

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

25 January 2016 / 25 janvier 2016

Submitted by / Soumis par:

Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa

Contact Person / Personne ressource:

Don Sweet, Superintendent / Surintendant

sweetd@ottawapolice.ca

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC REWARDS POLICY

**OBJET: MODIFICATION À LA POLITIQUE SUR LES RÉCOMPENSES
PUBLIQUES**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve that its Public Rewards Policy (CR-10) be amended by adding the following new section 2.7: "The Chief shall have the delegated authority to approve a recommendation to cooperate and/or participate in a reward being offered by a third party. Upon receipt of a recommendation from a Deputy Chief, the Chief shall determine if the cooperation and/or participation of the Ottawa Police Service is appropriate, given the circumstances."

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa approuve la modification de sa politique sur les récompenses publiques (CR-10) par l'ajout du nouveau paragraphe 2.7, énoncé en ces termes : « Le chef se voit déléguer le pouvoir d'approuver une recommandation visant à collaborer ou à participer à une offre de récompense par une tierce partie. À la réception d'une recommandation d'un chef adjoint, le chef détermine si la collaboration ou la participation du Service de police d'Ottawa est appropriée, compte tenu des circonstances. »

BACKGROUND

The offering of cash rewards for information that leads to the solving of a crime or leading to the arrest of a suspect is a recognized investigative tool for police. The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) uses several avenues to offer rewards including Crime Stoppers and rewards funded by the Service.

The OPS is aware of opportunities currently utilized by other police services in Ontario to participate in partnerships with outside organizations in their offering of rewards.

The current OPS operational policy stipulates that the “OPS does not accept offers of contributions for rewards from third parties.” This policy is not clear on whether police may participate with a third party offering the full reward.

The Criminal Code of Canada does not prohibit the offering of rewards by third parties.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Amendment

An amendment to the existing OPSB Public Rewards Policy (CR-10) has been proposed where the Chief will have the authority to determine if the OPS will partner with a specific organization or third party that is offering a reward for information that leads to an arrest for criminal activity.

A recent example is the Canadian Bankers Association offering a \$100,000 reward in the “Vaulter Bandit” investigation. The suspect is believed to have committed 21 bank robberies in Canada. The association typically offers rewards for information leading to the prosecution of a suspect.

The recommendation seeks to clarify the language in the policy to allow such participation, upon final approval by the Chief of Police.

In cases where the Chief authorizes the participation, the OPS’s involvement would generally be restricted to receiving information from potential witnesses and possibly coordinating payment where required.

As is currently stipulated in existing policy, no monies would be accepted by the Ottawa Police from a third party.

The reward would clearly indicate it was offered by a third party and the potential witness would have to contact the third party directly for payment.

CONSULTATION

The Board's Policy & Governance Committee was consulted and has endorsed this amendment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1: Amended Board Public Rewards Policy CR-10.

CONCLUSION

The OPS believes there is investigative value in amending the current Public Rewards policy to allow for the participation in third party rewards where appropriate. This amendment would allow the OPS to consider offers of rewards from third parties and better ensure that those offers are coordinated with an ongoing investigation.

Document 1: AMENDED PUBLIC REWARDS POLICY (amendment is bolded)

Policy Number: CR-10	Policy Subject: PUBLIC REWARDS
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE / AUTHORITY	<i>Police Services Act, section 31(1)(c)</i>
DATE APPROVED	22 September 2008
DATE REVIEWED	2010, 2011, 2013
DATES AMENDED	28 March 2011
DATE TO BE REVIEWED	2016
REPORTING REQUIREMENT	Annual reporting as set out in Section 4 of policy

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE / AUTHORITY

Under Section 31(1)(c) of the Police Services Act the Board is responsible for the provision of adequate and effective police services in the municipality and shall establish policies for the effective management of the police force.

BOARD POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the Ottawa Police Services Board to support the Ottawa Police Service in preventing and solving crime, including the pursuit and apprehension of offenders, through the offer and payment of rewards when deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police.

This policy provides direction to the Chief of Police with regard to the public offering and payment of rewards to persons who provide information that assists in solving a specific, significant crime or crimes, including the location or return of missing persons or property. It does not apply to policies already in place within the Police Service with regard to Paid Informants.

2. POLICY

The Chief of Police shall ensure there is an internal procedure in place that sets out rules to be followed with regard to the offering of rewards when it is believed it would lead to the conviction of any person guilty of an offence or lead to the location or return of a missing person or property. The procedure shall include the following provisions:

2.1 The Chief of Police shall have delegated authority to approve rewards up to a limit of \$100,000 provided that funds are available within the existing budget. Rewards over \$100,000 shall require the approval of the Board.

2.2 Upon receipt of a recommendation, the Chief of Police shall determine if the offering of a reward is appropriate in the circumstances.

2.3 Offers of contributions to rewards from third parties shall not be accepted.

2.4 The Chief of Police shall determine if any person or persons is/are entitled to all or any portion of any offered reward.

2.5 Members and employees, or immediate family of a member or employee, of the Ottawa Police Service, the Ottawa Police Services Board or any other law enforcement agency shall not be entitled to claim any reward monies. The Chief of Police retains ultimate authority to decide, in his/her discretion, a person's eligibility for the payment of any reward monies.

2.6 The identity of any person claiming a reward shall not be disclosed publicly unless the Chief of Police approves the disclosure of this information or is obliged to release the information due to disclosure laws.

2.7 The Chief shall have the delegated authority to approve a recommendation to co-operate and/or participate in a reward being offered by a third party. Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Deputy Chief-Operation Support, the Chief shall determine if the co-operation and/or participation of the Ottawa Police Service is appropriate in the circumstances.

3. MEASUREMENT METHODS

The Chief of Police or a designate shall ensure that the appropriate accounting and audit systems are in place to ensure accountability and transparency of reward funds deposited and/or disbursed.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Chief of Police shall report to the Board annually on compliance with the provisions of this policy and on any rewards offered during the reporting period.