

April 21, 2010

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Blvd
Markham, ON
L3R 9W3



Re: York Region Road Watch Committee

Dear Mayor Scarpitti:

In 1995, a group of concerned citizens initiated the Road Watch Program in response to the number of fatal collisions in the community of Caledon. Since then, the Road Watch Program has been adopted by a number of other communities throughout Ontario, including York Region.

Road Watch is a community-based initiative that gives residents and visitors of York Region an opportunity to report aggressive and unsafe drivers to the police. The program targets aggressive and unsafe driving through awareness, education and enforcement. When reports are received and validated, a letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them of the behaviour and encouraging safer driving. If multiple reports are received, an officer is sent to speak to the owner personally.

Originally, it was established that each municipality in the Region would be represented at the Regional Road Watch Committee level through the appointment of a member-of-council and a qualified community member. Unfortunately since then, several municipalities including Markham have stopped participating.

The York Region Road Watch Committee is requesting that the Town of Markham appoint a member-of-council to be responsible for the Road Watch portfolio. This appointment would require periodic attendance at quarterly meetings; the monitoring of Road Watch related issues and the appointment of a qualified citizen to participate in regular committee meetings. The council member would act as the liaison between the regional committee and Markham council.

The Regional Road Watch Committee continues to raise awareness about the program throughout the region by attending community events and seizing marketing opportunities as they present themselves. However, those marketing opportunities are as limited as our resources. Advertising in local newspapers, producing posters, handouts and other marketing material is and would continue to be an effective way of promoting Road Watch. For those reasons the committee is requesting that each municipality contribute \$500.00 per year to Road Watch to be used for education and marketing. Cheques should be made payable to the York Region Road Watch Committee c/o the York Regional Police Traffic Bureau, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 4W5.

In keeping with raising awareness, the Regional Road Watch Committee is asking each municipality in York Region to declare the week of May 17 – 23, 2010, Road Watch Week. This may assist in highlighting the program in the public eye and hopefully bring more attention to road safety.

If all municipalities appoint individuals to the Regional Road Watch Committee who are dedicated and passionate about road safety; annually contribute funding and declare a Road Watch week every spring, the potential exists to provide our citizens with an efficient and effective avenue to report aggressive and dangerous driving and to take ownership of road safety.

If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to call York Regional Police Sergeant Edmond Villamere, Supervisor of Traffic Safety Education at 1-866-876-5423, extension 7706.

Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility. Your anticipated support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Linda Pabst,
Councillor, Township of King
Co-Chair, York Region Roadwatch Committee



Staff Sergeant Bradley Bulmer
Traffic Bureau Commander
York Regional Police
Co-Chair, York Region Roadwatch Committee