



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Preventing or Responding to Occurrences Involving Firearms – January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-04-28

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the necessary and required information pursuant to By-Law 479-2024 relating to procedures and processes for undertaking and managing investigations into offences/occurrences involving firearms.
- By-Law 479-2024, a By-Law Respecting Preventing or Responding to Occurrences Involving Firearms, was enacted as a result of O. Reg 392/23: Adequacy and Effective Policing (General), LE-029: Preventing or Responding to Occurrences Involving Firearms, which were in force during the time period captured in this report.
- By-Law 479-2024 is a policy directive that requires the Chief to develop procedures for preventing or responding to occurrences involving firearms and training in relation to firearms investigations and contains provisions requiring the Chief of Police to report on the status of Service compliance with the said procedures and training requirements.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

This By-Law details specific requirements that are to be reported as follows:

The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of preventing or responding to occurrences involving firearms. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning managing investigations and preventing offences/occurrences involving firearms;
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) Confirmation that members were trained in accordance with section 4.2 of this By-Law.

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

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning managing investigations and preventing offences/occurrences involving firearms.

Service General Orders set out procedures to be followed by officers involved with firearms related investigations. In particular, General Order (GO) 175.06 entitled Firearms – Investigations/Seizure/Property/Maintenance, includes direction on investigative search and seizure; public safety search and seizure; prohibition orders; investigations; and the Firearms Interest to Police (FIP) category of the Canadian Police Information Centre. FIP is an observation category used to flag the record of a person who, in the last 5 years, has been involved in a violent or mental health incident. This GO also speaks to section 117.04 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which establishes non-evidentiary and preventative search and seizure powers. This order is available in electronic form to all members. The procedures detailed in GO 175.06 comply with By-Law 479-2024.

Other GOs that pertain to firearms response and investigation are:

GO 053.26 - Use of Force
GO 089.08 - Emergency Task Unit
GO 095.10 - Major Incidents and Routine Criminal Investigations
GO 114.13 - Domestic/Family Violence
GO 117.11 - Search and Seizure
GO 121.12 - Forensic Services Unit
GO 035.13 - Evidence and Property Management

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

The Service is in compliance with the policies and procedures relating to occurrences involving firearms.

- c) Confirmation that members were trained in accordance with section 4.2 of this By-Law.

Members of the Service receive training prescribed in Sections 5, 11, and 15 of Ontario Regulation 87/24: Training, prior to being issued a firearm, during Basic Constable Training (BCT) at the Ontario Police College, and during annual requalification training at the Training Unit. Further, members are trained on all search and seizure powers available to officers under the Criminal Code during BCT and criminal investigation training courses and updates through the Ontario Police College and during annual In-Service Training.

Members involved in investigations into offences/occurrences involving firearms have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities, commensurate with their level of responsibility, obtained through the completion of training delivered during Basic Constable Training and specialty courses. Courses and training include: Criminal Investigators Training, Domestic Violence Investigation, Firearm Analyst, Gang Investigators, Homicide Investigation, Search Warrant, Death Investigation, Forensic Shooting Scene Examination and related information sharing conferences and workshops available through the Ontario Police College, Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario and policing organizations such as the Ontario Gang Investigators Association, Ontario Homicide Investigators Association and others.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the Board By-Law 479-2024.

Relevant Policy Considerations

- Police Service Board By-Law 479-2024.
- Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019
- Ontario Regulation 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons
- Ontario Regulation 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General)
- Ontario Regulation 87/24: Training
- General Order 175.06, Firearms - Investigations/Seizure/Property/Maintenance.

Other Pertinent Reports

8.15 - 2024.05.23 Annual Report – Firearms Training – January 1 to December 31, 2023

This report was prepared by Jesse Hicks, Sergeant, Training Unit in consultation with Mike Casella, Staff Sergeant, and Steve Magistrale, Inspector, Labour Relations & Career Development. 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.