REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICE BOARD
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December 8, 2025

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk
Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7

Dear Ms. Norio:

RE: Councillor Information Requests
November 27, 2025 and December 4, 2025
Budget Review Committee of the Whole Meetings

I am writing in response to your letters dated December 2 and 5, 2025 to provide information related to the four (4) Councillor Information Requests raised at the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) meetings held on November 27, 2025 and December 4, 2025 with respect to the 2026 Proposed Operating Budget for the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Police Service Board.

Attached are the reports from the Chief of Police and the Chair of the Board addressing these requests.

I would ask that you please take the necessary steps to share this information with Council.

Yours truly,

Deb Reid
Executive Director

Encl.

c. Chair P. Chiocchio and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Chief B. Fordy, Niagara Regional Police Service

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE
Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: 2026 Budget – Responses to Councillor Information Requests Budget Review Committee of the Whole, November 27,2025

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-12-05

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information and submit to Niagara Regional Council (Council).

Key Facts

- At the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) held on November 27,2025, Chief Fordy presented the Niagara Regional Police Service (Police) 2026 Operating Budget.
- Following the presentation, the Board received three questions from the Regional Clerk's Office related to the 2026 Operating Budget presentation.
- Councillor Whalen requested a formal response to provide the figures on which the percentages were calculated for the categories listed on the "Policing in Niagara 2023-2024" (slide 23 of the presentation).
- Councillor Kaiser requested a formal response to two questions regarding uses of the Police Development Charge (DC) reserve fund and Board budget comparators.
- The responses are provided in the body of this report and in Appendix 1.
- At the BRCOTW meeting held on December 4, 2025, Councillor Secord requested a fourth question that the Police provide an organizational chart for maintenance staff.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications to receiving the information provided in this report.

Analysis

At the BRCOTW held on November 27, 2025, Chief Fordy presented the 2026 Operating Budget where the following three questions were posed requiring a formal response:

1. Provide the figures on which the percentages were calculated for the categories listed on the "Policing in Niagara 2023-2024" (slide 23 of the presentation). (Councillor Whalen).

Response:

Metric	Presentation Metric	2023	2024
Homicide Investigations	+25%	12	15
Human Trafficking Investigations	+64%	97	159
Child Abuse Investigations	+11%	245	273
Sexual Assault Investigations	+8%	403	436
Domestic Violence Investigations	+156%	1,149	2,951
Fatal Collisions	+74%*	19	21
Forensic Services	695 calls for service	672	695
Offender Management	535 offenders and 1,353 ROPE** Arrests	442 offender / 1,216 ROPE	535 offender / 1,353 ROPE

*74% increase reported on slide 23 represents the increase from 2023 to year-to-date Nov 10, 2025, total of 33.
** Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement

2. Provide information on how development charge funding available to the Niagara Regional Police Service is utilized in the capital program. (Councillor Kaiser)

Response:

In accordance with the Development Charges Act, 1997 (Ontario) Section 35 subsection 5(1), DC reserve funds may be spent for growth-related capital projects such as construction of facilities to support growth, land acquisition, debt principal including interest expense, and to acquire capital equipment required related to growth.

For the 2022-2027 DC cycle, the Police DC reserve will be used to fund the growth-related portion of 2 capital projects: a) approximately 55% of the debt costs (growth-related portion) associated with the Headquarters and 2 District (Niagara Falls) Police facility; and b) the addition of 26 vehicles to the Police fleet pool to support the growth of Police resources.

a) The main use of the Police DC reserve is to fund approximately 55% of the total debt costs associated with the Police Headquarters and 2 District facility long-term accommodation plan. The growth-related portion of the debt funded from the Police DC reserves between 2016 to 2025 is $8,825,027.31. The Police DC reserve will continue to fund the growth-related portion of the debt costs associated with the Headquarters/2 District facility of $17,650,054.72 outstanding for the period 2026-2045.

b) The Police DC reserve fund contributed $1,408,335.00 toward the increase of 26 vehicles to the Police fleet pool to support the growth of Police resources. The projects were funded in the 2023-2025 Police Capital Budget as follows: $408,335.00; $500,000.00 and $500,000.00.

