



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Vehicle Theft
January 1 to December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2024-02-26

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) is in compliance with By-Law 235-2000 – Vehicle Theft.
- By-Law 235-2000 contains provisions requiring the Chief of Police to report specific information in order to ensure compliance with the legislative guidelines.
- This report is submitted to the Board with the necessary and required information relating to the Service's response to incidents related to vehicle theft.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 235-2000, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into vehicle theft occurrences. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning vehicle theft investigations; and
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures.

The following is a detailed response to each of the above-noted requirements:

- a) *"...a summary of the written procedures concerning vehicle theft investigations..."*

General Order (GO) 187.06 – Vehicle Theft specifically addresses the requirements of the Provincial Adequacy Standard LE - 043 Vehicle Theft and Board By-Law 235-2000. This Order was reviewed in 2021 and there are no changes pending.

GO187.06 addresses the following topics:

- Sections 3.0 – 3.6 outline the procedures to be followed when members are called upon to investigate all incidents of vehicle theft, attempted theft, and recovered stolen vehicles, including the need to share information on vehicle theft with other relevant law enforcement agencies, government agencies, and other organizations that have bona fide authority in the investigation of stolen vehicles;
- Section 3.7 directs an investigating officer to make all reasonable attempts to notify the registered owner of recovered stolen vehicles, except where ongoing criminal investigations may be compromised.

GO 095.10 Major Incidents and Routine Criminal Investigations mandates which units are responsible for investigations related to vehicle theft.

- Section 3.11(h) states that personnel of the District Detective Office shall be responsible for conducting theft investigations.

General Order – 057.04 Vehicle Towing, Seizure and Release addresses Service policy in relation to recovered stolen vehicles.

- Section 1.1 details that it is the policy of the Service not to unnecessarily tow or detain any vehicle, and to dispense with any vehicle lawfully detained in police custody as efficiently as possible, considering its need for evidential and investigative purposes.

b) *“...the status of service compliance with said procedures...”*

Training for vehicle theft related incidents is provided by the Ontario Police College and the Canadian Police College. Specialized training is also offered by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators. The following chart illustrates the statistics regarding vehicle theft in the Niagara Region for the past three years:

Statistics	2021	2022	2023
Actual Incidents	821	778	756
Total Cleared	94	88	77
Cleared by charge	83	75	62
Cleared otherwise	11	13	15
Total persons charged	89	123	69

*Source - Versadex Records Management System

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provision of the Police Service's Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Police Services Board By-Law 235-2000 – Vehicle Theft
General Order 187.06 – Vehicle Theft
General Order 095.10 – Major Incidents and Routine Criminal Investigations
General Order 057.04 – Vehicle Towing, Seizure and Release
Provincial Adequacy Standard LE-043 Vehicle Theft

Other Pertinent Reports

8.15.2023.03.23 - Annual Report – Vehicle Theft – January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report was prepared by Dave Santo, Acting Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services, in consultation with and reviewed by Mike Tripp, Acting Inspector, Investigative Support Services, and Steve Magistrale, Acting Superintendent, Emergency and Investigative Services. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.