



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Proceeds of Crime
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-03-12

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 494-2024 – Proceeds of Crime.
- By-Law 494-2024 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 proceeds of crime investigations.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 494-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into proceeds of crime. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning proceeds of crime investigations;
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) The amount of proceeds of crime seized, and the disposition of such proceeds.

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

- a) *“...a summary of the written procedures concerning proceeds of crime investigations...”*

General Order (GO) 110.08 – *Proceeds of Crime and Offence Related Property* addresses the requirements of the Adequate and Effective Policing Regulations LE-041 and Service By-Law 494-2024. It establishes definitions, duties, and responsibilities as well as the internal reporting process.

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

GO 110.08 is scheduled to be reviewed every 2 years to ensure continued compliance with By-Law 494-2024 and the corresponding Adequate and Effective Policing requirements.

The mandate of the Service’s Proceeds of Crime/Asset Forfeiture Unit is to prosecute persons associated with the accumulation of assets derived from criminal activity throughout the Niagara Region and elsewhere in the Province of Ontario; to identify, seize, and cause those criminal assets to be forfeited.

The Proceeds of Crime Program is an essential component to successfully identify and seize assets associated to criminal organizations and individuals who profit substantially from criminal acts. To enhance this component of major criminal investigations, a budgeted Proceeds of Crime investigator was assigned to Special Investigative Services in September 2018. Shortly thereafter, this officer became part of the Provincial Asset Forfeiture Unit (PAFU) led by the Ontario Provincial Police.

- c) *“...the amount of proceeds of crime seized, and the disposition of such proceeds...”*

In 2024, Niagara-based drug trafficking investigations resulted in the seizure of proceeds of crime totalling \$224,007.89. PAFU is responsible for the collection and submissions to the Seized Property Management Directorate (SPMD) of assets seized during local investigations within Niagara and other investigations across Ontario.

The SPMD administers all seized property, and after disposition hearings (or other judicial orders), the property is liquidated. At times, police services can apply for various federally and provincially administered grants in an effort to access some of the funds for various enforcement or community safety initiatives. Seizures of cash, and other assets forwarded to the SPMD by each police service, are taken into consideration when decisions on granting funds are made.

The Proceeds of Crime/Asset Forfeiture portfolio for the Service has met its performance objectives in accordance with the Adequate and Effective Policing requirements.

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 Adequate and Effective Policing requirements.

Relevant Policy Considerations

- Board By-Law 494-2024 – Proceeds of Crime
- GO 110.08 – Proceeds of Crime and Offence Related Property
- Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation, Law Enforcement 041 – Proceeds of Crime

Other Pertinent Reports

8.7 – 2024.04.25 Annual Report – Proceeds of Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2023

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



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.