



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

### PUBLIC AGENDA

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**Subject:** Annual Report – Public Order Units – January 1 to December 31, 2023

**Report To:** Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

**Report Date:** 2024-04-04

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### Recommendation(s)

**That the Niagara Police Service Board receive this report for information.**

### Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Service is in compliance with By-Law 401-2023 – Public Order Units.
- The Niagara Regional Police Service has had a Public Order Unit since 2022.
- The Chief is required to make a written annual report to the Board with respect to Public Order Units.

### Financial Considerations

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Public Order Unit incurred net expenses of \$143,798.00. Of this amount, \$63,711.00 (44.3%) related to labour-related costs. Overtime costs were the main contributing factor, totaling \$45,726.00 for the year. Uniform costs amounted to \$25,482.00. Items purchased included combat shirts, pants, tactical shirts, and tactical pants.

For the year, the unit acquired necessary Minor Machinery and Equipment in the amount of \$54,370.00. Items acquired include upper body protection systems, fire retardant bomber jackets, electronic safety earmuffs and forearm/elbow protectors. The unit attended and maintained a presence during the November 2023 Grey Cup in Hamilton, Ontario. Labour-related costs for the event amounted to \$26,195.21.00 and Hamilton Police Service was invoiced and costs recovered.

### Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 401-2023, the Chief shall make an annual written report to the Board in respect to Public Order Units that must include the following:

- a) a summary of the procedures concerning Public Order Unit services as required by this By-Law;

- b) the status of Service compliance with said procedures;
- c) confirmation that Members have been trained in accordance with section 4.3;  
and
- d) confirmation of the development and maintenance of the manual on Public Order Unit services; and
- e) a summary of the circumstances in which the Public Order Unit has been deployed.

This Board report will outline each of the above and confirm our compliance with the By-Law:

- a) *“...a summary of the procedures concerning Public Order Unit services as required this By-Law...”*

Section 18 of Ontario Regulation 3/99 of the *Police Services Act* (referred to as the Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services Regulation) requires a Police Service to have a Public Order Unit. As opposed to maintaining its own Public Order Unit, the Regulation permits a Police Service Board to enter into an arrangement with another Police Service for the provision of this function.

In May of 2022, the Niagara Regional Police Service created its own Public Order Unit and is no longer reliant on a Shared Services Agreement with Hamilton and Waterloo Regional Police Services.

Niagara Regional Police Service General Order 150.07 – Civil Disturbances and Mass Arrests defines the circumstances justifying the deployment of the Public Order Unit, the notifications required, and the manner in which the deployment is approved and activated. A new General Order entitled Public Order Unit has been drafted and is at the review stage. This new General Order reflects the fact that the Service now has its own Public Order Unit and this policy also addresses the circumstances that call for the notification of appropriate officials in relation to Sections 63 to 68 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* in relation to unlawful assemblies and riot situations.

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

The Service is in compliance with legislative requirements. The Service's creation of a Public Order Unit fulfills the legislative requirements listed within Section 18 of O. Reg. 3/99 of the *Police Services Act*.

- c) *“...confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with section 4.3...”*

In April of 2022, members were selected for the Service's Public Order Unit. These officers took part in the Basic Public Order Unit training course administered by officers with the Hamilton Public Order Unit.

In November 2022, four members of the Service's Public Order Unit were trained and certified as Public Order Unit trainers. This certification will allow them to create a skills development and learning plan that will include the training requirements set out by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

The Public Order Unit Training cadre will address the ongoing training of members of the Public Order Unit. This training will take place semi-annually, with one week set in the Spring and the other in the Fall.

- d) *"...confirmation of the development and maintenance of the manual on Public Order Unit services..."*

The Service has created a Public Order Unit manual outlining legislative requirements pertaining to the Public Order Unit as well as the training and testing members are required to participate in.

- e) *"...a summary of the circumstances in which the Public Order Unit has been deployed..."*

On September 20 and 21, 2023, the "1 Million March for Children in Canada" took place. This was a nationwide demonstration against sexual orientation and gender identity curriculum in schools. Members of the Public Order Unit were deployed to facilitate a peaceful demonstration. Approximately 500 demonstrators gathered in the City of St. Catharines to march through city streets. Members of the Public Order Unit along with front line patrol resources stood by ensuring the peace was maintained.

On September 30, 2023, the Niagara Regional Police Service Public Order Unit was requested to assist the Hamilton Police Service Public Order Unit with McMaster University Homecoming festivities in the City of Hamilton. Throughout the course of the day, 9,000 – 10,000 students took part in unsanctioned street parties in and around McMaster University. This was a cost recovery deployment paid for by the City of Hamilton.

On October 21, 2023 a second "1 Million March for Children in Canada" took place. Members of the Public Order Unit were deployed to facilitate a peaceful demonstration. Approximately 200 demonstrators gathered in the City of St. Catharines to march through streets in the West end of the city. Members of the Public Order Unit along with front line patrol resources stood by ensuring the peace was maintained.

On November 19, 2023 the Niagara Regional Police Service Public Order Unit was requested to assist the Hamilton Police Service Public Order Unit with Grey Cup festivities in the City of Hamilton. This was a cost recovery deployment paid for by the City of Hamilton.

On December 31, 2023, members of the Public Order Unit deployed in the City of Niagara Falls for New Years Eve festivities. An estimated 35,000 people gathered on Clifton Hill and Queen Victoria Park to watch fireworks at midnight. Members of the Public Order Unit along with front line patrol resources maintained a high visibility presence ensuring the peace was maintained.

For the reasons stated above, the Service remains in compliance with By-Law 401-2023 as it relates to Public Order Units.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

Not applicable.

### **Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities**

Not applicable.

### **Relevant Policy Considerations**

Police Service Board By-Law 401-2023, Public Order Units  
General Order 150.07 – Civil Disturbances & Mass Arrests

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

8.13.2023.02.23 – Annual Report – Public Order Units – January 1 to December 31, 2023

*This report was prepared by Shaun Parrent, Inspector, Public Order Unit Commander, in consultation with Curtis Custers, Finance Unit. Reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Emergency, and Investigative Services. Reviewed by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Support.*



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### **Submitted by:**

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Chief of Police