



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**POLICE SERVICES BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 15, 2022**  
**Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters**  
**Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls**

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**PSB MEMBERS:**

B. Steele, Chair  
D. Eke, Vice-Chair  
P. Chiocchio, Board Member  
H. D'Angela, Board Member  
L. Ip, Board Member  
J. Lawson, Board Member  
T. McKendrick, Board Member

**NRPS MEMBERS:**

D. Reid, Executive Director  
D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant  
Chief of Police B. MacCulloch  
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Services  
Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services  
Superintendent B. Ash, District Operations  
Superintendent J. Mackay, Operational Support  
Superintendent T. Waselovich, Emergency & Investigative Services  
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology  
A/Superintendent L. Hughes, Executive Services  
Inspector D. Gomez, Executive Officer to the Chief  
D/Sergeant K. Fiddes, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief  
D/Sergeant M. Ryan, Executive Officer to D/C Operations  
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager  
A. Gallo, Finance Co-ordinator  
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

**OTHERS:**

C. Custers, Financial Analyst  
D. Tilley, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:01 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 Hatiwendaronk, 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 Special Public Finance Committee Meeting held Friday, November 18, 2022**

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: D. Eke

**That the Minutes of the Special Public Finance Committee Meeting held Friday, November 18, 2022 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried**

**4.2 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Friday, November 18, 2022**

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Friday, November 18, 2022 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried**

**5. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR**

**Official Welcome to New Board Members** - Chair Steele officially welcomed Regional Councillors Pat Chiocchio and Laura Ip to the Police Services Board. They were sworn in on December 6 and 7 which officiated their participation in all Board business. On behalf of his colleagues, Chair Steele welcomed Members Chiocchio and Ip's participation and contributions to this Board.

**Welcome to the Ministry Policing Services Advisor** - On behalf of the Board, Chair Steele welcomed David Tilley to the meeting who attended virtually by Zoom. David 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 and the Board is always pleased to see his continued attendance at their meetings.

**Inaugural Reception for Niagara Regional Council** - On November 24, the Regional Municipality of Niagara held its Inaugural Meeting to officiate the commencement of the 2022-2026 term of Regional Council followed by a reception held at John Michael's Banquet and Conference Centre in Thorold. Board Member Lawson attended the reception on behalf of the Board along with Chief MacCulloch and Executive Members to welcome Niagara's newest Regional Councillors.

**NRPS Auxiliary Swearing-In Ceremony** - On November 29, the Niagara Regional Police Service held an Auxiliary Swearing-In Ceremony in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. Vice Chair Eke and Member Lawson attended the event along with Deputy Chief Flynn and members of the NRPS Executive staff to welcome 11 new Auxiliary Officers and members of their families. The Auxiliary team is an integral part of the Niagara Regional Police Service. Each year,

Auxiliary members provide the citizens of Niagara with thousands of volunteer hours of work and contribute to the good quality of life in Niagara's communities.

**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. There was a webinar held on December 6 entitled "Measuring the Success of Police Leadership" which covered best practices and frameworks to measure the success of key executives. The next webinar will be held on January 17 and the topic is "Board/Police Commission Self-Evaluation".

**NRPS Recruit Graduation Ceremony** - On January 11 at 7:00 pm, the Service will be holding a Swearing-in Ceremony for two (2) currently serving police officers and 5 (five) new recruits who will be joining the Niagara Regional Police Service. The ceremony will be held in the Community Room at Police Headquarters and Board Members are asked to confirm their attendance with Board staff by January 5.

**Upcoming PSB Meetings** - The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12 and the next monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26. Both meetings are being held in the Community Room at Police Headquarters with a start time of 9:00 am.

## 6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

**Chief MacCulloch's Holiday Breakfast** – During the holiday season, families normally supported through Community Care need the help of others this year more than ever. Realizing the success of last year's online holiday breakfast and knowing everyone's time is precious, the Service is replicating last year's online Holiday Breakfast. It is an easy way to give back and support the Niagara community during this busy holiday season.

