



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**POLICE SERVICE BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MINUTES**

Thursday, March 27, 2025  
Niagara Regional Police Service - Headquarters  
Community Room 1st Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls

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**PSB MEMBERS:**

P. Chiocchio, Chair  
N. Kapisavanhu, Vice Chair  
K. Gibson, Board Member  
L. Ip, Board Member  
J. Lawson, Board Member  
T. McKendrick, Board Member  
B. Steele, Board Member

D. Reid, Executive Director

**NRPS MEMBERS:**

Chief B. Fordy  
A/Chief L. Greco  
Deputy Chief M. Lagrotteria, Community Services  
Deputy Chief T. Waselovich, Operational Services  
A/Deputy Chief S. Staniforth, Support Services  
C. Gauley, General Counsel  
L. Blood, Director of Human Resources  
L. Rullo, Director of Finance and Asset Management  
Superintendent D. Forbes, Emergency Service  
Superintendent D. Masotti, Emergency Investigative Services  
Superintendent J. Nesbit, Operational Services  
Superintendent S. Parrent, Community Services  
A/Superintendent L. Hughes, Executive Services  
A/Deputy Chief C. Sirie, Operational Support  
Inspector N. Dave, Executive Officer to Chief of Police  
Inspector R. LaPlante, 1 District  
Staff Sergeant M. Casella, Training Unit  
D/Sergeant N. Abbott, Executive Officer to D/C Operational Services  
D/Sergeant R. Aceti, Executive Officer to D/C Support Services  
Sergeant D. Watson, Recruiting Unit  
Constable A. Rivet, Recruiting Unit  
R. Audeh, Corporate Strategy and Innovation Manager  
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager  
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Service Board commenced at 9:30 am.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

The Board began its meeting by acknowledging that the Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, including the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work

in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

### 3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Member McKendrick declared a conflict of interest regarding Item 9.4 Special Fund Requests, #4 - CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) Wellness For All Fundraiser, as she is the Executive Director of the CMHA and the funding request financially benefits her employer. Member McKendrick completed the required Declaration of Interest form and took no part in the voting or discussion of this item.

### 4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### 4.1 **Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2025**

Moved by: B. Steele

Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2025 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried**

### 5. **REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR**

**King Charles III Coronation Medal** - Chair Chiocchio acknowledged the absence of Chief Bill Fordy and Technology Services Director Akram Askoul as they were selected to receive the King Charles "The Third" Coronation Medal at a special ceremony held in Ottawa last evening. Chief Fordy was honored for his outstanding contributions to public safety, crime prevention, and community leadership. Director Askoul received the medal in recognition of his significant achievements in the field of information technology. This distinguished honour reflects Chief Fordy's dedication, unwavering commitment to policing and public safety, and the profound impact he has made in Niagara, as well as at the provincial and national levels. Director Askoul's recognition highlights the importance of his innovative leadership and significant contributions to public safety through technology. The Board is proud to see both recognized with this prestigious award.

**Introduction of Deputy Chief Lagrotteria** - On March 14, the Board announced the promotion of Superintendent Mario Lagrotteria to Deputy Chief of Community Services. Chair Chiocchio welcomed Deputy Chief Lagrotteria to his first Board meeting as the Service's newest Deputy Chief of Police and advised that the Board looks forward to his participation and contributions to the Service in that role. He also expressed the Board's sincere appreciation to all Senior Officers for their support and patience throughout this process. Deputy Chief Lagrotteria will be formally recognized at a ceremony to be confirmed at a later date.

**Body Worn Cameras - Community Open Houses** - The NRPS continues to host a series of community open houses on body worn cameras across the Region. These sessions provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions, share their thoughts and contribute to building a safer, more accountable future for Niagara. All members of the Niagara Region are invited to attend one of the open houses or to complete an online survey. Please visit the NRPS website for details about the survey, and the specific dates, times, and locations of the community open houses.

**CAPG Webinar Sessions** - The Canadian Association of Police Governance hosts monthly webinars as part of their educational strategy to keep Police Boards and Police Executives across Canada apprised of issues currently affecting the policing community. Webinars were held on February 27, March 4 and March 26. Session topics included body worn cameras, hiring process for police chiefs, and mental health in the policing community. Recorded copies of all webinars are sent to Board Members for their viewing.

**Welland Mayor Frank Campion's Fundraiser Breakfast** - On March 20, Chair Chiocchio, Chief Fordy, Deputy Chief Lagrotteria and Inspector Gomez attended Mayor Frank Campion's Annual Fundraiser Breakfast at the Blue Star Restaurant in Welland. This year's event supported the Open Arms Mission - a volunteer driven organization that provides food, personal care and other items to Welland community members who are in need of support.

