

Clause 21 in Report No. 10 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on June 23, 2016.

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Donation of Paramedic Services Decommissioned Ambulances  
for 2016

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated May 26, 2016 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Council allow an exemption to the Decommissioned Ambulance Donation Guidelines to permit the donation of three decommissioned ambulances in 2016.
2. Council authorize the donation of one York Region Paramedic Services ambulance, decommissioned from service in 2016, to Caribbean North.
3. Council authorize the donation of two decommissioned ambulances to St. John Ambulance York Region Branch.

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Report dated May 26, 2016 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council allow an exemption to the Decommissioned Ambulance Donation Guidelines to permit the donation of three decommissioned ambulances in 2016.
2. Council authorize the donation of one York Region Paramedic Services ambulance, decommissioned from service in 2016, to Caribbean North.
3. Council authorize the donation of two decommissioned ambulances to St. John Ambulance York Region Branch.

## 2. Purpose

This report seeks approval for the donation of one decommissioned ambulance to Caribbean North and two decommissioned ambulances to St. John Ambulance. These requests surpass the total forgone revenues outlined in Council's approved donation guidelines.

## 3. Background

Council approved guidelines and procedures in evaluating decommissioned Paramedic Services vehicle donation requests

On February 17, 2011, through Clause 6 of Report No. 2 of the Community and Health Services Committee, Council adopted guidelines and procedures for evaluating donation requests for decommissioned ambulances.

The guidelines and procedures are as follows:

### **Guidelines:**

1. A maximum of 25% of the decommissioned surplus vehicles may be donated in any given calendar year provided the value of those vehicles does not exceed \$15,000.
2. Donations will only occur to registered not-for-profit, community or international humanitarian organizations of sound repute and generally aligned with the services supported by York Region.
3. Preference, in order of priority, will be as follows:
  - a. Regional or local uses
  - b. Provincial/Federal/International Relief or other organizations
4. Organizations must also follow general guidelines, as outlined with the Community Investment Strategy that relate to not being affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere to and support the Human Rights Code.

### **Procedures:**

1. A report will be forwarded for Council approval each time a request has been received that complies with the guidelines for donation.

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2. Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation.
3. Prior to accepting the donation, the organization will be required to acknowledge, in writing, that The Regional Municipality of York makes no representations or warranties regarding the vehicle, and that they are assuming ownership on an “as is” basis.

Since the approval of the guidelines, Council has approved the donation of six decommissioned ambulances. Table 1 provides the detail of past donation approvals.

**Table 1**  
**Donations of Decommissioned Ambulances since Guideline Approval**

Year of Request	Council Approval	Agency	Number of Ambulances
2011	June 23, 2011	High Adventure Gospel Communication Ministries for a medical centre project in Ongutoi, Uganda	1
2011	June 23, 2011	1st York Region Medical Venturers and Rovers – Scouts Canada	1
2012	May 17, 2012	Guyana Burn and Health Care Foundation	2
2013	January 23, 2014	Friends of Ecuador	1
2014	September 11, 2014	Chippewas of Georgina Island	1

#### 4. Analysis and Options

According to donation guidelines, two ambulances can be considered for donation in 2016

Paramedic Services will have decommissioned 12 ambulances in 2016. Under the existing guidelines, 25%, or up to three ambulances, would be available for donation; however, as the average value at auction over the last three years for an ambulance was \$7,100 and the maximum total foregone revenue for decommissioned ambulances under Council’s guidelines is \$15,000, only two ambulances would be considered for donation in 2016.

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On March 20, 2016 a request from Caribbean North was submitted to the Commissioner of Community and Health Services, for a donation of a decommissioned ambulance. On May 3, 2016 a request from St. John Ambulance York Region Branch was submitted to the Commissioner requesting two decommissioned ambulances.

Both requests are consistent with the donation guidelines; however, as indicated above, only two ambulances would be available for donation this year. Given that no surplus ambulances were allocated in 2015 and the value of the 2016 donation is nominally above the guideline, staff recommend providing three surplus ambulances this year.