Contributors can visit the NRPS website at <https://www.niagararegion.ca/events/nrps-charity.aspx> where they can purchase gift cards in denominations of \$15, \$25, \$50, or \$100 using Mastercard or Visa. All proceeds from this event will go towards sponsoring families through Community Care and will help put a smile on a child's face this Christmas morning.

### Operational Statistics:

*Attempted Homicides - Reporting Period of November 16 December 13, 2022*

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 8 for 2022 to date, compared to year-end totals of 6 in 2021, 5 in 2020, 7 in 2019 and 2 in 2018.

*Attempted Homicide – Reporting Period of November 16 December 13, 2022*

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 7 for 2022 to date, compared to year-end totals of 3 in 2021, 3 in 2020, 2 in 2019 and 8 in 2018.

*Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) - Reporting Period of November 1 to November 30, 2022*

- 0 for this reporting period.

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

- 2 for this reporting period with a total of 17 to date, compared to year-end totals of 21 for 2021, 16 in 2020, 13 in 2019 & 2018, and 16 in 2017.

**Fatal MVC – Incident of November 4, 2022** - At approximately 6:56 am, officers responded to a serious 2-vehicle collision on the Sodom Road overpass at the QEW in Niagara Falls. It was determined that a minivan and a pickup truck collided on the north side of the overpass. The 69-year-old female driver of the minivan was transported to an out-of-region hospital with life-

threatening injuries. The driver of the pickup truck was not injured. On November 7, the minivan's 69-year-old female driver succumbed to her injuries. This collision remains under investigation by Detectives from the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

**Fatal MVC – Incident of November 23, 2022** - At approximately 6:03 pm, officers responded to Walden Boulevard west of Concession Road in Fort Erie for a serious Personal Injury - Motor Vehicle Collision. It was determined that an 82-year-old female was operating a motor-vehicle when she collided with a 46-year-old male pedestrian walking on Walden Boulevard. The pedestrian was transported by ambulance to an out-of-town trauma center with life-threatening injuries. The female driver was not injured. On November 26, the male pedestrian succumbed to his injuries in hospital. This collision remains under investigation by Detectives from the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

#### **Enforcement Initiatives:**

**Welland Search Warrant Results in Seizure of Cocaine, Fentanyl and Methamphetamine** - In November 2022, 3 District Street Crime detectives commenced an illegal drug trafficking investigation in Welland. On November 23, detectives executed two search warrants at residences near Memorial Park Drive and Quebec Avenue, and also near Ontario Road and Canal Bank Street in Welland. As a result of their investigation, detectives recovered 688.1 grams of suspected cocaine, 346.2 grams of suspected fentanyl, and 237.8 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine with a combined estimated value of \$196,000. Detectives also seized a substantial amount of cash as the proceeds of crime. Two males from Welland have been arrested and charged with drug trafficking offences, and one male was charged with possession of the proceeds of crime over \$5,000.

**Detectives Investigate Welland Stabbing** – On December 6, 2022, at 10:55 pm, 3 District officers responded to a report of a stabbing in Welland. Officers and Niagara EMS paramedics responded to a residence on McAlpine Avenue South in Welland where a male victim in his twenties was located suffering from serious stab wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he underwent further treatment for what was initially believed to be life threatening injuries. The investigation determined that a male suspect arrived in a vehicle and entered the victim's home where the two became involved in an argument that escalated to violence and the stabbing. The suspect left the scene prior to officers' arrival. Detectives from 3 District were assigned to the investigation assisted by the NRPS Forensic Services Unit. The victim underwent surgery for critical injuries, and he is expected to recover. Detectives were able to identify the suspect and locate his vehicle. A wanted person media release was widely disseminated. On December 12, the suspect attended NRPS Headquarters to turn himself in. He was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Weapon for Dangerous Purpose and 3 counts of Fail to Comply with a Release Order.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **8.1 Appointments to Police Services Board – RMON Regional Councillors**

Letter dated December 2, 2022 from Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, providing notice of the direction taken by Council at its meeting held December 1, 2022 regarding the appointments of Regional Councillors Pat Chiocchio, Laura Ip and Bill Steele to the Niagara Police Services Board for the 2022-2026 Council term.

### **8.2 Quarterly Report - NRPS Special Fund Activity - April 1 to June 30, 2022**

Service report dated November 16, 2022 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 392-2021.

