



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 26, 2019**

**Niagara Regional Police Service  
Community Room 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 8:33 am.

**ROLL CALL**

PSB MEMBERS: Mr. K. Gansel, Chair  
Mr. B. Steele, Vice Chair  
Mr. H. D'Angela  
Mr. D. Eke  
Mr. B. Gale  
Mr. K. Gibson

Ms. D. Reid, Executive Director

NRPS MEMBERS: A/Chief of Police B. Flynn  
A/Deputy Chief R. Frayne, Support Services  
A/Deputy Chief C. White, Operational Support  
Ms. W. Shreve, General Counsel  
Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency & Investigative Services  
A/Superintendent P. McCauley, Operational Support  
A/Superintendent J. McCaffery, District Operations  
A/Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services  
Mr. Akram Askoul, Director of Technology Services  
Ms. L. DiDonato-DeChellis, Director of Business Services  
Inspector D. Masotti, Executive Officer to Chief of Police  
D/Sergeant N. Dave, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief Support Services  
D/Sergeant S. Magistrale, Executive Officer to Deputy Chief Operational Support  
Ms. S. Sabourin, Media Relations Specialist  
Mr. P. Divers, Corporate Analyst

OTHERS: Mr. M. Doyle, Chair/President, Fundraising Committee, Kristen French  
Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KFCACN)  
Ms. J. Handy, Executive Director, KFCACN  
Mr. R. McGuire, Citizen  
Mr. F. Parkhouse, KFCACN Representative

**DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

## MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 158. Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, July 25, 2019.

Moved by: D. Eke  
Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, July 25, 2019 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

### 159. Minutes of the Public Finance Committee Meeting held September 12, 2019.

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That the Minutes of the Public Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday, September 12, 2019 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

## REPORTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

*(Chair Gansel reminded everyone in attendance that the Police Services Board meeting is being live streamed and the video recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board's You Tube channel.)*

**Tribute to Indigenous Lands** – Chair Gansel began the meeting by acknowledging that the land on which this meeting is regularly held is the traditional territory of the First Nations peoples. In particular he recognized and thanked the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples for their stewardship of these lands over the millennia. A special thank you was also extended to all of the First Nations peoples in Canada for their ongoing and important roles in caretaking of the lands beneath our feet, wherever we travel on Turtle Island.

**Ontario Police College - March Past & Review Ceremony** - On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Chair Gansel joined Chief MacCulloch and many other senior police personnel from across Ontario at the Ontario Police College for the March Past & Review Ceremony to recognize those officers who graduated from the OPC Basic Constable Training program. A total of 446 new police recruits participated in the March Past, four (4) of which now serve for the Niagara Regional Police Service after being officially sworn in as members of this Service during the Swearing-In Ceremony held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, which included one (1) new recruit member to the Niagara Parks Police Service. Chair Gansel and Member Eke attended the Recruit Swearing-In Ceremony where they had the opportunity to meet the new officers and their families.

**Canadian Association of Police Governance – Annual Conference** - The Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) hosted its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference from August 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> in Calgary, Alberta. The conference theme was entitled "Community Safety, Community Service and Community Strength" and it drew hundreds of participants from across Canada allowing unique opportunities to network, learn, and discuss various aspects of public safety and police governance. Chair Gansel, and Members Eke, Gale and Gibson and Ms. Reid attended the conference.

**Canadian Association of Police Governance – Webinar Session** - On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Chair Gansel and Members Gale and McKendrick and the Board's Executive Director participated in the CAPG Webinar entitled, "Media Training for Board Members – Managing the next Crisis". The webinars are offered on a monthly basis as an educational resource to keep boards and police executives apprised of issues currently impacting the policing community.

**OAPSB/OACP Zone 4 Meeting** - The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Zone 4 Quarterly Meeting took place on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was held at Legends on the Niagara Golf Course in Niagara Falls and it was hosted by the Niagara Parks Police Service. Chair Gansel, Vice Chair Steele and Members D'Angela, Eke, Gale, and Ms. Reid attended the meeting.

**Cops For Cancer – Fundraising Initiatives** - The Niagara Regional Police Services hosts several events throughout the year in support of the Cops for Cancer program aimed at raising proceeds for the Canadian Cancer Society including their pediatric cancer research and care programs. Chair Gansel and Vice-Chair Steele attended one of those events on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Service's Cops for Cancer Fundraising Dinner and Elimination Draw at the Croatian Hall in Welland.

