



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

POLICE SERVICES BOARD

PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

PSB MEMBERS:

B. Steele, Chair
D. Eke, Vice-Chair
B. Gale, Board Member
K. Gibson, Board Member
J. Lawson, Board Member

D. Reid, Executive Director
D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant

NRPS MEMBERS:

Chief of Police B. MacCulloch
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Services
Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services
Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency Investigative Services
Superintendent R. Frayne, Corporate Services
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology
A/Superintendent L. Greco, Operational Support
A/Superintendent M. Lagrotteria, District Operations
Inspector D. Gomez, Executive Officer to the Chief
D/Sergeant R. Aceti, Central Fraud Unit
D/Sergeant R. McComber, Special Victim's Unit, Human Trafficking
D/Sergeant S. Rose, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief
Constable P. Gavin, Corporate Communications Unit
L. Rullo, Finance Manager
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager

OTHERS:

R. LeClair, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General
P. Forcier, Chief of Police, Niagara Parks Police Service

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:20 am.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Board began its meeting by acknowledging that the Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hattiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, June 23, 2022

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, June 23, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to Ministry Policing Services Advisor - On behalf of the Board, Chair Steele welcomed Ron LeClair to the meeting. Ron is with the Inspectorate of Policing at the Ministry of the Solicitor General and he serves as a Policing Services Advisor to Police Boards in Ontario. He attended the meeting as part of routine visits by Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards across the Province. The Board was pleased that Ron attended the meeting and Members look forward to his continued participation at future Board meetings.

NRPS Presentations at Local City and Town Council Meetings - The Service has concluded its initiative for presentations to Niagara's local municipalities to address police related questions or concerns. This initiative was undertaken as a result of a Board Motion made in December 2021 and since that time, presentations have been made to Port Colborne City Council, Fort Erie Town Council, Niagara Falls City Council, Town of Lincoln Council, Thorold City Council, West Lincoln Town Council, Welland City Council and Wainfleet Town Council. There are no further presentations scheduled. The Board applauds the Service for its due diligence and extends their appreciation to those members who represented the Service at these meetings to strengthen communications between police, Municipal councils, and area residents.

Donor Appreciation Event: Nature Centre Re-Opening - Heartland Forest - On June 28, Heartland Forest hosted a Donor Appreciation Night to recognize their many supporters who have made contributions to this valuable organization that benefits the Niagara community in ways of conservation, accessibility, education, and wellness. Vice Chair Eke attended the event as a representative of the Board.

CAPG Roundtable - Board and Commission Chairs - On July 13, Chair Steele attended the Canadian Association of Police Governance bi-annual roundtable for Police Services Board and Commission Chairs. The meeting allowed Chairs from across Canada an opportunity to openly discuss issues that are currently impacting police services across the country and to share knowledge on best practices for solutions to identified policing concerns.

IAWP Brunch for NRPS Members/PSB - On July 14, Chair Steele, Member Lawson and Board staff attended a brunch that was hosted by Chief MacCulloch for NRPS Members attending the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Conference being held in Niagara Falls from September 12-16. The Conference is being hosted by the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Hamilton Police Service and the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE). It is expected to attract 800 plus delegates from over 70 countries across the world. This will be the largest gathering of female law enforcement members globally. Chair Steele advised that he will be attending the Open Ceremonies and participating in the police march.

CAPG – Webinar Sessions - The Canadian Association of Police Governance hosts monthly webinars as part of its educational strategy to keep police boards and police executives across Canada apprised of issues currently impacting the policing community. Webinars are scheduled on July 21 and August 16, at 12:00 pm, for discussions on Canadian policing - why and how it must change; and Charter issues and lessons learned from governance of policing a pandemic. As well, Board members have been registered for the CAPG Virtual Governance Summit on August 26, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, for discussions on the alignment gap in policing.

