



— **OBCM** —  
Ontario's Big City Mayors



## **Motion on Sustainable Funding for Municipal Police Services**

**August 17, 2025**

**Moved by – Chair Jim Bradley – Niagara Region**

WHEREAS policing is a core municipal responsibility and a top priority for Ontarians; and

WHEREAS there are many important and pressing challenges related to policing and community safety, such as corrections, mental health, addictions, homelessness and encampments, domestic violence, animal welfare, auto theft, justice and bail reform to name a few; and

WHEREAS Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plans are mandated under the Safer Ontario Act, 2018 and the Community, Safety and Policing Act, 2019, and include comprehensive strategies developed by municipalities in partnership with various community stakeholders to enhance safety and well-being within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS the provinces' Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) 2024 is placing further financial pressures on local police services, adding new responsibilities including new training, equipment requirements; and

WHEREAS over the past several months we have seen legislation passed and regulations proposed or put in place that include new programs and policies for officers to implement; and

WHEREAS the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) support these new initiatives and measures which significantly enhance the safety of both police and our residents, it is necessary to recognize that these come with significant cost escalations to policing budgets across the province; and

WHEREAS in November 2024 the provincial government announced it would be offering \$77 million to 330 municipalities serviced by the OPP to offset the OPP's budget increase acknowledging that these additional measures, on top of annual operating budget increases for the current programs and staff in place, do have additional costs associated; and

WHEREAS that subsidy is not being extended to municipalities that operate local police services; and

WHEREAS communities with municipal police services have seen steady increases to their police operating budget(s), putting additional pressures on the taxpayers of our communities, with future years likely to see similar increases; and

WHEREAS the provincial government has been supportive of law enforcement including police services, with the Ministry of the Solicitor General being very approachable and open to the challenges faced by all communities as they relate to crime and increased financial strains.



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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) and the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) request that the Government of Ontario:

- Provide funding to municipal and regional police services in a manner proportional to the funding relief provided to OPP policed communities
- Consult with municipalities on proposed public and community safety initiatives to ensure consideration is given to important and pressing challenges for municipalities including but not limited to: corrections, mental health, addictions, homelessness and encampments, domestic violence, animal welfare, auto theft, justice and bail reform
- Work with police on funding allocations that require measurable deliverables and active police service participation and create greater accountability mechanisms for all stakeholders in local Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Plans
- Establish a sustainable, needs-based provincial funding model for all police services across the province, including both OPP and municipal police services, and especially for provincially-mandated responsibilities;
- Further the ability to fund and utilize emergency technology such as Next Generation 911 which provides quicker and more accessible communication during emergencies, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for law enforcement to ensure that police services are able to investigate or deter AI based crimes in the future; and
- Ensure that adequate funding and meaningful support be provided to police service members to address employee health and wellness, including members who are on long-term (WSIB) absences.

AND THAT a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General
- The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
- The Hon. Graham McGregor, Associate Minister of Auto Theft and Bail Reform
- Deputy Chief Roger Wilkie, President - Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
- Patrick Weaver, Chair - Ontario Association of Police Services Boards
- Robin Jones, President - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)