



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

### PUBLIC AGENDA

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**Subject:** Annual Report – Vehicle Theft  
January 1 to December 31, 2024

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

**Report Date:** 2025-02-25

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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 460-2024 – Vehicle Theft.
- By-Law 460-2024 contains provisions requiring the Chief of Police to report specific information 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 460-2024, 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 Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation – LE-043 Vehicle Theft and Board By-Law 460-2024. This GO was updated in 2021 and is scheduled for re-evaluation.

GO 187.06 addresses the following topics:

- Sections 3.0 to 3.6 outlines 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.

GO 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	2022	2023	2024
Actual Incidents	778	756	709
Total Cleared	88	77	71
Cleared by charge	75	62	59
Cleared otherwise	13	15	12
Total persons charged	123	69	90

\*Source - Versadex Records Management System

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

Not applicable.

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

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

## **Relevant Policy Considerations**

Board By-Law 460-2024 – Vehicle Theft  
GO 057.04 – Vehicle Towing, Seizure and Release  
GO 095.10 – Major Incidents and Routine Criminal Investigations  
GO 187.06 – Vehicle Theft  
Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation - LE-043 Vehicle Theft

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

8.18 – 2024.03.28 – Annual Report – Vehicle Theft – January 1 to December 31, 2023

*This report was prepared by David Santo, Acting Inspector, Major Crime and 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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Chief of Police

## **Appendices**

Not applicable.