3. Provide a comparison of Niagara Region Police Service Board costs to the average costs of other police boards. (Councillor Kaiser)

Response:

Provided in Appendix 1.

4. At the BRCOTW meeting held on December 4, 2025, Councillor Secord requested the Police provide an organizational chart for maintenance staff.

Response:

The Police staffing complement includes 5 licensed fleet technicians and 2 public safety radio technicians. All Police buildings are owned or leased by the Region and therefore, building maintenance is managed by the Region's Facility division.

Fleet Services Unit supports the 393 vehicles and specialty vehicles in the Police fleet pool; the unit employs 5 fleet technicians that provide maintenance functions as well as are responsible to outfit new vehicles with equipment, light bars, sirens and prisoner transport partitions. The fleet technicians report to a fleet coordinator who is also a licensed mechanic.

Public Safety Systems Solutions Unit employs 2 public safety radio technicians who report to the Public Safety System Manager. The unit is responsible for installation and maintenance of the communications systems within the Police fleet pool, maintenance on 500 portable radios used by Police and 1,200 radios owned by partner agencies, 8 radio sites, and over 100 CCTV cameras.

In conclusion, the information has been provided to the BRCOTW members as supplemental information to support the Police 2026 Operating Budget request.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

Under the provisions of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), the Board is responsible for providing adequate and effective police services in the Region.

Relevant Policy Considerations

In accordance with Section 50 of the CSPA, the Board submits a funding request to Council for the upcoming year after reviewing and approving the Service's detailed budget submission.

Other Pertinent Reports

9.1 – 2025.10.23 Public Police Service Board Meeting refers “Revised - 2026 NRPS/PSB Operating Budget”.

4.1 – 2025.11.27 Public BRCOTW Meeting refers “BRC-C 16-2025 - 2026 Proposed Operating Budget - Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board”.

6.1 – 2025.12.04 Public BRCOTW Meeting refers to “CSD 57-2025 3 - 54 2026 Budget – Water and Wastewater Operating Budget, Rate Setting and Requisition.”

This report was prepared by Laura Rullo, Director, Finance and Asset Management and recommended by Luigi Greco, Deputy Chief, Support Services.

Submitted by:
Bill Fordy, O.O.M. #9615
Chief of Police

Appendices

Appendix 1 - 2026 Police Service Board Budget Comparators

Appendix 1

To: Niagara Regional Council
Budget Review Committee of the Whole

From: Pat Chiocchio, Chair
Niagara Police Service Board

Date: December 3, 2025

Subject: Niagara Police Service Board
2026 Budget Overview & Comparison to Other Police Service Boards

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Issue

To respond to Councillor Kaiser's information request on how the Niagara Police Service Board's (NPSB) operating budget compares to other Ontario Police Service Boards (PSBs).

Background

The NPSB is a statutory civilian body consisting of seven members responsible for governing and overseeing the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) under Sections 37-39 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA).

The Board is responsible for adequate and effective policing that reflects the needs and expectations of the community. This is achieved through policy development, compliance monitoring, strategic planning and priority setting, and consultation with stakeholders, including ongoing communication with the Chief of Police, as mandated by the CSPA. The Board's duties also include recruiting and appointing the Chief and Deputy Chiefs, evaluating executive leadership, overseeing labour negotiations for the NRPS, and approving both the Board and Police Service budgets.
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The Board's proposed 2026 operating budget is $1,040,501, a 1.79% increase over 2025, and remains below Niagara Region budget guidelines. This amount reflects the resources required to fulfil the Board's legislated responsibilities and maintain effective civilian governance of policing in the Niagara Region.

