



Resolution 2016-09

Use of Cellblocks at Courthouses

Approved at the 65th Annual General Meeting, June 29th, 2016

Preamble: The Ministry of The Attorney General operates 163 courthouses whose cellblocks are unused after courthouse hours requiring additional costs by the local police services, including the one-time cost of constructing central cellblock capacity and ongoing operating costs including prisoner transportation.

WHEREAS requests to use provincial courthouse cell blocks after hours have been declined by local Crown's due to a need for judicial independence; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipalities of Durham and Waterloo have recently built extra central cellblock capacity nearby provincial courthouses to meet overnight prisoner housing needs and to minimize prisoner transportation costs; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York is planning to build extra cellblock capacity at a projected cost of \$2 million; and

WHEREAS historical and current practices have seen the police as being responsible for prisoner holding areas during operational areas, the OACP does not see any changes being required when municipal police services are allowed access to courthouse cellblocks after.

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