**Gillian's Place - Breakfast to End Gender-Based Violence** - On March 25, Gillian's Place hosted a breakfast event at Club Roma aimed at ending gender-based violence. This important event provided an inspiring morning filled with life changing and lifesaving stories from individuals that have sought safe refuge and support through Gillian's Place. Chair Chiocchio and Members Gibson and Lawson attended the event along with Deputy Chiefs Greco, Lagrotteria, Waselovich and members of the Service's Executive Command Team and specialty unit officers.

**2025 State of the Region Address - Regional Chair Jim Bradley** - On March 26, the 2025 State of the Region event was held at Club Italia in Niagara Falls. Regional Chair Jim Bradley provided an overview of the current economic conditions, as well as key initiatives and projects underway to support growth and development in the Niagara Region. Chair Chiocchio, Vice Chair Kapisavanhu, Members Gibson, Lawson, and Steele attended the event along with Deputy Chiefs Greco, Lagrotteria and Waselovich.

**Special Olympics Pickleball Tournament - NRPS Wellness Unit** - On April 5, members of the Service's Wellness Unit are holding a "Pickleball-for-a-Cause" tournament at the Meridian Community Centre in Fonthill. The tournament is being held to benefit Special Olympics Ontario, which is dedicated to enriching the lives of Ontarians with an intellectual disability, through sport. Member Lawson will be representing the Board in the tournament.

**Traffic Services/Breathalyzer Testing** - On April 8, the Board will be joining members of Traffic Services for a demonstration on breathalyzer testing and the training requirements of police officers who perform these tests. The session is being held at from 12 pm – 3 pm and members are asked to confirm their attendance with Board staff.

**CAPG Executive Director/Chair/ Quarterly Meeting** - On April 15, Chair Chiocchio and Executive Director Reid be attending a Canadian Association of Police Governance Executive Director and Chairs Quarterly Meeting. These quarterly meetings are designed to facilitate discussions about common issues related to police service boards, commissions, advisory boards and to share ideas about best practice approaches.

**Upcoming Police Service Board Meetings** - There are no Committee Meetings scheduled for April. The next scheduled regular monthly Board meeting is Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 9:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters.

## **6. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

### **Announcements:**

Acting Chief Greco recognized the recent promotions of Deputy Chief Mario Lagrotteria and Superintendent Jay Nesbit in their new roles as the Deputy Chief of Community Services and Superintendent of Operational Services, extending congratulations to each of them.

In light of recent inquiries and discussions at Regional Council regarding the Towing industry and the "Tow rotation list", the Service is currently in the process of assessing the relevant guidelines and procedures related to this issue. A fulsome update will be provided to the Police Service Board at its April 24 meeting.

### **Community Safety:**

**March 3, 2025** – Service members attended a 3-day Police Technology Conference and Exposition in Toronto where members learned about the latest innovations and technological advances in supporting public safety.

**March 6, 2025** – Service members attended the first of a four-part virtual training series hosted by the OACP Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Sessions focused on far-reaching consequences of hate-based incidents, including psychological, social, and economic impacts on victims and communities.

**March 18, 2025** – The Service's Executive Leadership Team received a presentation on Situation Tables by Regional Staff in relation to the Region's Community Safety and Well Being plan. These regular meetings involve a group of trained professionals from across different sectors, including police, who work together to mitigate risk before an incident of harm or victimization occurs. The Situation Tables are a key initiative in Niagara for the development of effective responses to assist individuals by utilizing appropriate sectors and resources in a proactive manner.

**March 18 – April 1, 2025** - The Service has begun holding Community Consultations to gather information from the community on the subject of Body Worn Cameras. Police are engaging with the community on their thoughts and conducting survey questionnaires. The sessions began at the Pen Center in St Catharines and police will be visiting a total of six locations throughout the Region, concluding at the Fleming Center in Beamsville.

**March 19, 2025** – Acting Chief Greco and Inspector Magistrale attended the Ontario Police College for March Past for the new recruits. This ceremonious event included eight members of Niagara's most recent class.

**March 19, 2025** - Chief Fordy attended the Swearing-In Ceremony for Premier Ford and Members of the New Executive Council at the Royal Ontario Museum.

**March 24, 2025** - Service members met with community organizations and leaders to gather their insight on the subject of body worn cameras. This collective engagement allowed opportunity to meet with senior leaders to share perspectives and thoughts while working toward shaping a safer, more accountable future for Niagara.