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**8.3 Quarterly Report - NRPS Special Fund Activity - July 1 to September 30, 2022**

Service report dated November 18, 2022 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 392-2021.

**8.4 Quarterly Report - Overtime Activities Incurred - July 1 to September 30, 2022**

Service report dated November 25, 2022 providing the Board with a five-year uniform and civilian quarterly and year-to-date overtime trend analysis to include summaries of the overtime hours by activity category, which continues to be predominately driven by the need to meet minimum staffing requirements and major investigation events.

**8.5 NRPS Financial Variance Overview - Period Ending September 30, 2022**

Service report dated November 24, 2022 providing an analysis of the 2022 third quarter financial results of the Service and the Board at a combined net expenditure before indirect allocations surplus of \$1,202,724 from normal operations, inclusive of COVID-19 net incremental costs, to which the Service is forecasting a deficit of \$0.3 million by the end of this fiscal year.

Moved by: P. Chiocchio

Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9.1 Request for Federal Funding to Offset Costs Incurred to Protect Safe Passageway on the International Borders**

Service report dated November 25, 2022 requesting the Board correspond with the Ministry of Public Safety Canada to seek funding for unbudgeted costs incurred by the Service in the amount of \$355,635 as a result of policing Freedom Convoy protests at Niagara's land border crossings during February 2022.

The Board directed that all local MP's be copied on the funding request for their support and awareness.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: L. Ip

**That the Board prepare a letter to the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety Canada, to seek federal funding for costs incurred to protect the safe passageway on international bridges.**

**Carried**

**9.2 Memorandum of Understanding - Niagara Emergency Medical Services**

Service report dated November 21, 2022 requesting that in support of the Tactical Paramedic programs that have been established across Canada with EMS, the Board approve entering into an agreement with Niagara Emergency Medical Services (NEMS) to provide a safer, quicker emergency medical response at the scene of a tactical or other NRPS related critical operation through the assistance of designated Special Response Unit (SRU) Paramedics.

Moved by: J. Lawson  
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS), Niagara Emergency Medical Services (NEMS) and the Special Response Unit (SRU), as appended to the report;**

**And further, that the Chief of Police be authorized to execute all required documentation on behalf the Board.**

**Carried**

**9.3 NRPS Capital Project - Automated Licence Plate Reader (ALPR) Grant Program**

Service report dated November 24, 2022 seeking the Board's approval for the creation of a 2023 capital project to support the purchase of Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology to allow for proper accounting and tracking of asset purchases required to equip 102 Service vehicles with ALPR technology.

Moved by: H. D'Angela  
Seconded by: D. Eke

**That the Board approve a gross capital budget adjustment in the amount of \$1,391,813 gross, and \$0 net to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology funded solely by the Ministry of Solicitor General ALPR grant program;**

**And further, that the Board forward this proposal to Regional Council for approval.**

**Carried**

**9.4 Special Fund Request - Out of the Cold Dinner Program**

Service report dated November 18, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation to the Out of the Cold Dinner Program to offset program costs of providing meals and overnight accommodations to members of the community in need during the winter months. (Previous donations: 2014-2015 - \$300; 2016-2021 - \$500.)

Moved by: L. Ip  
Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Special Fund to the Out of the Cold Dinner Program.**

**Carried**

**9.5 Special Fund Request - Socks for Change Program**

Service report dated November 25, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation to the Socks for Change Program to assist with off-setting costs attributed to the purchase of woolen socks/winter accessories for distribution to those in need of this apparel during the cold winter months. (Previous Board donations: 2018 - \$1,000; 2019-2020 - \$1,500).

Moved by: T. McKendrick  
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

**That the Board approve a Special Fund donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the Socks for Change Program.**

**Carried**

**9.6 Special Fund Request - NRPS K9 Initiative**

Service report dated November 24, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation to cover the initial costs of purchasing NRPS branded K9 stuffed animals to be sold from the NRPS Tuck Shop, with all proceeds of sale going to a charity of the Chief's choice. This charitable initiative is aimed to promote awareness of the K9 specialty unit while serving to engage youth and other members of the community. (This is first-time funding request.)

