



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Witness Protection
January 1 to December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2024-02-27

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 210-2000 – Witness Protection.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board concerning witness protection.
- This report is submitted to provide the Board with the necessary and required information, pursuant to the By-Law, relating to the operation of the Witness Protection Program.

Financial Considerations

An operational account in the amount of \$1,500.00 is maintained by the Witness Protection Liaison Officer. These funds have been put in place to cover immediate expenses with respect to relocation costs upon the initiation of a witness protection application.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 210-2000, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of witness protection and security and witness assistance. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning witness protection and security and witness assistance;
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) On an anonymous basis, the cost of witness protection and assistance.

It is the policy of the Service to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are informed of, and given access to, all rights and privileges afforded them by law, and that they are treated with respect, compassion, and courtesy, for their personal dignity and privacy. The Service is committed to the development, implementation, and support, of appropriate victim/witness assistance programs and activities.

When dealing with witnesses, consideration is given to the impact their testimony will have on the prosecution, the impact on the administration of justice, and the potential for adverse consequences for the witness in their testimony, if any.

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

- a) *“...a summary of the written procedures concerning witness protection and security and witness assistance...”*

The written procedures were developed in order to comply with the Adequacy Standards and the Board By-Law. They are as follows:

General Order 122.08 – Witness Protection and Security Program addresses the requirements of the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation LE-018 – Witness Protection and Board By-Law 210-2000.

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

Members of the Service obtain specialized training regarding Witness Protection through courses provided by Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO). Those courses are Human Source Development and Witness Assistance and Relocation. The Witness Protection Liaison Officer is a member of the Criminal Intelligence Unit within the Special Investigative Services.

The Service has complied with the procedures as set out in the General Order.

- c) *“...on an anonymous basis, the cost of witness protection and assistance...”*

Costs incurred during the witness protection process will fluctuate on the merits of each case. There were no costs incurred in 2023 with respect to witness protection.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Police Services Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Police Services Board By-Law 210-2000 – Witness Protection
General Order 122.08 - Witness Protection and Security Program
General Order 115.07 – Assistance for Victims and Witnesses
Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation, Law Enforcement 018 – Witness Protection

Other Pertinent Reports

8.16.2023.03.23 - Annual Report – Witness Protection - January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report was prepared by Mike Tripp, Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services, in consultation with and reviewed by 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.