**March 26, 2025** - Solicitor General Michael Kerzner attended the NRPS Training Unit in Welland and met with Niagara's new recruits. He was provided a tour of the training facility as well as the opportunity to share his thoughts and support with the new recruits who are embarking on their policing careers.

The Community Oriented Response and Engagement Unit, along with the Traffic Enforcement Unit and patrol officers, have been actively working with Brock University, the Cities of St. Catharines and Thorold (as well as their by-law departments), St. Catharines Fire Service and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to collaborate on ensuring a safe St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

### **Community Engagement:**

**February 27, 2025** - Senior Staff attended the State of the City Meeting in St Catharines.

**February 27, 2025** – Senior Staff attended the Welland Courthouse for the swearing in ceremonies for the Honorable Scott Latimer and Amy Ohler as Justices of the Superior Court. The NRPS looks forward to working closely with and supporting their judicial partners.

**March 1, 2025** – Service members attended a Pow Wow hosted by the Fort Erie Native Friendship Center; a celebration of tradition and rich history that was very well attended.

**March 2, 2025** - Service members attended the Islamic Society of Niagara Peninsula to join the congregation in breaking fast as part of the ongoing recognition of Ramadan at this time of year.

**March 3, 2025** - Members of the EDI Unit attended St. John Adult Learning Centre in St. Catharines. The members spoke to newcomers to Canada and ESL students to talk about policing in Niagara, hate crimes and how to report them and the common frauds/scams that affect newcomers.

**March 4, 2025** – Service members attended the United Way Campaign Celebration in St Catharines to honour the contributions and dedication of community members in their work with this community organization that offers assistance to so many.

**March 7, 2025** – Service members attended the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day - Women In Niagara event. This event recognizes the challenges and opportunities for women in business in Niagara and highlights accomplished female leaders in the community.

**March 20, 2025** – Service members attended Welland Mayor Campion's fundraising breakfast in support of the Welland community.

**March 21, 2025** – Service members attended the Out of the Cold Program at Knox Presbyterian Church in St Catharines, which provides food for the homeless and vulnerable people in Niagara. This has been a long-standing volunteer effort by members who contribute their time to help with this program during the winter months.

**March 22, 2025** – Service members attended the Islamic Community of West Niagara in Beamsville to join them in breaking fast during the ongoing observation of Ramadan.

**March 23, 2025** – Service members attended the Holi celebration at the Chinmaya Mission in Niagara Falls with their friends and Member Vivek Gupta of the Chief's Community Inclusion Council. Holi is a major Hindu celebration; the Festival of Colours, Love, Equality and Spring.

**March 25, 2025** - Senior staff, Board members, and members of the Special Victims Unit attended a Breakfast to End Gender Based Violence hosted by Gillian's Place. Donations will support the services provided by Gillian Place to the victims that are impacted by gender based and intimate partner violence.

**March 25, 2025** – Members of the EDI Unit attended a Brock University 4th Year Criminology Seminar on "Black Men, Criminology and Criminalization" to observe the educational learning, introduce the Unit, and answer questions from students while gaining insight and perspective.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Niagara Regional Police Service - The Recruit Journey**

Presentation on the journey of a recruit including the mandated training requirements of the Ontario Police College (OPC) and that of the Niagara Regional Police Service upon OPC graduation.

Moved by: N. Kapisavanhu

Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the presentation be received.**

**Carried**

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **8.1 Police Record Checks Reform Act 2015 - Amendments to O. Reg. 347/18 Exemptions**

Service report dated March 12, 2025 providing a status update on the Service's progress to adhere to the amendments of O. Reg. 347/18 (Exemptions) under the Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015 that came into effect on January 1, 2025 relating to individuals subject to record check requirements under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 and the Intercountry Adoption Act, 1998.

### **8.2 Annual Report - Accessibility Standards and Accessibility Standards for Customer Service - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Serviced report dated March 6, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-laws 431-2024 and 432-2024.

### **8.3 Annual Report - Child Abuse and Neglect - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 25, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 437-2024.

**8.4 Annual Report - Child Pornography (Internet Child Exploitation) - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 21, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 438-2024.

**8.5 Annual Report - Equal Opportunity, Discrimination and Workplace Harassment Prevention - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated March 14, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 411-2024.

**8.6 Annual Report - Illegal Gaming - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 24, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 448-2024.

**8.7 Annual Report - Marine Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 26, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 483-2024.

**8.8 Annual Report - Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 26, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 415-2024.

**8.9 Annual Report - Niagara Regional Police Service Tuck Shop - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 19, 2025 advising the Board of the net proceeds from the sale of NRPS branded souvenirs and mementos sold through the Niagara Regional Police Service Tuck Shop during 2024.

