thorough analysis of the thefts that are occurring, which will identify trends and assist in identifying organized criminal groups that are committing these offenses. The opportunity for this new level of analysis will also allow for review of locations where thefts are increasing and potentially assist with identifying areas where recoveries may be made.

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### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a) Decline the Grant funding and maintain approved headcount at the current level

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix A – CONFIDENTIAL REPORT (see Note)

Note: Appendix 'A' attached to this report will be dealt with in closed session as it pertains to matters involving public security based on section 35 (4) of the Police Services Act.

FB/M. Schulenberg

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