



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Equipment - Body Armour – January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-04-26

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 (NRPS) is in compliance with Board By-Law 477-2024 – Equipment – Body Armour.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board with respect to Equipment – Body Armour.
- This report sets out a summary of procedures required by this By-Law and the status of Service compliance with those procedures.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendation contained in this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 477-2024, the Chief shall develop and maintain written procedures governing the provision, use and function of body armour equipment and shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year with respect to specific information. The report shall contain:

- a) a summary of the written procedures relating to body armour equipment;
- b) the status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with section 4.2 of the By-Law.

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

- a) a summary of the written procedures relating to body armour equipment;

The written procedures pertaining to body armour are contained in General Order 068.07 "Body Armour". The General Order addresses the issuance, mandatory wearing, maintenance, inspection requirements, and replacement policy for body armour.

Section 3.1 of the general order ensures that employee representatives including, but not limited to, the Joint Equipment Committee (NRPS and Niagara Region Police Association), and the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee are consulted as part of the acquisition of body armour process.

Section 3.19 also outlines the training and information that members who have been issued with body armour must receive. This training includes:

- proper use and care of body armour;
- limitations of the issued body armour;
- protection offered against handgun assault;
- protection/prevention of serious and potential, fatal injuries from traffic accidents, knives, edged weapons, and physical assault with improvised weapons; and
- information on the responsibilities and obligations of employers, supervisors, and employees under the Ontario Health and Safety Act.

Section 3.20 goes on to identify the requirement for a medical examination of the member after experiencing blunt force trauma or penetration of the body armour.

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

Body armour is issued through Quartermaster Stores (QM) and members are instructed on the proper use and care at that time. The use, maintenance, and inspection of body armour is reinforced through front line supervisors and Duty Officers, who identify potential issues during routine line inspections and direct members to the QM for further evaluation and possible replacement of their body armour. Members that are issued body armour are given in-service training that covers the procedures in General Order 068.07. They also receive specific information about the protective capacity, care, maintenance, and expected replacement cycle of their body armour. Employee representatives including, but not limited to, the Joint Equipment Committee, and the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee have been consulted as part of the acquisition of body armour. The NRPS is in compliance with the procedures listed in the general order.

- c) confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with section 4.2.

Members have received the appropriate training in accordance with the procedures detailed in General Order 068.07 thus, meeting the requirements of section 4.2 of the

By-Law. Initial training occurred following the original issuance of body armour to members and is reinforced during an ongoing cycle of in-service training.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

This report is for information purposes and has no immediate strategic priorities.

Relevant Policy Considerations

- Board By-Law 477-2024
- Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019
- NRPS – General Order 068.07, Body Armour
- NRPS – General Order 127.08, Audit and Inspection System

Other Pertinent Reports

8.13 - 2024.05.23 - Annual Report – Equipment – Body Armour – January 1 to December 31, 2023

This report was prepared by Jesse Hicks, Sergeant, Training Unit in consultation with Mike Casella, Staff Sergeant, Steve Magistrale, Inspector, Labour Relations & Career Development and reviewed by Paul Koscinski, Superintendent, Executive Services. Recommended by Luigi Greco, Deputy Chief, Support Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.