



## County of Brant Council Report

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**To:** To the Mayor and Members of County of Brant Council  
**From:** Heather Boyd, General Manager of Corporate Services  
**Date:** December 17, 2024  
**Report #:** RPT-0550-24  
**Subject:** 2024-25 Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) Program  
**Purpose:** For Approval

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### **Recommendation**

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That the request from the County of Brant O.P.P. Detachment to establish a paid duty contract for the Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) initiatives over the 2024-25 holiday season in advance of confirmation of Provincial grant funding be approved;

And that any costs for the contract that are not fully funded by a Provincial grant be paid for through the County's 2025 budget for Ontario Provincial Police services.

### **Strategic Plan Priority**

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Strategic Priority 5 - Healthy, Safe, and Engaged Citizens

### **Impacts and Mitigation**

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#### Social Impacts

The annual Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) initiative is a well-known program and tradition to remove alcohol and drug-impaired drivers from the roads. This campaign addresses a significant issue at a critical time of year as well as increases police visibility, interaction and education.

#### Environmental Impacts

There are no environmental impacts anticipated as a result of this recommendation.

#### Economic Impacts

The approximate \$15,000 cost of a paid duty contract is expected to be covered through a Provincial Grant to be announced shortly and awarded in the new year. If the grant is not awarded to Brant County O.P.P., the cost will be absorbed through the annual policing budget. No overall budget impact is anticipated.

## **Report**

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### **Background**

The County of Brant recently received correspondence from Brant County O.P.P. (Attachment 1) advising that the Ministry of the Solicitor General has not yet issued a call for applications for the 2024-2025 Festive R.I.D.E. grant. It is expected that once announced, this funding will be applicable for eligible costs for the 2024 initiative.

This program has been historically funded through Provincial Grants. Most recently in 2022, the County of Brant Police Services Board and O.P.P. Detachment entered into an agreement for R.I.D.E. grant funding for the 2022-23 and the 2023-24 seasons, totaling \$14,900 and \$14,800 respectively. Funds are reimbursed following approval of the final report for each funding year submitted by the detachment.

### **Analysis**

As outlined in their correspondence, Brant County O.P.P. are seeking County approval to proceed with a paid duty contract for the Festive R.I.D.E. program for 2024-25. While it is not guaranteed, there is no indication that the program will not be funded by the Province as in previous years. Should the program not receive Provincial funding, the cost to the County based on previous initiatives will be minimal and likely fully absorbed by the annual policing contract budget. If Provincial funding is not granted in 2024-25, the County and the O.P.P. Detachment Committee may need to consider next steps for the program in advance of the 2025-26 season.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

Staff are supportive of the County approving the paid duty contract for the 2024-25 Festive R.I.D.E. initiatives.

### **Attachments**

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1. Correspondence from Brant County O.P.P. – Festive R.I.D.E. Grant 2024-2025

### **Reviewed By**

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1. Alison Newton, CAO
2. Cindy Stevenson, General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services

### **Copied To**

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1. Heather Mifflin, Treasurer
2. Jennifer Haley, Chair – County of Brant O.P.P. Detachment Committee

### **By-law and/or Agreement**

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By-law Required	No
Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and /or Clerk	No