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April 13, 2015

Dear Mayor / Reeve,

On July 7th, 2014 the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) introduced Citizen Self Reporting (CSR), an internet-based reporting system, as an alternate means of reporting non-emergency incidents to police from the traditional phone call to a Communications Centre. Utilizing this system is completely optional and has been introduced as a simple and convenient method to use a computer or mobile device to report specific incidents that are not deemed to be an emergency, or where there are no suspects or no injuries involved.

Since the program was implemented, the OPP has received hundreds of online reports from citizens across Ontario. With this information, police have been able to use these online reports to make linkages to property crime investigations, some of which have led to the arrest and charging of suspect(s).

The OPP is constantly looking for ways to improve efficiencies and increase public safety and we are confident that online reporting has greater potential moving forward now that citizens can report non-emergency incidents anywhere, anytime.

The OPP are collaborating with our municipal partners to promote and support Citizen Self Reporting throughout the province. Citizen Self Reporting will be instrumental in allowing members of the public to report less serious occurrences on their own time. As members of the public engage the Citizen Self Reporting system more frequently, it will permit valuable front line resources to be focused on more serious crimes and community based projects.

Municipalities can assist in supporting this system by posting the enclosed web information on your municipal website. The following link will take you directly to the CSR website:
<http://www.opp.ca/reporting/>

Community safety and well-being in Ontario is everyone's responsibility. Your ongoing support will make a difference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Barnum", with a long, sweeping underline.

R. W. (Rick) Barnum, Chief Superintendent
Bureau Commander
Communications and Technology Services Bureau
Ontario Provincial Police