

February 22, 2022

Addressing the Revolving Door of Justice – Federal Resolution

MOVED by Mayor Davis (Brantford)

Seconded by Mayor Brown (Brampton)

WHEREAS many municipalities across Ontario are experiencing a substantial increase in criminal activity leaving residents fearful for their personal safety and losing confidence in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS the increase in criminal activity is due in part to the failure of the justice system to hold in pre-trial custody many of the likely-to-reoffend individuals, including those who are in serious breach of prior bail conditions, a situation commonly referred to as the “revolving door of justice”; and

WHEREAS those involved in the justice system, from Justices of the Peace to those who have been arrested, acknowledge the “catch and release” bail system contributes to an increase in crime; and

WHEREAS concerns continue to be raised by businesses, post-secondary institutions and their student bodies, neighbourhood associations, and citizens regarding the increased criminal activity; and

WHEREAS there is a pressing need for common sense bail reform that gives priority to the dignity and safety of victims over the wellbeing of criminals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT OBCM joins with a number of member Cities in requesting that steps be taken immediately

by the Federal government to strengthen the bail system, including:

- I. imposing more demanding and stringent surety and supervision requirements; and
- II. imposing more substantive and effective consequences for continued breaches of a judicial interim release order (as known as “bail”) resulting in pre-trial incarceration, which changes are required to safeguard law abiding citizens and to restore citizens faith in the criminal justice system

February 22, 2022

OBCM-Addressing the Revolving Door of Justice – Provincial Resolution

Moved by Mayor Davis (Brantford)

Seconded by Mayor Brown (Brampton)

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario have experienced a substantial increase in criminal activity leaving residents fearful for their personal safety and losing confidence in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS OBCM member municipalities strive to create vibrant, safe, livable neighbourhoods in their communities; and

WHEREAS concerns continue to be raised by businesses, the post-secondary and their student bodies, neighbourhood associations, citizens and others; and

WHEREAS bringing matters related to criminal charges more expeditiously through the court system will create a greater deterrence to such behaviour, and therefore improve the safety and security of citizens throughout Ontario; and

WHEREAS each year a significant sum of surety money is forfeited further to breaches of the conditions of judicial interim release orders (“bail”); however, the necessary steps are not taken to collect this forfeited money, thus leaving a substantial financial resource unavailable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT OBCM requests that steps be taken immediately by the Ontario government to:

- I. provide additional judicial resources to allow for matters to move as expeditiously through the court system as possible; and
- II. provide such additional space and/or technological resources for the local court systems to ensure there is adequate space and technological resources to most efficiently address the significant local caseload and consequently decrease the time a matter takes to be fully resolved; and
- III. dedicate the required resources to collect the forfeited surety monies and reinvest that money back into the provincial judicial system.