



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2023
Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

PSB MEMBERS:

J. Lawson, Chair
D. Eke, Vice-Chair
P. Chiocchio, Board Member
H. D'Angela, Board Member
L. Ip, Board Member
B. Steele, 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, District Operations
Superintendent R. Frayne, Corporate Services
Superintendent J. Mackay, Operational Support
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services
Superintendent T. Waselovich, Emergency & Investigative Services
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology
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
L. Rullo, Finance Manager
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

OTHERS:

D. Tilley, Policing Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General
Mr. P. Haskell, Citizen

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:02 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 Public Board Meeting held Thursday, January 26, 2023

Member D'Angela requested he be noted as opposed to the adoption of the Minutes.

Moved by: P. Chiocchio

Seconded by: H. D'Angela

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held January 26, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4.2 Minutes of the Public Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday, February 9, 2023

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: L. Ip

That the Minutes of the Public Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday, February 9, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to Ministry Policing Services Advisor - On behalf of the Board, Chair Lawson welcomed David Tilley to the meeting. 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 virtually as part of routine visits by Policing Services Advisors to Police Boards across the Province.

Women In Policing - Lunch & Learn "Indigenous Awareness" - On February 10, the Service hosted the first "Lunch and Learn" initiative entitled "Indigenous Awareness" in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. The Niagara Regional Police Service was honoured to hear from Sergeant Chantal Laroque of the Anishinabek Police Service, who provided attendees with an insightful presentation and discussion about indigenous awareness. Chair Lawson, Vice Chair Eke and Board staff attended the event along with Deputy Chiefs Flynn and Fordy and numerous members of the Service, both sworn and civilian.

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. Board members attended a webinar on February 14 for discussions on proven mental health strategies for public safety personnel. The next webinar is scheduled for March 21 entitled, "Tuning Up Your Police Governance Skills". All Board members are pre-registered and for those who cannot attend at the specific date/time, a recording of the session will follow after the webinar is completed.

OAPSB Zone 4 - Quarterly Meeting - On February 22, the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards held their Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting. Zone 4 consists of a total of 14 Police Services Boards, including municipal and OPP Contract Boards or First Nations police governance bodies that are located within the regions or counties of Brant, Haldimand, Halton,

Hamilton, Niagara, Norfolk and Oxford. These quarterly engagements allow Boards within a certain geographic area to meet for the purpose of discussing matters related to police governance. Vice-Chair Eke attended the meeting on behalf of the Board.

Police Association of Ontario (PAO) - 2022 Employment Conference - On February 27 and 28, the Police Association of Ontario will be hosting its 2023 Employment Conference being held at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. The conference sessions will provide comprehensive updates on Human Rights issues, Chief and Board operational responsibilities, collective bargaining and current trends, a review of recent grievance arbitration decisions, and civilian and uniform discipline trends and issues. Chair Lawson, Vice-Chair Eke and Member Chiochio will be representing the Board at the event.

Auto Theft & Carjackings Summit - On March 10, the Peel Police Services Board and Peel Regional Police Service are hosting an Auto Theft & Carjackings Summit that will include Mayors, Regional Chairs, Police Services Board Chairs and Police Chiefs from Toronto, York, Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Ottawa and Niagara; as well as members of the OPP, Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) and other key partners, including representatives from the provincial and federal governments. The Summit is aimed at working toward a multi-jurisdictional solution that will generate concrete actions to reduce auto thefts and carjackings and increase the solvency rate for these crimes. Chair Lawson and Chief MacCulloch will be attending the Summit which is being held at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel.

Upcoming PSB Meetings - There are no Committee Meetings scheduled for March, and the next monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, at 9:00 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Operational Statistics:

Homicides - Reporting Period of January 24 to February 21, 2023

- *0 for this reporting period with a total of 0 for 2023 to date, compared to year-end totals of 7 in 2022, 3 in 2021, 3 in 2020 and 2 in 2019.*

Status Update - Homicide – Incident of August 27, 2022 - On August 27, 2022, 1 District officers attended an Assist Ambulance call in the area of Queenston Street and Riordon Street in St. Catharines for a man in medical distress. The male was transported to hospital by Niagara Emergency Medical Services. His health quickly deteriorated, and he was transported to an out-of-town hospital for treatment of a serious brain bleed. On September 8, 2022, the male died from his injuries, and the Homicide Unit assumed carriage of the investigation. On February 3, 2023, a 16-year-old St. Catharines male was arrested and he is currently facing a charge of First Degree Murder. The following day, a second 16-year-old St. Catharines male was also arrested, and he too is facing a charge of First Degree Murder. The Niagara Regional Police Service thanked the media and members of the public for their assistance with this investigation.

