



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Hostage Rescue – January 1 to December 31, 2021

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2022-04-13

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Services Board receives this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Service is in compliance with Board By-Law 243-2000 – Hostage Rescue.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board with respect to Hostage Rescue.
- The Service's Emergency Task Unit (ETU) is responsible for Hostage Rescue.

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 243-2000, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board each year in respect to Hostage Rescue and must include the following:

- a summary of the procedures referred to in section 4.1 of this By-Law;*
- confirmation that the existing protocol complies with legislative requirements;*
- a summary of the circumstances in which hostage rescue services have been utilized.*

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

- a summary of the procedures referred to in section 4.1 of this By-Law;*

Hostage Rescue became the responsibility of the ETU upon receiving Ministry accreditation as a Hostage Rescue Team on September 11, 2006. The written

procedures as set out in General Order 089.07 - Emergency Task Unit, remain applicable. As required, the written procedures include:

1. Establishment of procedures that set out the circumstances in which the services of the Hostage Rescue Team will be deployed, including the process for obtaining the services and reporting relationships; and
2. Ensure that the Service's Major Incident Commanders and Crisis Negotiators train with the Service's Hostage Rescue Team.

b) *confirmation that the existing protocol complies with legislative requirements;*

The Niagara Regional Police Service is in compliance with this By-Law. Our Hostage Rescue Team Course Training Standards are accredited by the Ministry of the Solicitor General as required under Regulation 3/99 of the Police Services Act for Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services. Incident Commanders and Crisis Negotiators participate in staged scenarios during ETU's spring and fall training sessions. Current accreditation is valid until July 31, 2024.

c) *a summary of the circumstances in which hostage rescue services have been utilized.*

Hostage rescue procedures were initiated when individuals, other than the suspect, are in danger from the suspect. These actions varied from breach and delay operations, where an entryway was breached and response from the suspect was monitored, to a dynamic entry and/or arrest of suspects. These action plans were used for arresting armed suspects who were capable of taking hostages.

These procedures were required for the safety of the public and/or a suspect(s) on 99 occasions in 2021. Below is a summary of the types of hostage rescue procedures executed in 2021 along with statistics from the previous 2 years:

| Hostage Rescue Procedures | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Armed / Barricaded Persons | 36 | 11 | 4 |
| High-Risk Warrants | 27 | 9 | 10 |
| High-Risk Arrests | 27 | 12 | 11 |
| High-Risk Tracks | 9 | 10 | 16 |
| Total | 99 | 42 | 41 |

The increase in statistics are in part due to improved safety measures that require hostage rescue tactics implemented by the ETU.

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 243-2000 – Hostage Rescue.

Other Pertinent Reports

7.7.2021.06.24 – Annual Report – Hostage Rescue – January 1 to December 31, 2020.

This report was prepared by Constable K.C. Parkes, Emergency Task Unit in consultation with Inspector Joe Garvey, Emergency Services Unit. Reviewed by Superintendent Brian Ash, Emergency & Investigative Services and recommended by Brett Flynn, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.