CAPG Annual Conference - The Canadian Association of Police Governance is hosting its 2022 Conference & Annual General Meeting from September 7-11. This year's conference theme is Community Partnerships and Engagement and delegates will engage in panel discussions, workshops, and roundtables with a focus on new ideas and problem-solving around key issues facing policing today. Chair Steele will be attending the conference virtually along with Vice Chair Eke, Members Gibson and Lawson, and the Board's Executive Director.

NRPS Recruit Graduation Ceremony - On September 8, Chair Steele will be joining Chief MacCulloch and his Executive staff at a Recruit Graduation Ceremony to welcome eight new recruits to the Niagara Regional Police Service and two new recruits to the Niagara Parks Police Service. The event is being held in the Community Room at Police Headquarters at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming PSB Meetings - In keeping with meeting schedule practices for Regional Council, local area municipalities and Agencies, Boards and Commissions; as well as other Police Services Boards, there are no Board or Committee meetings scheduled during the month of August. The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, September 22 at 9:00 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

International Association of Women Police - Further to the comments provided by Chair Steele, Chief MacCulloch advised that several NRPS members will be attending the conference and will have the chance to engage and network with women leaders from across the world. The conference will bring an abundance of international travelers to the Region, and the Service looks forward to welcoming conference participants to Niagara. Chief MacCulloch extended his thanks to Chair Steele for volunteering his time to address the delegates during the Opening Ceremonies and to the Board for their continued support.

Operational Statistics:

Attempted Homicides - Reporting Period of June 21 to July 18, 2022

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 5 for 2022 to-date.

Homicides - Reporting Period of June 21 to July 18, 2022

- 1 for this reporting period with a total of 5 for 2022 to date, compared to year-end totals of 6 in 2021, 5 in 2020, 7 in 2019 and 2 in 2018.

Homicide Incident of June 30, 2022 - At approximately 9:30 pm, officers responded to the report of a stabbing in the area of Old Pine Trail in St. Catharines. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male with injuries and no vital signs. The male was pronounced deceased shortly thereafter. The investigation was undertaken by Detectives with the Homicide Unit. Through their investigation, a suspect was identified and taken into custody. The victim, a 29-year-old male, and the suspect were known to each other. Keenan George, 29-years-old, of St. Catharines is facing the charge of second-degree murder and was ordered into custody following a bail hearing on July 1. Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously are encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-8477(TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards to persons who contact the program with information that leads to an arrest.

Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) - Reporting Period of June 21 to June 30, 2022

- 0 for this reporting period.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) - Reporting Period of June 1 to June 30, 2022

- 1 for this reporting period with a total of 8 for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2022, compared to year-end totals of 21 for 2021, 16 in 2020, 13 in 2019, 13 in 2018 and 16 in 2017.

Fatal MVC Incident of June 13, 2022 - At approximately 6:42 pm, emergency service personnel were called to a report of three cyclists having been struck by a car in west St. Catharines. Officers from 1 District, EMS and the St. Catharines Fire Service arrived on scene on Seventh Street South between the South Service Road and Second Avenue South to find that the three cyclists had been struck by a white SUV. All three were treated at the scene and transported by paramedics to a local hospital. Despite resuscitative efforts both at the scene and at the hospital, the 36-year-old male cyclist was later pronounced deceased. The two other male cyclists, ages 36 years and 42 years, were treated for serious injuries and have since been released. All three men are residents of Mexico working at a St. Catharines area farm. The driver of the SUV was not injured. Detectives from the Collision Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the incident.

Enforcement Initiatives:

NRPS Traffic Stop in St. Catharines Leads to Drugs and a Handgun - On July 2, at approximately 3:46 am, 1 District uniform officers were on patrol in the area of Riordon Street and Gale Crescent in St. Catharines. The officers observed a vehicle driving erratically and initiated a traffic stop. The officers arrested the male driver after determining he was a criminally prohibited driver. A search of the male and the car following his arrest resulted in the seizure of fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, Canadian currency, and a loaded handgun. The estimated street value of the drugs is \$34,000. The male was arrested and charged with several drug and weapons related offences.

