



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Subject: Special Investigations Unit – Case Number 24-OFP-505 – Incident of November 25, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-05-30

Confidential Report

Confidential Report with respect to the legal matter of an identifiable individual – *Community Safety and Policing Act, s. 44(2)(b)* “personal matters about an identifiable individual, including members of the police service or any other employees of the board” and *Community Safety and Policing Act 2019, s.44(2)(e)* “litigation or potential litigation affecting the Board, including matters before administrative tribunals.”

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.
2. That the Board makes the report available to the public.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the findings and any action taken or recommended by the Chief of Police following a notification and investigation of an incident by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Section 81 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) requires that the Chief of Police initiate an investigation following a notification to the SIU.
- The purpose of the Chief's investigation is to review the member's conduct in relation to the incident, the policing provided by the member in relation to the incident, and the procedures established by the Chief of Police as they related to the incident.
- November 25, 2024, a notification was made to the SIU after officers deployed Anti-riot Weapon Enfield (ARWEN) firearms during an interaction with a male, resulting in the incident meeting the investigative mandate of the SIU.
- On March 24, 2025, the SIU notified the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) that their investigation had concluded and advised that there were no grounds for criminal charges against the subject officials.

- The subsequent section 81 investigation by the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) determined there were no issues with respect to officer conduct, policies or services provided by the NRPS.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

On November 25, 2024, uniform officers with the NRPS a 'Suicide Attempt' call for service in the area of Dunkirk Road and Bunting Road in the City of St. Catharines. Information received from Niagara EMS was that they received a call from a male who called due to him believing people were after his family. He further advised he was in a blue Ford Ranger in the mentioned area.

Uniformed officers and a Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) unit located the male in the driver's seat of his vehicle, with a large knife in his right hand and cuts on his left wrist. Officers attempted to speak to the male, however, he refused to put the knife down and appeared to be in a state of psychosis. Negotiators and tactical officers attended to assist.

Approximately two hours later, the male exited his vehicle but attempted to return almost immediately. Fearing the male would retrieve the knife, two officers deployed ARWEN firearms. The male was safely apprehended and transported to the hospital.

Due to the discharge of firearms, the SIU was notified and invoked their mandate.

The SIU designated three members as witness officials.

Two members were designated as subject officials.

On March 24, 2025, the SIU closed its investigation into this matter. In his decision letter, SIU Director, Mr. Joseph Martino wrote, " The file has been closed and no further action is contemplated. In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject officials."

A copy of the SIU report was publicly posted on the SIU's website.

In accordance with section 81, the Service's PSU conducted an investigation and review of this incident, which considered the following 3 areas:

1. The member's conduct in relation to the incident;
2. The policing provided by the member(s) in relation to the incident; and
3. The procedures established by the chief of police as they related to the incident.

The section 81 investigation encompassed a compliance review of applicable provincial legislation, which governs members of the NRPS, as well as General Orders, policies and procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

Where available, investigations include a review of communication recordings, NRPS occurrence reports, forensic evidence and reports, officer interviews conducted by the SIU and all duty book notes, SIU documentation including the Director's decision letter and report, statements of civilian witnesses gathered and released by the SIU at the conclusion of their investigation upon the consent of the civilian witnesses, and any other information and evidence available on a case-by-case basis.

1. Conduct of NRPS Officers

There were no officer conduct issues identified during the SIU investigation or the PSU investigation and review of this incident regarding compliance with General Orders or legislation.

2. Services Provided by the NRPS

There were no issues identified relating to the services provided by NRPS during this incident.

3. The Procedures of the NRPS

PSU investigators determined that the following General Orders had primary relevance in this matter, and they have been reviewed accordingly in the context of this incident.

- 1) General Order 079.10 – Special Investigations Unit
- 2) General Order 053.25 – Use of Force
- 3) General Order 167.08 – Mentally Ill Persons
- 4) General Order 168.06 – Officer Note Taking
- 5) General Order 034.11 – Report Submissions

Upon review, it was determined that the direction and guidance provided by the relevant General Orders was sufficient in its governance for members of the NRPS and no issues were identified.

The PSU investigation and review of this incident was undertaken in compliance with section 81 of the CSPA. The relevant procedures of the NRPS, the services provided, and the conduct of the involved NRPS members was the focus of this review and investigation.

In conclusion, there were no issues identified as it pertains to services provided, the conduct of the involved NRPS members, or the existing General Orders governing these situations.

Alternatives Reviewed

- 1) To not receive the report.
- 2) To not make the report available to the public.

The CSPA provides that meetings of the Board shall be open to the public subject to exceptions that are set out in subsection 44. The applicable exception to be considered in this case is the subject matter being considered includes, “personal matters about an identifiable individual, including members of the police service or any other employees of the board.”

In considering whether or not to make this report available to the public, it is respectfully submitted that the Board consider the following factors:

- 1) There are no public security matters revealed in this report.
- 2) This report does not reveal any intimate financial or personal matters.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

Not applicable.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Not applicable.

Other Pertinent Reports

C8.12-2025.05.22 – Request for Legal Indemnification – SIU Case 24-OFP-505 Incident of November 25, 2024.

*This report was prepared by Lynda Hughes, Inspector, Professional Standards.
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.