



RESOLUTION 2021-04

Use of Cellblocks at Courthouses

Preamble

The Ministry of the Attorney General operates courthouses whose cellblocks are unused after standard courthouse hours, thereby requiring local police services to incur incremental operating and capital costs to operate separate cellblock facilities, including the one-time cost of constructing central cellblock capacity and on-going operating costs including prisoner transportation.

WHEREAS requests to use provincial courthouse cell blocks after hours have been declined by local Crowns due to a perceived need for judicial independence, and

WHEREAS municipalities and police services are faced with rising operating and construction costs to facilitate cellblocks and transportation for prisoners, and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Attorney General, municipalities, and police services are accountable to the taxpayer and expected to be fiscally responsible, and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Peel and various other jurisdictions are planning to build or expand cellblock capacity adjacent to their local courthouses, and

WHEREAS historical and current practices have seen the police as being responsible for prisoner holding areas during operational times and any procedural changes being required if municipal police services were permitted access to courthouse cellblocks after operating hours is not seen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Ontario to amend the policy to allow courthouse cellblocks to be used after hours by municipal police services while maintaining judicial independence.