Male Charged following Grimsby Collision - On July 9, at approximately 8:00 am, 8 District officers were called to area of the North Service Road near Olive Street in Grimsby in response to a single motor vehicle that left the roadway, collided into a tree and caught fire. Prior to emergency responders arriving on scene, Good Samaritans removed the injured occupants, an adult male and female, from the vehicle and extinguished the small engine fire. The occupants sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to an out-of-town hospital. The actions of the Good Samaritans likely prevented life-threatening injuries, and their actions are commended. Detectives from 8 District have assumed carriage of the investigation. After a judicially authorized search of the involved vehicle, with the assistance of the Forensic Services Unit, Detectives recovered physical and forensic evidence leading to a Brantford male being arrested and charged with several offences including impaired driving and possession of cocaine.

NRPS, OPP & MTO Joint Enforcement Initiative - In an on-going initiative to address community concerns regarding increased commercial motor vehicle traffic in Lincoln and West Lincoln, the NRPS partnered with the OPP, and the MTO on July 14 to commence a joint enforcement initiative. Officers from the NRPS, OPP, and MTO intercepted commercial motor vehicles believed to be intentionally by-passing the Truck Inspection Station and vehicles causing excessive noise within the community due to defects or modifications. Numerous commercial motor vehicles were stopped on rural roads with five re-directed to the Vineland Truck Inspection Station for a more in-depth mechanical inspection. A total of 17 charges were laid, 11 vehicles were taken out of service and four licence plates were seized.

NRPS Partnering with Local Niagara Wendy's for Summer Safety Campaign - The NRPS is proud to partner with Wendy's restaurants across Niagara for the 4th annual Summer Safety Campaign. The campaign is unique to Niagara and started locally in partnership with our Niagara Wendy's owners. Niagara Wendy's have provided NRPS officers across region with Frosty coupons. Officers can use these coupons to acknowledge safe summer behaviour through positive ticketing (e.g., wearing a safety helmet or life jacket) and to create productive opportunities for Niagara's youth to interact with our officers. The Frosty coupons are redeemable at any Wendy's store in Niagara.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Point of Sale Scam Intervention Program (POSSIP)

Detective Sergeant Ray Aceti, Central Fraud Unit, and Constable Phil Gavin, Corporate Communications Unit, Niagara Regional Police Service, provided the Board with a presentation on the Service's Point of Sale Scam Intervention Program (POSSIP). The program was launched on June 3, 2022 to create awareness and provide education for retail and financial institution employees on how to recognize and intervene during a scam.

Every year scammers target Canadians, many here in Niagara. The scams often target vulnerable victims. In 2021, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre received 104,295 fraud reports from across Canada with associated losses in excess of \$379,000,000. Scammers often direct victims to retail stores to purchase cryptocurrency or gift cards. The victims are under the impression that there is an emergency situation (e.g., Grandparent Scam) and they must provide money or payment to the scammer. Scammers often tell the victims that the matter is private and not to talk to anyone.

In February and March of 2022, the NRPS investigated 57 incidents involving the Grandparent Scam. Collectively, victims paid scammers approximately \$150,000 in cash drawn from financial institutions. The money has not been recovered. In May of 2022, the NRPS began an investigation after an elderly couple purchased \$22,000 in gift cards from three different retailers. None of the five involved salesclerks questioned the purchases with the victims. The \$22,000 was given to the scammers. The money has not been recovered. The NRPS has previously conducted awareness and educational efforts directed towards potential victims and their trusted family members.

The POSSIP has been designed with Detectives from the NRPS Central Fraud Unit to create awareness and education for retail and financial institution employees with the goal of providing intervention at the point of sale. Retailers and financial institutions are encouraged to download the education program for their employees to view. The education program works in conjunction with a NRPS poster to support the employees which is also available for download on the NRPS website.

Moved by: K. Gibson

Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the presentation be received.

