



WOODSTOCK POLICE SERVICE BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Citizen Rewards
Policy Number:	LE-014
Effective Date:	December 4, 2024
Reviewed:	
Amended:	

Authority/Legislative Reference

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures and guidelines for offering rewards to citizens who provide information leading to the resolution of criminal activities, the apprehension of offenders, or significant contributions to community safety. This policy aligns with the *Community Safety and Policing Act* (the "Act") to ensure transparency, fairness, and integrity in the reward process.

Policy Application

1. A reward is defined as a financial or non-financial incentive offered to individuals who provide information that significantly contributes to law enforcement efforts.
2. Rewards may be offered under specific conditions. The information provided must be credible, relevant, and directly linked to the resolution of a criminal investigation. It must lead to the arrest or conviction of an individual, the

recovery of stolen property, a significant advancement in a criminal investigation, or the prevention of imminent threats to public safety. The individual providing information must act in good faith and not be directly involved in the criminal activity in question.

3. A reward offer can be initiated by a request from a member of the Woodstock Police Service (the "Service") or by a formal recommendation from the Chief of Police. The Board will review the request to ensure it complies with legal and policy requirements. The Board may then approve the reward offer. The reward amount and criteria will be determined based on the severity of the crime, the impact on public safety, and budgetary considerations. Once approved, the reward offer may be publicly announced through appropriate channels, such as media releases, social media, and community outreach.
4. Rewards will be administered by the Service. Payments will be made in a manner that ensures confidentiality and safety for the recipient. The identity of individuals receiving rewards will be kept confidential to protect their privacy and safety. All reward transactions will be documented, including the details of the information provided, the approval process, and the payment method.
5. All reward offers and payments must comply with the *Act*, its regulations, and relevant legal requirements. The Board will monitor the effectiveness of the reward program and make adjustments as necessary to ensure its proper functioning and alignment with community safety objectives.
6. All reward offers and payments must be made with integrity and without any form of coercion or undue influence. Board members and police personnel must avoid conflicts of interest and act in the best interest of community safety.