Attempted Homicides - Reporting Period of January 24 to February 21, 2023

- *0 for this reporting period.*

Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) - Reporting Period of January 1 to January 31, 2023

- *0 for this reporting period with a total of 0 for 2023, compared to year-end totals of 11 for 2021, 8 in 2020, 12 in 2019, 16 in 2018 and 8 in 2017.*

Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) - Reporting Period of January 1 to January 31, 2023

- *0 for this reporting period.*

Life Threatening MVC – Incident of January 30, 2023 – Uniform officers from 8 District responded to a report of a pedestrian that was struck by a vehicle on Livingston Avenue at Brierwood Avenue in Grimsby. Police determined that the 14-year-old female pedestrian was struck by a sport utility vehicle that was being driven by a 17-year-old female. The pedestrian was treated at the scene for life-threatening injuries by Niagara EMS paramedics prior to being transported to an out-of-region trauma centre where she remains in serious, yet stable condition. The 17-year-old driver was not injured. The collision remains under investigation by our Collision Reconstruction Unit.

Operational Initiatives:

Methamphetamine Seized After Automated Licence Plate Recognition Reader Hits on Suspended Driver - On January 30, an officer assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) was operating a patrol vehicle equipped with an Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) reader on Hartzel Road near Walnut Street in the St. Catharines. The officer was alerted by the ALPR to a car registered to a suspended driver. Following a traffic stop, suspected crystal methamphetamine was discovered within the vehicle. The 50-year-old male driver was arrested and charged accordingly.

Off-Duty NRPS Officer Intervenes During Theft in Progress at Niagara Falls Walmart - Just before 7:00 pm on February 8, the NRPS Communications Unit received an emergency 9-1-1 call indicating there was a theft in progress occurring at the Niagara Falls Walmart and that an off-duty NRPS officer was attempting to control an uncooperative suspect. Investigation determined that a female suspect failed to pay for various items and upon exit was approached by store security. Upon being advised that she was under arrest, she attempted to evade the pending arrest.

The off-duty NRPS officer observed the interaction and identified himself as a police officer before intervening and assisting security with the arrest. A male acquaintance of the female suspect then approached the off-duty officer, drew a knife, and threatened to stab the officer. On-duty uniformed officers responded and took custody of the female shoplifter and her acquaintance who was armed with a knife. The off-duty officer did not sustain any injuries, nor did either of the two suspects. A 41-year-old woman and 47-year-old man are both facing various charges relating to the incident.

St. Catharines Street Crime Detectives Seize Fentanyl and Cocaine During Search Warrant in Hamilton - In November 2022, 1 District Street Crime Detectives commenced an investigation into the distribution of illegal drugs throughout St. Catharines. On February 10, 2023, Detectives executed a search warrant at an apartment in Hamilton with the assistance of Hamilton Police. In total, Detectives recovered over 700 grams of suspected fentanyl, and over 54 grams of suspected cocaine with a combined estimated street value of over 156-thousand dollars. As a result of the investigation, a 25-year-old Hamilton man along with a 49-year-old Kitchener man have been arrested and they are facing several drug related charges.

Police Service Dog Rudy Tracks and Locates Two Break and Enter Suspects - Around 2:30 am on February 13, officers were alerted to a break and enter in progress at a closed commercial business in Welland. As 3 District officers were responding to the scene, information was provided by the complainant that two suspects were seen running from a secure building into a nearby wooded area. The NRPS Canine Unit was notified of the incident, prompting a response by Police Service Dog (PSD) Rudy. Upon arrival, PSD Rudy was deployed and immediately

detected the scent of the suspects. Rudy led his handler and assisting officers into the wooded area where both suspects were located attempting to conceal themselves under downed brush. Two Welland men in their thirties are facing charges in relation to the incident.

7. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Durham Regional Police Services Board - Community Safety Concerns

Letter dated January 30, 2023 from Shaun Collier, Chair, Durham Police Services Board, addressed to the Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario, to follow-up for a response to Durham's letter dated October 31, 2022 calling on the Solicitor General to convene an expert panel of key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan of action to move forward to address community safety concerns in relation to firearm-related crimes, gangs, mental illness, and opioid addiction, as supported by the Niagara Police Services Board in a letter dated December 12, 2022 (copy attached).

The Board directed that another letter be sent to the Solicitor General from the Board Chair and Chief of Police to follow-up on a response to our call for action to address the community safety concerns raised by the Niagara and Durham Police Services and Boards.

8.2 Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) - Acknowledgement of NRPS Community Oriented Response and Engagement (CORE) Team

Letter dated February 7, 2023 from Gary Zalepa, Chair, NRH Board of Directors, addressed to Chief Bryan MacCulloch thanking the Niagara Regional Police Service for the work of the Community Oriented Response and Engagement (CORE) Officers in NRH communities, and includes a memo to the NRH Board of Directors that highlights some of the work the CORE Unit does to engage Public Housing tenants and assist NRH with challenging situations.

8.3 Quarterly Report - Administration of the Public Complaints System - October 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 31, 2023 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 301-2010.

8.4 Annual Report - Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances - Prohibition and Duties - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 17, 2023 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 360-2016.

8.5 Annual Report - Criminal Intelligence Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 26, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 196-2000.