**8.10 Annual Report - Parental Non/Parental Abductions and Attempts - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 19, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 454-2024.

**8.11 Annual Report - Police Uniforms - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated March 5, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 490-2024.

**8.12 Annual Report - Sudden Death and Found Human Remains - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 21, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 501-2024.

**8.13 Annual Report - Underwater Search and Recovery Units - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 27, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 505-2024.

**8.14 Annual Report - Vehicle Theft - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 25, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 460-2024.

**8.15 Annual Report - Witness Protection and Security - January 1 to December 31, 2024**

Service report dated February 24, 2025 submitted in accordance with the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 462-2024.

Moved by: T. McKendrick  
Seconded by: L. Ip

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 NRPS Facility Master Plan Proposal Brief**

Service report dated March 6, 2025 requesting the Board approve the proposal brief submitted by Operations Research in Health (ORH) for the preparation of a facilities plan for the Service to support the development of the NRPS 2026-2029 Strategic Plan and prepare for anticipated growth of the police service. *(The item was pre-approved by the Board March 11, 2025 and is before the Board ratification.)*

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: N. Kapisavanhu

**That the Board the approve the attached proposal brief provided by Operation Research in Health (ORH) for \$168,500.00 plus HST to complete a Facility Master Plan.**

**Carried**

### **9.2 2025 NRPS Budget Amendment - Homeland Security Investigations Border Enforcement Security Task Force Secondment**

Service report dated March 7, 2025 requesting the Board approve a 2025 operating budget amendment in the amount of \$162,600.00 to fund the secondment of a NRPS Detective Sergeant to the Homeland Security Investigations Border Enforcement Security (BEST) Task Force to combat emerging and existing transnational criminal organizations. *(The item was preapproved by the Board on March 11, 2024 and is before the Board for ratification.)*

Moved by: J. Lawson  
Seconded by: L. Ip

**That the Board approve a 2025 Operating Budget amendment in the amount of \$162,600.00 to temporarily fund a NRPS Secondment to the Homeland Security Investigations Border Enforcement Security (BEST) Task Force for the period of March 1 to December 31, 2025;**

**And further, that the report be submitted to Regional Council for approval of the budget amendment funded by a transfer from the Police Contingency Reserve Fund.**

**Carried**

### **9.3 Human Resources Structure - Advisory Role**

Service report dated March 3, 2025 requesting the Board approve the repurposing of a vacant position in the Human Resources (HR) Unit to a new senior level HR advisory role in keeping with the recommendation brought by Deloitte Consulting in 2022 when they were engaged to review the HR function and design of a future state operating model for the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Moved by: N. Kapisavanhu  
Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the Board approve the repurposing of the vacant Benefits Specialist position to a new Human Resources (HR) advisory role to oversee Total Rewards, HR Systems, and the overall operation of the HR Business Unit.**

**Carried**

#### **9.4 Special Fund Requests**

Service report dated March 12, 2025 requesting the Board approve the following Special Fund requests:

1. Administrative Professionals Day - \$5,000;
2. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Niagara For Kids' Sake Golf Tournament - \$1,300;
3. CALEO (Canadian American Law Enforcement Organization) 29th Annual Training Symposium - \$400;
4. CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) Wellness For All Fundraiser - \$2,500;
5. FACS (Family and Children Services) Niagara Fundraising Gala - \$2,500;
6. Human Trafficking Public Awareness Initiative - \$5,120;
7. Love Fore Niagara 3rd Annual Golf Tournament - \$700;
8. OWLE (Ontario Women in Law Enforcement) Awards Gala - \$2,200;
9. Hope Gala, Pathstone Mental Health Foundation - \$3,000; and
10. United Way Early Bird and Summer Classic Golf Tournaments - \$2600.

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That the Board authorize the Special Fund donations Numbers 1-3 and 5-10 as outlined in the report and approve payment in the requested amounts.**

**Carried**

Moved by: B. Steele  
Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the Board authorize Special Fund donation Number 4 as outlined in the report and approve payment in the requested amount.**

**Carried**

#### **10. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business raised or discussed.

#### **11. IN CAMERA REPORTS**

There were no in camera reports.



**12. MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by: L. Ip

Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the Board move into Closed Session for consideration of confidential matters pursuant to Section 44 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, namely for subject-matter related to potential litigation, human resources matters, information that the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act would authorize a refusal to disclose if it were contained in a record, contractual documentation, as well as legal matters that are subject to solicitor-client privilege.**

**Carried**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:11 am.

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Pat Chiochio, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director