


TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Robert A. Barss, Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: July 4, 2002

SUBJECT: Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the In-Camera Session of Council on June 18, 2002, during discussion of the Police Study, Councillor Warshick requested staff look at the issue of rewards for major unsolved crimes again as he noted that Ontario has just recently posted a reward in an unsolved murder case.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the April 8, 2002 meeting of the Halifax Regional Board of Police Commissioners, an Information Report was submitted which outlined the procedures followed by a number of Canadian police agencies with regard to the offering of rewards for major unsolved crimes.

Staff has determined that the Ontario Provincial Police has not changed its reward system as indicated in Appendix B which was attached to the original Information Report. However, in the particular case mentioned by the Councillor, the crime involved a vicious rape and murder and the OPP was concerned about the offender striking. In addition, the City of Quinte-West has contributed to the reward, thereby, facilitating the reward increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operation Reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix B from Information report of April 8, 2002.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

Robert A. Barss, Deputy Chief of Police

490-5231

Reward Survey

Police Service	Toronto	OPP	London	Kitchener-Waterloo
Size of reward posted	Always \$50,000	Usually \$25,000 up to \$100,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
How amount is determined	Amount was set by Police Services Board	Depends on crime; investigator requests amount, to Commissioner's Committee for approval. Can be augmented by family or community	Family and friends posted most of it; police contributed rest to top up to \$10,000	Not sure.
What types of crimes?	Homicide only, usually cold cases. Some recent homicides, but only as a last resort	Homicides and missing persons cases that are suspicious in nature	Homicide	Homicide
Length of time offered	18 months	1 year; investigator can request continuance	1 year	2 years, can be renewed
Length of time posted	Not sure.	The entire time.	1 year	The entire time.
Number of rewards vs. number of crimes annual	In total, only 11 have ever been offered	About 6 per year, versus thousands of crimes	Only one since 2000	Less than on per year
Number of rewards claimed	None	None	None	None
Number posted at any one time	Varies	No more than 6	One	Depends
Currently, how many out and for what	3 - all homicides	6 - not sure	0	2 - homicides
Other comments	Offered only very rarely, with approval of Chief of Police	Not successful, generate a lot of "garbage calls", which leads to unnecessary work.		