Key Considerations

1. Budget Efficiency

- The majority of the Board's budget (approximately 42%) covers legal expenses, as the NPSB is responsible for all NRPS legal matters (SIU, grievances, Human Rights Tribunal cases, inquests, arbitrations, and collective bargaining).
- The remainder of the budget supports salaries and benefits for administrative staff, remuneration for Board Members, and operational costs such as office expenses, equipment, supplies, mileage, training and education, and resources needed for effective police governance.
- Excluding legal costs, the Board's governance budget represents 0.03% of the overall NRPS operating budget.
- For comparison purposes, it is important to note that costs for legal expenses, Board Member remuneration, employee long-service and retiree recognition are included within the NPSB budget. This differs from many comparator Boards, where these costs are absorbed by municipal or Police Service budgets. If these costs were removed from the NPSB budget and reassigned to the Region's or Police Service budgets, those budgets would need to increase by the equivalent amounts. Maintaining these costs within the Board's budget provides a transparent and accurate reflection of the Board's full cost of operations.

2. Comparator Analysis (2026)

The comparator Police Service Boards are all seven-member Boards and carry the same responsibilities under Section 37-39 of the CSPA. To ensure an "apples to apples" comparison, Service-related legal expenses and Board remuneration were removed from the Niagara's PSB budget.

Police Service Board 2026 Budget Comparators (lowest to highest):

1. Waterloo – $472,774
2. Niagara – $644,401 *(adjusted for comparison purposes)*
3. Durham – $770,970
4. Halton – $843,605
5. London – $913,308
6. Peel – $1,521,300
7. Ottawa – $1,542,700
8. Hamilton – $1,931,155
9. York – $2,207,500
10. Toronto – $2,642,300

Niagara has the second lowest PSB governance cost among comparator Police Service Boards.

3. Legislative Compliance

The Inspector General leads the Inspectorate of Policing, an arm's-length division of the Ministry of the Solicitor General which provides operational support to inspect, investigate, monitor and advise Ontario's Police Services and Boards to improve their performance and promote best practices, informed by data intelligence.

The Inspectorate of Policing is developing a dashboard to support comparisons among Police Service Boards, using data from all Boards to identify best practices, PSB compliance, common challenges and opportunities across the province. The current dashboard indicates that the NPSB ranks at the top for performance and compliance with the CSPA. Once completed, the dashboard will be fully accessible by the public and include Police Service Board budgets and resource allocations, among other information, to ensure Boards are accountable and meet provincial standards.

The NPSB 2026 budget supports the Board's expanded responsibilities under the CSPA and positions Niagara well for upcoming oversight and benchmarking through the Inspectorate of Policing.

Conclusion

The Niagara Police Service Board operates with exceptional fiscal discipline and delivers strong civilian oversight among comparable Ontario Police Service Boards. The 2026 budget is modest, transparent, and ensures full compliance with provincial policing legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Chiocchio, Chair
Niagara Regional Police Service Board

Administration
Office of the Regional Clerk
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December 2, 2025

Deb Reid, Executive Director
Niagara Regional Police Service Board
5700 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 1X8

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Councillor Information Requests – Budget Review Committee of the Whole, November 27, 2025

At the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 27, 2025, Committee considered the 2026 Proposed Operating Budget - Niagara Regional Police Service and Police Service Board. The following requests for information were made:

Minute Item 4.1

Provide the figures on which the percentages were calculated for the categories listed on the "Policing in Niagara 2023-2024" (Slide 23 of the presentation). Councillor Whalen.

Provide information on how development charge funding available to the Niagara Regional Police Service is utilized in the capital program. Councillor Kaiser.

Provide a comparison of Niagara Region Police Service Board costs to the average costs of other police boards. Councillor Kaiser.

It would be appreciated if you could kindly provide this information at your earliest convenience so that it may be shared with Council.

If further information is required, please contact me at 905-980-6000 Ext. 3220 or by email ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca

Yours truly,

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

CLK- C 2025-127

Administration
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December 5, 2025

Deb Reid, Executive Director
Niagara Regional Police Service Board
5700 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 1X8

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Councillor Information Request – Budget Review Committee of the Whole, December 4, 2025

At the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 4, 2025, the following request for information was made:

Minute Item 6.1

Request the Niagara Regional Police Service provide an organizational chart for maintenance staff for the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting being held on December 11, 2025. (Councillor Secord),

It would be appreciated if you could kindly provide this information at your earliest convenience so that it may be shared with Council.

If further information is required, please contact me at 905-980-6000 Ext. 3220 or by email ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca

Yours truly,

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

CLK- C 2025-129