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: D. Eke

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Special Fund to cover the initial costs of purchasing NRPS K9 stuffed animals to be sold to the public as a charitable initiative.**

**Carried**

**9.7 Special Fund Request - NRPS Women in Police - Internal Support Network (ISN) - Lunch and Learn Initiative**

Service report dated November 24, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$3,000 from the Special Fund to cover accommodations and expenses incurred with hosting speakers at educational sessions for the NRPS Women in Policing Internal Support Network. (This is a first-time donation request.)

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Special Fund to cover the costs of hosting a Lunch and Learn sessions for Niagara Regional Police Service Members.**

**Carried**

**9.8 Special Fund Request - International Police Hockey Tournament - NRPS Women's Team**

Service report dated November 25, 2022 requesting the Board approve a donation to assist with the cost of registration and travel for the Service's women's hockey team to participate in the 2023 International Police Hockey Tournament being held in Waterloo, Ontario, on February 23-24, 2023. (Previous donations: 2006-2019 - \$500; 2020 - \$700).

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 from the Special Fund to support the NRPS Women's Hockey Team competing in the 2023 International Police Hockey Tournament.**

**Carried**

## **10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

### **10.1 Homelessness and the Impacting Social Issues**

Vice Chair Eke spoke to a recent media report about a new initiative implemented by New York City Mayor Eric Adams to help the homeless population who are dealing with mental illness. The plan's focus is on bettering health and housing for those who are experiencing homelessness in the city and includes involuntary hospitalization for those who are in danger to themselves or others. It also includes better assistance to navigate community services, making more room for hospital beds, creating more affordable housing, and providing social service support for permanent housing. This information was introduced for Board and Service awareness, and he asked that follow-up be made on the progress of the NYC Mayor's plan to see if the results are positive and could be adapted in Niagara.

Chief MacCulloch stated that the unfortunate reality is that Niagara's homelessness has become more prevalent than it has been in past years. He said that Niagara Region has identified 1,061 people as experiencing homelessness as of the end of November 2022, while 534 people are considered chronically homeless. Chief MacCulloch noted this is an alarming number, however, there are several factors that cause someone to live homeless.

It was further emphasized that people have to acknowledge and realize that homelessness is not a crime. Chief MacCulloch stated that the NRPS current approach to homelessness is a coordinated response with multiple stakeholders and that it is working very well. The NRPS Community Oriented Response & Engagement (CORE) Unit visits the encampments with the outreach workers on a daily basis. These daily visits provide the ability to coordinate with EMS whenever necessary to facilitate the assistance of all required medical assistance for individuals living in encampments.

Chief MacCulloch advised that for persons deemed not to be mentally competent or an endangerment to themselves, there are mandated provisions within the Mental Health Act that pertain to apprehensions of vulnerable individuals. He further advised that the practices in place by the Service consist of a mutually coordinated effort with multiple stakeholders that share the common goal of addressing those affected by homelessness through an approach that is compassionate-based and one that offers assistance wherever possible.

Member McKendrick further emphasized that mental health is not the cause of homelessness. She added that when looking to solutions, it is most important to look at the social determinants of health and the other pieces of society that are contributing to homelessness. Looking at factors such as affordable housing, food security, employment rates, the ability to participate and access education programs that allow people to be employed, equity and discrimination, Landlord and Tenant Act and racism that can be found in those systems would be the most impactful way of approaching the concerns of homelessness.

## **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.



### **CHAIR'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE**

Before the meeting adjourned, Chair Steele extended the Board's best wishes for the holiday season. While these continue to be challenging times for all of us, he asked that we all think of our most vulnerable members of communities, including those less fortunate. The holiday season is a time for joy and giving, but for families and individuals going through hard times, it can be painful. Please consider reaching out or dropping off food and necessities for them. Donations to the Chief's Holiday Breakfast, Community Care, the United Way or charity of your choice will help families and individuals who may be struggling during the holiday season. Throughout this season, and as we move into a new and hopefully better year, we wish everyone peace, and connections with family and friends. In closing, Chair Steele, on behalf of himself and the Niagara Police Services Board, wished each and all a very safe and happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.

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William C. Steele, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director