HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

-INFORMATION-

DATE: 2019 March 7

REPORT TO: Chair and Members
Hamilton Police Services Board

FROM: Eric Girt
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: ***Year End Report: Towing 2018***
PSB 19-019

BACKGROUND:

The Hamilton Police Service currently has 11 towing companies under contract for the towing of Security and Non-Security vehicles, as required. The 3 year contract commenced on June 30, 2014, with 2 one-year extension options. The contract is currently in its final year with a new contract scheduled for June, 2019.

The present contract implemented a Vehicle Management System (VMS), which is maintained by Extend Communications. It provides an inventory of all vehicles in the tow yards and is updated by the individual tow companies as required. The VMS is user friendly and has been endorsed by all contracted tow companies.

In 2018, Tow revenue was $135,600.00 (4,010 vehicles) as compared to $112,956.10 (3,739 vehicles) for 2017, and $104,103.00 (3,459 vehicles) in 2016, representing an increase of 20% and 8% respectively. The revenue included the issuance of 13 new tow operator cards at a cost of $390.00 each, totaling $5,070.00. All tow operators, owners and drivers have photo identification cards and their photos are kept on file with the Hamilton Police Service. As of November 24, 2017, we started including HST of 13% in all our billings.

In 2018, 437 vehicles were not picked up by the registered owners as compared to 433 in 2017. These were a result of tow/storage fees that exceed the value of the vehicle (vehicles with 7- 45 day holds) or vehicles involved in collisions where the owner has no vehicle insurance or no collision insurance. These figures reflect vehicles only, not e-bikes.

In mid-2018 a new initiative – the Halton Regional Police Tow Protocol – was implemented wherein all Halton Regional vehicles recovered in Hamilton requiring expert Forensic Exam,

were eligible to be towed and expensed back to their Service. (ie Hamilton Tow takes vehicle to Hamilton yard; Halton Tow then removes the vehicle to their Region; Halton then pays all release fees which includes the HPS revenue as per contract.) This partnership between Services enhances investigative outcomes, shares criminal intelligence and relieves Hamilton Police Service Forensic resources. Under this Protocol, a total of 14 recovered vehicles were returned to the Halton Regional Police Service.

In review of our Tow liabilities, Hamilton Police Service paid out $9,779.91 in towing fees to tow companies and registered owners. This compares to $11,440.12 in 2017, representing a decrease of 14%.

The Hamilton Police Service will continue to monitor all towed vehicles to identify efficiencies, accountability and ensure that proper procedures are followed.

Eric Girt
Chief of Police

EG/M. Schulenberg

cc: Frank Bergen, Deputy Chief – Support
Marty Schulenberg, Superintendent – Support Services