



# NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

## Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

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**Subject:** Annual Report – Witness Protection and Security  
January 1 to December 31, 2024

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

**Report Date:** 2025-02-24

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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 462-2024 – Witness Protection and Security.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board concerning witness protection and security.
- 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

A monetary fund 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 462-2024, 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 to 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 Adequate and Effective Policing Regulations and the Board By-Law. They are as follows:

General Order (GO) 122.08 – Witness Protection and Security Program addresses the requirements of Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation LE-018 – Witness Protection and Board By-Law 462-2024.

- 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. 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 Special Investigative Services.

The Service has complied with the procedures, as set out in the GO.

- 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 2024 with respect to witness protection and security.

### **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 Adequate and Effective Policing requirements.

## **Relevant Policy Considerations**

Board By-Law 462-2024 – Witness Protection and Security  
GO 115.07 – Assistance for Victims and Witnesses  
GO 122.08 – Witness Protection and Security Program  
Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation, LE-018 – Witness Protection

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

8.19 – 2024.03.28 – Annual Report – Witness Protection – 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.