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## Report 2025-067

**Report Title:** Cobourg Police Services Partnership – 310 Division Street, Cobourg

**Committee Name:** Social Services

**Committee Meeting Date:** April 2, 2025

**Prepared by:** Rebecca Carman  
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Community and Social Services

**Reviewed by:** Glenn Dees  
Director, Health and Human Services  
Community and Social Services

**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** April 16, 2025

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Innovate for Service Excellence  
 Ignite Economic Opportunity  
 Foster a Thriving Community  
 Propel Sustainable Growth  
 Champion a Vibrant Future

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### Information Report

“That the Social Services Committee receive Report 2025-067 ‘Cobourg Police Services Partnership – 310 Division Street, Cobourg’ for information; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council receive this report for information.”

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### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the partnership between the County and Cobourg Police Services in the successful operation of 310 Division Street and to provide accurate data from the Cobourg Police Services March Board meeting as directed at March 19, 2025 County Council Meeting.

### Background

At the March 18, 2025 Cobourg Police Services Board Meeting, Chief VandeGraaf provided his monthly update which included an update on the work being conducted by the Cobourg Police Services (CPS) in the downtown area. A recording of this meeting is available at: <https://pub-cobourg.escribemeetings.com/>.

During Chief VandeGraaf's monthly update, he shared that the CPS continues to respond to what the community 'asks of us' and increasing their presence in the downtown area, adding an additional 19 foot patrols downtown at key hours (morning and evening). CPS continues to work with local business owners to manage on their behalf after hours, laying trespass charges when necessary and responding to homelessness related concerns such as after-hours presence in vestibules.

Chief VandeGraaf also noted that the CPS has conducted 74 property checks including 57 in the area of 310 Division Street in the month of February. It is important to note that a property check is a pro-active self-directed effort from an officer and is not a response to a call from a member of the public or staff/security at 310 Division. The Chief also noted the ongoing engagement with the County through Staff Sergeant Bambridge and Sergeant MacDonald.

Chief VandeGraaf noted that Staff Sergeant Bambridge engages with the County to work toward addressing safety concerns in the neighbourhood around 310 Division for all involved and is considering options around auxiliary and special constables for this project. Chief VandeGraaf noted that Sergeant MacDonald is the CPS Representative for the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), works with the Mental Health Engagement and Response Team (MHEART) and the CPS Homeless Addiction Resource Project (HARP), and works with staff directly at 310 Division Street. In addition, Sergeant MacDonald works with the County through the Homelessness Leadership Table and the Homelessness Coordinated Response Team (HCRT).

The request for this report came forward after information from the Cobourg Police Services Board meeting was shared at County Council where staff were directed to clarify the information provided and report back with accurate information to the April Social Services Committee meeting. To do this, County staff reviewed the presentation provided by Chief Vandegraaf and watched the recording of the Board meeting and confirmed data presented and the appropriate interpretation of it with members of the CPS. Through these discussions, the County has confirmed that the information shared in the Board meeting was that there were 57 property checks within the area of 310 Division. A property check is a pro-active self-directed effort from an officer, special constable or auxiliary member providing a visible presence in and around the direct vicinity of 310 Division and may possibly include a visit to 310 Division itself. Property checks are not a reactionary call for service that a member of the public would contact dispatch for such as a theft, trespass, or other nuisance type behaviour.

## **Consultations**

Internal consultations have occurred with staff in Homelessness Services.

External consultations have occurred with members of the CPS, Integrity Investigative Solutions Inc., and Transition House leadership.

## **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

It is important that accurate information be shared with the public. Through this report and Chief VandeGraaf's report, the nature of the activity of the CPS in and around 310 Division Street has been clarified.

## **Discussion / Options**

In the opening of 310 Division Street, the County and the CPS have increased their intentional partnerships to support both clients of 310 Division Street and the surrounding neighbouring residents and businesses. The County, CPS, Integrity Investigative Solutions Inc. (contracted security service provider), and Transition House meet monthly to discuss the status of community safety initiatives in the area surrounding 310 Division Street. These meetings have focused on troubleshooting overlapping processes and practices between partners, develop response and engagement plans for neighbouring properties and within 310 Division Street with the goal of serving everyone within the vicinity of 310 Division Street. In addition, joint communication and outreach is planned between the CPS and the County to support good neighbour initiatives within the vicinity of 310 Division Street. CPS and County staff have attended 310 Division Street to discuss good neighbour practices and shared CPS' 4E approach (engage, explain, educate, enforce) to moving forward with open drug use with both staff and clients.

Proactive presence by security and the CPS support efforts toward enhancing public safety and the perception of safety. This is achieved through community initiatives and the collaborative efforts of CPS and the County in establishing strong communication protocols, partnership relationships and joint efforts in serving the community.

As directed by County Council, staff have clarified the accurate statistics shared at the CPS Board Meeting, the number shared by the Chief was that there were 57 property checks in the area of 310 Division. A property check is a pro-active self-directed effort from an officer, special constable or auxiliary member providing a visible presence in and around the direct vicinity of 310 Division and may possibly include a visit to 310 Division itself. Property checks are not a reactionary call for service that a member of the public would contact dispatch for such as a theft, trespass, or other nuisance type behaviour.

During the same time (February 2025), there were 6 calls placed to the CPS for assistance at 310 Division Street by Integrity Security Solutions Inc. and/or Transition House staff and a total of 17 calls to the County's Emergency Care Establishment phone line with concerns. A request has been made to CPS for the call volume as directed by County Council, CPS is reviewing this request.

## **Financial Impact**

N/A

## **Member Municipality Impacts**

N/A

## **Conclusion / Outcomes**

It is recommended that the Social Services Committee and County Council receive this report for information.

## **Attachments**

N/A