Carried

7.2 Human Trafficking

Detective Sergeant Ryan McComber, Special Victims Unit - Human Trafficking Unit, Niagara Regional Police Service, provided the Board with a presentation on the NRPS Human Trafficking Unit. As background, the Unit was created in June 2019 with the assistance of provincial grant funding received from the Community Safety Policing Program and the Intelligence-Led Joint Forces Strategy, which involves 25 police services across Ontario.

Since 2019, the Unit has conducted over 100 proactive checks and responds to approximately 60 calls for service each year. There have been a total of 23 arrests made following human trafficking investigations and 8 females have been removed from trafficking situations. The Unit regularly monitors Missing Persons reports and provides referrals to appropriate community resources so that victims can have a safe exit from a life of exploitation.

The Unit primarily works with 15 community partners to provide services to victims of human trafficking, and provides educational materials to community stakeholders, including secondary and post-secondary schools, the hotel/motel industry and vulnerable youth.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the presentation be received.

Carried

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Quarterly Report - Brock University Campus Security Services - April 1 to June 30, 2022

Report dated July 19, 2022 from Ken Chan, Vice President, Brock University, providing the second quarterly report about complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables while employed with Brock University Campus Security Services.

8.2 Annual Report - Homicide and Attempted Homicide Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 27, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 231-2000.

8.3 Annual Report - Skills Development and Learning Plan - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 20, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 250-2000.

8.4 Annual Report - Speed Detection Devices - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 24, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 321-2012.

8.5 Annual Report - Traffic Management Enforcement and Road Safety - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 17, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 292-2009.

8.6 Annual Report - Victims' Assistance - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 6, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 322-2012.

8.7 Annual Report - Violence and Harassment Prevention in the Workplace - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 21, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 332-2013.

8.8 Annual Report - Youth Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated June 30, 2022 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 236-2000.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: K. Gibson

That the information be received.

Carried

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Budget Planning - Draft 2023 Operating and Capital Budget

Service report dated June 29, 2022 for Board approval of the 2023 budget timetable set as per Region By-law 2017-63 Budget Control, as well as a summary of the NRPS 2023 identified base budget pressures ranging from 5.1% to 6.1% over the 2022 approved operated budget and a capital funding strategy as supported by the Region.

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board approve the budget timetable in accordance with Niagara Region By-law 2017-63, Budget Control, as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report.

Carried

9.2 Special Fund Request - Canadian Association of Police Governance 2022 Annual Conference

Correspondence dated June 24, 2022 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with a copy of communication received from Jennifer Malloy, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG), requesting a donation to support the CAPG 2022 Annual Conference. (*Previous donations: 2002 - \$2,000, 2003 - 2006 - Gift items/raffle prizes; 2007 - 2020 - \$1,000, 2021 - \$1,500*)

Moved by: K. Gibson

Seconded by: D. Eke

That the Board authorize a donation at the Friend Sponsor Level in the total amount of \$1,000.00 from the Special Fund to the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) in support of its 33rd Annual Conference.

Carried

9.3 Special Fund Request - International Association of Women Police (IAWP) 59th Annual Conference

Service report dated July 5, 2022 requesting that in addition to the 2021 Special Fund donation in the amount of \$2,500 for IAWP conference expenses, the Board approve additional funding to further support conference expenses specific to guest speakers, room and audiovisual rental fees and other administrative costs, which is in keeping with the Board's support to serve as an endorsement of this event given that the Niagara Regional Police Service in partnership with Ontario Women in Law Enforcement (OWLE) is the host agency of this conference being held in September 2022 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. (*Previous donations: 2007 - \$500, 2008 - \$500, 2009 - \$500, 2021- \$2,500*)

Moved by: K. Gibson
Seconded by: J. Lawson

That the Board authorize a donation in the total amount of \$7,500.00 from the Special Fund to the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) for conference costs at its 59th Annual Training Conference.

Carried

10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

11. IN CAMERA REPORTS

There were no in camera reports.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Police Services Board will adjourn the public portion of the meeting and reconvene in-camera for consideration of confidential matters pursuant to Section 35(4) of the Police Services Act.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

William C. Steele, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director