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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2016
FROM:	KATE GRAHAM, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION
SUBJECT:	ONTARIO POLICE SERVICES ACT REVIEW – LONDON SUBMISSION

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Community & Economic Innovation, the following report on the *Ontario Police Services Act* consultation **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None.

BACKGROUND

At the March 10, 2016 meeting of Council, the following direction was given:

- i) the Mayor is requested to submit a letter to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services requesting that changes be made to the Police Services Act that would provide opportunities to modernize and improve cost efficiency in the delivery of police services and enhanced governance, and to provide a copy to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Police Association of Ontario; it being noted that it is the City of London's understanding that the stakeholders have had conversations and want to encourage the implementation of these changes;
- ii) the Civic Administration is directed to report back to the Corporate Services Committee with recommended submission to the Province of Ontario with respect to proposed changes to the Police Services Act

The attached letter under the signature of the Mayor was sent to the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has developed and released a comprehensive position paper on the *Ontario Police Service Act* review and will has directly engaged in the process. As submissions to this review process were required by April 8, 2016 the development of a London-focussed submission was not possible given the condensed timelines. As such, it is recommended that the attached letter serve as London's formal submission to the Provincial process. This will supplement the ongoing work AMO is doing on this file on behalf of Ontario's municipal governments.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
ADAM THOMPSON MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS	KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION



APPENDIX 1

Hon. Yasir Naqvi
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
18th Floor, George Drew Building
25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y6

Re: The Ontario Police Services Act – Modernization and Cost Efficiency

Dear Minister Naqvi,

I am writing to you today to bring the perspectives of the City of London to your attention your Government reviews various elements of the *Ontario Police Services Act*. I welcome this review as part of your ongoing work toward a *Strategy for a Safer Ontario*.

The public safety environment in our cities and communities have changed a great deal since the *Act* was last reviewed 25 years ago. Through your Government's ongoing consultations we have a once in a generation opportunity to strengthen and enhance policing services that are more efficient and effective and can better serve all Ontarians.

Policing costs in Ontario are the highest in the country. This is not sustainable over the long term. The financial sustainability of policing in our communities must be a central component of this legislative review. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has communicated that a reasonable long-term target would be to ensure that policing costs in Ontario come into line with the national provincial average within five years. The City of London concurs with this goal.

Financially sustainable police services could be attained in a number of ways, including through greater civilianization. Effective use of local health professionals, community groups and private security can lead to better public service and more efficient service. Technology, such as photo radar and red light cameras, have the advantages of both helping to streamline police services and maximize enforcement efficiency. However, there is no one-size-fits-all approach and any changes to the *Act* must recognize that requiring municipalities to potentially lead unwilling or uncooperative parties through a provincial mandate would pose significant local challenges.

Broader engagement of local public safety and security stakeholders is critical for a safer London. Reducing the reliance on front-line officers where it makes sense should be the key goal when pursuing modernization. By working more directly with and through local mental health professionals, such as LHINs, municipalities could see an end result of greater community mobilization and safer neighbourhoods. These cooperative efforts should be encouraged. Additionally, police services should be empowered to provide additional training to officers or civilians that can better support relationships with the most vulnerable people in our communities. Greater provincial assistance with social or supportive housing is also an integral aspect of supporting vulnerable Ontarians.

Governance is also a critical consideration, and the City of London fully supports AMO's recommendation to strike a Panel on Policing Governance to lead the process to consider outcomes and recommendations on governance reform arising from previous provincial work on this issue. The results of this could provide valuable insight into how we can keep our police services modern, efficient, and effective.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. I look forward to our continued work together toward modernizing the *Ontario Police Services Act* for the benefit of all of our communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matt Brown

City of London

cc. Gary McNamara, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Agenda Item # Page #

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Chief Jeff McGuire, President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
Bruce Chapman, President, Police Association of Ontario