8.6 Annual Report - Disclosure of Secondary Employment - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 30, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 284-2008.

8.7 Annual Report - Drug Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 26, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 223-2000.

8.8 Annual Report - Fundraising for Service Related Organizations - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated February 3, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 186-1999.

8.9 Annual Report - Informants and Agents - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 25, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 207-2000.

8.10 Annual Report - Major Incident Command - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 18, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 235-2012.

8.11 Annual Report - Marked General Patrol Vehicles - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 30, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 257-2003.

8.12 Annual Report - Occupational Health and Safety - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated February 1, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 330-2012.

8.13 Annual Report - Public Order Units - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 30, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 239-2000.

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: B. Steele

That the information be received.

Carried

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Proposed Regulations Under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019

Correspondence dated February 6, 2023 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with feedback, which was developed in consultation with the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS), to the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) through the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) regarding the release of various proposed draft regulations under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)*.

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

That the Board provide feedback as outlined in the report, which was developed in consultation with the Niagara Regional Police Service, to the Ministry of the Solicitor General through the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards, regarding the proposed draft regulations under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*.

Carried

9.2 Annual Report - Niagara Regional Police Service - January 1 to December 31, 2021

Service report dated January 20, 2023 requesting Board approval of the Niagara Regional Police Service's 2021 Annual Report submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 262-2003, and with the Adequacy Standards Regulation.

Moved by: L. Ip
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

That the Board approve the Niagara Regional Police Service 2021 Annual Report;

And further, that the document be posted on the NRPS website and that Regional Council be notified pursuant to Section 32(1) of Ontario Regulation 3/99, the Adequacy & Effectiveness of Police Services, and the Information Sharing Protocol between the Board and the Region.

Carried

9.3 Annual Report - Missing Persons - January 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated January 25, 2023 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 386-2020.

Moved by: B. Steele
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

That the information be received;

And further, that the report be provided to the Ministry of the Solicitor General and posted on the Niagara Regional Police Service website, pursuant to Section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act, 2018*.

Carried

9.4 Quarterly Report - Special Fund Activity - October 1 to December 31, 2022

Service report dated February 2, 2023 submitted in accordance to the quarterly reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 392-2021, and requesting the Board approve a transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,125.26 from the Board's Special Operating Fund to the Service General Revenue Account in accordance with Section 8.1 of By-law 392-2021.

Moved by: B. Steele
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

That the information be received:

And further, that the Board approve the transfer of \$3,125.26 from the Board's Special Operating Fund to the Service's General Revenue Account.

Carried

9.5 Special Fund Request - Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

Correspondence dated February 14, 2023 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the Board with a copy of communication received from Patrick Weaver, President, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB), requesting a donation to support the OAPSB 2023 Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting being held from May 30 - June 1, 2023 in Niagara Falls. *(Previous donations: 2003-2022 - \$1,000, Conference Host in 2011 - \$10,000).*

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

That the Board authorize a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Special Fund to the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) in support of its 2023 Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting.

Carried

9.6 Special Fund Request - NRPS Brazilian JiuJitsu Team

Service report dated January 19, 2023 requesting the Board approve a donation to assist members of the NRPS Brazilian JiuJitsu Team with the cost of registration and travel to the Toronto Police Service for participation in a roll-a-thon charity event being held on February 25, 2023 in support of Sick Kids Hospital. *(This is a first time Special Fund donation request).*

Moved by: L. Ip
Seconded by: B. Steele

That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Special Fund to the NRPS Brazilian JiuJitsu Team participating in a roll-a-thon charity event.

Carried

9.7 Special Fund Request - International Police Hockey Tournament - NRPS Men's Elite Hockey Team

Service report dated February 17, 2023 requesting the Board approve a donation to help offset the expenses incurred for registration, travel, and accommodations by members of the NRPS Men's Elite hockey team competing in the International Police Hockey Tournament being held in Waterloo, Ontario, on February 23 and 24, 2023. *(Previous donations: 2006-2019 - \$500; 2020 - \$700.)*

Moved by: B. Steele
Seconded by: P. Chiocchio

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

Carried

9.8 Video Analytics Software Purchase

Service report dated February 6, 2023 requesting the Board award the contract for video analytics software solution to support the CCTV Program through direct negotiation with BriefCam Ltd., at a cost of \$166,000 USD, which includes both capital and operating costs for required video content analytics software, 10 concurrent users, hardware, maintenance, and support for up to three (3) years, with the operating expense portion of the agreement being offset by an equal contribution of grant revenue received by the Ministry.

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

That the Board award the contract for a video analytics software solution, to support the CCTV program through a direct negotiation with BriefCam Ltd., as per the attached quote No. 20007150 appended to the report;

And further, that the Chief of Police be authorized to execute any required documentation.

Carried

10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business raised or discussed at the meeting.

11. IN CAMERA REPORTS

There were no in camera reports.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Jen Lawson, Chair

Deb Reid, Executive Director