It has been confirmed that the Region will not assume any of the costs associated with shipping the ambulance to Caribbean North or St. John Ambulance.

There has not been any information that would indicate that further requests for donations of decommissioned Paramedic Services ambulances will be forthcoming.

Caribbean North Charities Foundation is a registered Canadian charity which operates a structured Global Outreach Program

Caribbean North Charities Foundation is a Canadian Charity under Registration 875 225 401 RR001. Caribbean North was originally incorporated as Guyana Burn and Healthcare Charitable Foundation, a Canadian charity domiciled in York Region, registered under #875225401RR0001. The name was legally changed to Caribbean North Charities on August 9, 2013 to reflect the geographic expansion of the charity's activities from a single country to the group of countries referred to as the Caribbean. Guyana Burn and Healthcare Charitable Foundation was the recipient of a previous decommissioned ambulance for the Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana through the application process, as approved by Council on May 17, 2012.

The Request for Ambulance Donation is supported by Dr. Chierry A. Poyotte, CEO of St. Jude Hospital, as well as the Consul General of St. Lucia in Toronto, the Honourable Michael Willis.

St. Jude Hospital services 40% of the population over 100 square miles

St. Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort, St. Lucia is an acute care facility on the southern tip of the island that services approximately 40% of the population over a 100 square mile radius with a per capita income of under \$200 per annum.

## Donation of Paramedic Services Decommissioned Ambulances for 2016

Saint Jude's currently operates three previously decommissioned ambulances, which were donated over four years ago and have since reached the end of their functional life. Frequently, one or two ambulances are non-functional or requiring repairs, and the remaining vehicle is unable to cope with the demand. Lack of financial resources to acquire replacement vehicles makes the hospital reliant on donations.

St. John Ambulance is a registered Canadian charity, which provides training and community service

St. John Ambulance has been an integral part of the York Region community since 1991. They provide first aid training, volunteer medical first response teams, and disaster planning and support, amongst other training and community support.

In 2015, 600 local volunteers provided 70,000 of community service including 110 medical first responders who attended 140 events in the Region such as the PanAm and Para PanAm games venues.

St. John Ambulance received a donation of a decommissioned ambulance eight years ago from York Region which, based on extensive utilization, needs to be retired. As the demand for the services and the number of events continues to increase, St. John Ambulance has indicated the need to replace their ambulance to continue their work in the community.

The Decommissioned Ambulance Donation Guidelines will be reviewed and brought back to Council in 2017

As the donation guidelines have been in place for five years, staff will bring back for Council's consideration proposed revisions in 2017 to support the ongoing ability to fulfill community requests for decommissioned ambulances.

Link to key Council-approved plans

While there is no link to Council-approved plans, this report is consistent with the Council-approved policy for decommissioned Paramedic Services ambulances.

### 5. Financial Implications

If it is not being donated, a decommissioned Paramedic Services ambulance is sold at auction. The average proceeds per vehicle at auction over the last three years were \$7,100. The net value of a decommissioned ambulance can be expected to be between \$6,000 to \$12,000 dependent upon the vehicle's condition, mileage and demand.

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The maximum total foregone revenue for decommissioned ambulances under Council's guidelines is \$15,000 and has been factored into 2016 budget estimates for the Paramedic Services Branch. A further amount of approximately \$7,500 will be forgone as a result of surpassing the donation guidelines.

Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation. There is no added expense to the Region. It is the responsibility of the receiving organization to inspect and prepare the ambulances for use in accordance with local regulation.

6. Local Municipal Impact

A partnership with not-for-profit organizations, such as St. John Ambulance, enhances community supports to the residents of York Region.

7. Conclusion

The donation of one decommissioned ambulance will support the efforts of the St. Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort, St. Lucia to safely administer to patients of emergency calls on the island.

The donation of one decommissioned ambulance to St. John Ambulance York Region will continue to support the volunteer efforts and maintain the ability of St. John Ambulance to continue to support its community programs.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, Chief and General Manager, Paramedic and Seniors Services at ext. 74709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

May 26, 2016

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.