

March 20, 2014

TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF ALL WHITESTONE RESIDENTS:

Dear Resident:

The Municipality of Whitestone needs your help!

The issue is a proposal by the OPP to change significantly the way in which they bill for police services. Currently, the OPP bill based on a municipality's actual crime rate. This is a user pay system. We believe it is fair. However, the OPP are proposing to bill based on the number of households and to significantly increase their charges for "fixed" costs.

Since November 2013 the Whitestone Council has been calling on the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) to scrap or modify the proposed unfair police services funding model. We have sent letters to the Premier, various MPP's, the OPP as well as made a presentation to the Minister in charge of the OPP.

The proposed billing model will more than six fold Whitestone's police costs from \$97,268.00 to \$619,182.00. This would require a 31 % tax increase or significant reductions in municipal services to cover the higher police costs which are proposed to go into effect January 2015. With this new model, there would be no increase in police service to justify these huge cost increases.

We believe the proposed Billing Model is fundamentally flawed;

- Using households to allocate costs is **WRONG**. Households are not cost drivers of crime.
- The proposed model establishes fixed costs at 73% and variable costs at 27%, which does not make sense.
- It excludes commercial/industrial development, always an attractor of crime.

We firmly believe that no municipality should be required to pay for crime committed in any other municipality. In the event this model were to be implemented, Whitestone will have to consider setting up its own Police Force.

How can you help? Please find enclosed a draft letter for your consideration to submit by April 15, 2014 to the Premier and the Minister of MCSCS with a c.c. to the MPP in the riding in which you vote provincially. Please visit our website at www.whitestone.ca to easily email a version of the letter and copy us at info@whitestone.ca. We ask that you add your voice of support to this critical issue.

Yours truly,

Councillor Don Carter

Councillor Bill Church

**Chris Armstrong
Mayor**

Councillor Colette Deacon

Councillor Joe Lamb