



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

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**Subject:** Annual Report – Informants and Agents  
January 1 to December 31, 2024

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

**Report Date:** 2025-01-20

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### Recommendation(s)

**That the Niagara Police Service 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 (Service) is in compliance with By-Law 449-2024 – Informants and Agents.
- By-Law 449-2024, a By-Law respecting Informants and Agents, was enacted as a result of Adequacy and Effective Policing Guideline, LE-015 – Paid Informants and Agents.
- This report is submitted to the Board for review and consideration of information relating to informants and agents and the duties and obligations of the Service.

### Financial Considerations

The Board receives a quarterly report that details the administration of Special Funds. A total disbursement of \$43,025.00 in Informants Fees from the General Operating Account occurred for the year ending December 31, 2024.

### Analysis

In accordance with By-Law, 449-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year with respect to informants and agents. The report shall include:

- a) The status of the implementation of the written procedures regarding informants and agents;
- b) Confirmation of compliance with the provisions of the procedures regarding informants and agents; and
- c) On an anonymous basis, a summary of payments made to informants.

It is the policy of the Service to utilize information regarding criminal activity supplied through the informant process. When dealing with informants, consideration shall be given to the reliability of the information, any risk to the safety of members, the public and the protection of the informant's identity.

An informant is described as a person who provides information and may be further described as someone who provides information or assistance to a member of the Service on a continuing basis, which may prove useful in an investigation.

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

- a) *"...the status of the implementation of the written procedures regarding informants and agents..."*

General Order (GO) 141.07 - Informants and Agents was developed to comply with Adequacy and Effective Policing and the Board By-Law. This GO includes clear and strict guidelines for officers who deal with informants and agents. Specific procedures are in place regarding the roles and responsibilities of the individual officer, procedures regarding the Information and Reward Fund, the role of the Confidential Informant Controller (Controller), the use of Police Agents, and the role of the Special Investigative Services Unit Commander.

- b) *"...confirmation of compliance with the provisions of the procedures regarding informants and agents..."*

The Service complies with the provisions of the By-Law by ensuring that specialized training is available to investigators. The following training courses are provided through either the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario or the Service's Centre for Policing and Community Safety Studies:

- Human Source Development Course;
- Intelligence Officer Course;
- Criminal Investigators Course;
- Confidential Informant Handlers Course; and
- Confidential Informant Handlers Course – Advanced.

The Controller is involved in the training of frontline officers and detectives in the use of confidential informants. The Controller provides briefings to all uniform shifts related to the GO and is the main contact for the Service regarding confidential informant matters. The Controller administers the Informant Fund for the Service and ensures compliance with the GO in that regard.

In 2024, the Controller continued training and mentoring frontline members and investigators with respect to the Confidential Informant Management System (CIMS), which is a centralized databank within the Province of Ontario. This system has enhanced the information sharing capabilities of police services across Ontario. CIMS is

operational and GO 141.07 has been updated to reflect the necessary changes, because of CIMS implementation and to reflect provincial protocols.

- c) *“...on an anonymous basis, a summary of payments made to informants...”*

The Board receives a quarterly report that details the administration of Special Funds. Disbursement of \$43,025.00 in informant fees from the General Operating Account occurred for the year ending December 31, 2024. The cost associated to informants varies annually depending on both the type and number of investigations.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

Not applicable.

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

To comply with the provisions of Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with the Adequacy and Effective Policing Guidelines.

### **Relevant Policy Considerations**

Board By-Law 449-2024 – Informants and Agents  
Adequacy and Effective Policing, LE-015 – Paid Informants and Agents  
GO 141.07 - Informants and Agents

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

8.12 – 2024.02.22 - Annual Report – Informants and Agents - January 1 to December 31, 2023.

*This report was prepared by David Santo, Staff Sergeant, Special Investigative Services, in consultation with Mike Tripp, Inspector, Major Crime. Reviewed by Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Investigative Services. Recommended by Mario Lagrotteria, Acting Deputy Chief, Community Services.*



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**Submitted by:**  
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Acting Chief of Police

### **Appendices**

Not applicable.