This page was exported from - King Weekly Sentinel
Export date: Fri Mar 29 7:37:53 2024 / +0000 GMT

Mayor's task force on offenders to hold first meeting

By Mark Pavilons

King Township is pulling together its mayor's task force on dangerous offenders, and looking to the public for input.

King council Monday night approved the terms of reference for the Mayor's Task Force on High-Risk and Dangerous Offenders, setting out a game plan for the coming weeks.

Interested members of the public will be contacted for appointment to the task force. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 21. The task force will report back to committee of the whole with its findings and recommendations early this summer.

The task force is in response to the revelation that a high risk offender is living in a facility near Schomberg. When news broke in December that Keith Theodore Constantin, 35, is in the area. Constantin was released following a four-year jail term for sexual assault with a weapon, and an 18-month term for violating his curfew conditions. His rap sheet includes sexually assaulting a seven-year old boy, sexually assaulting a 45-year-old blind woman, robbing two variety stores with a starter pistol, and raping and beating a woman at knife-point.

In the report by deputy clerk Alexander Harras, it was noted the purpose of the task force is to gather information on existing federal and provincial corrections' policies and procedures for managing high-risk and dangerous offenders. The task force will look into matters such as facility safety; offender management policies; facility and site selection process and criteria for housing high-risk and dangerous offenders.

As it stands, the task for will be chaired by Nobleton Councillor David Boyd and will include four citizen members. Mayor Steve Pellegrini, Township staff and representatives from York Regional Police will serve as ex-officio members. King's clerk's department will provide the administration services.

The task force is urged to compete its work quickly, so Boyd can appoint the members who have applied. It's suggested the task force meet once a month (every third Thursday) for six months until June 30.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini praised staff for pulling everything together so quickly. It's been a difficult issue for both him and Councillor Bill Cober, who have had many calls and ?sleepless nights??over this issue.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer thanked Boyd for offering to chair the task force.