Also, as many are aware, from September 16<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>, several members of the NRPS participated in the Cops for Cancer Tour de Golden Horseshoe, involving a 5-day, 500 kilometre bicycle journey that took place across the Niagara Region and into Hamilton and Halton, and included members of the OPP, RCMP, Halton Police Service and the Niagara Regional Police Service. The Tour included official opening and closing Ceremonies, which Chair Gansel attended on behalf of the Board.

**NRPS In-House United Way BBQ** - Members D'Angela and Eke joined police and Board staff on September 19<sup>th</sup> at their in-house Kick-off BBQ in support of the NRPS 2019 United Way campaign. The event took place at Police Headquarters and together members raised over \$500 to kick start the donation contribution campaign to the United Way. The Board and the Service have been long-time supporters to a variety of charitable organizations and annual donations are made throughout each year to further support fundraising initiatives involving police.

**National Police Memorial** - On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Chair Gansel will be joining the Niagara Regional Police Service to attend the 2019 National Police Memorial Service on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. This Memorial Service honours Canada's fallen comrades, and ensures that the magnitude of their sacrifice will never be forgotten. The focus of the Memorial is on the unsung heroes and the surviving families of those brave men and women who died in the line of duty.

**Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara** - On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chair Gansel will be joining members of the Service at the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotlight Gala at the Americana Resort in Niagara Falls. The Gala will commemorate the ongoing work that is being done throughout our local communities to help our children and youth who have either witnessed or been victims of physical or sexual abuse or that have been subjected to acts of internet luring.

**OAPSB 2019 Labour Seminar** - The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards will host its annual Labour Seminar from October 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> at the Four Points Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel. The annual labour seminar is designed to provide various representatives of the policing community with an opportunity to participate in panel discussions on coordinated collective bargaining and other current labour issues. Chair Gansel, Vice Chair Steele and Members D'Angela, Eke, Gibson and McKendrick and the Board's Executive Director will be attending the seminar on behalf of the Board.

**Joint Region & Police Facilities Steering Committee** - In his role as Chair of the Board's Accommodation and Steering Committee, Chair Gansel regularly attends the Joint Region and Police Facilities Steering Committee meetings. Since the last Board meeting held in July, the site for 1 District in St. Catharines has advanced significantly and a lot of progress has been made. Some of the main work that has been done has been focused on the structural steel preparation, foundation footers and completion of the walls and the elevator. Building slabs are stoned and ready for installation of under floor services and the site has an additional level of gravel for the base. The next meeting of the Joint Region and Police Facilities Steering Committee is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> and Chair Gansel will be attending that meeting and providing a further update at the October 24<sup>th</sup>, Board meeting.

## UPCOMING PSB MEETINGS

- **Next PSB Committee Meeting** – A Special Public Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am in the Community Room at Police Headquarters. At this meeting, the Service will present its 2020 draft operating budget to the Board.
- **Next Board Meeting** – The next Board meeting is Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am and will be held at the Town of Pelham in their Council Chambers.

The NRPS will open the meeting with a public presentation and provide information about local community safety issues. Members of the community are encouraged to attend and engage with both Board members and Police Service staff. Further details will be made available closer to the meeting date.

Three years ago, the Board decided to promote awareness of the role of the Board and to stay in touch with community concerns over policing issues by holding its first off-site meeting in Port Colborne. Building on the success of that meeting, the Board wanted to continue to be proactive in engaging, educating and hearing from the public and hold at least two 'off-site' meetings each year.

In 2017, the Board met at the Town of West Lincoln and the City of Welland. In 2018, the Board met at the Town of Fort Erie and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and in May of this year the Board met in the Township of Wainfleet and October's meeting in Pelham will conclude the 2019 offsite meeting schedule.

These offsite meetings were set in collaboration with the Mayors of each local municipality, in recognition of the added value to hold Police Board meetings at their Council Chambers so their citizens can participate or enquire into anything police related. By holding meetings at locations other than Police Headquarters, it makes Board members more accessible and connected to different communities in our Region.

## REPORTS FROM THE A/CHIEF OF POLICE

**Niagara Regional Police Service Recruits Graduate** – Further to Chair Gansel's comments on this event, A/Chief Flynn advised that of note in this graduation ceremony, NRP Recruit Constable Justin Blanchfield rose to a level of distinction at the OPC and was named the Parade Commander for the March Past. A/Chief Flynn also extended proud congratulations to recruit Constables Justin Blanchfield, Ryan DeGiuli, Jesse Esau, Kayla McLaren, and NPP Constable Mitchell Henry in their achievements to date wishing each a long and successful career within policing.

**Cops for Cancer Tour de Golden Horseshoe** – The Niagara Regional Police Service is a proud leader in this initiative. Participants visited 23 schools, engaging with the community, throughout this event. This year's event raised over \$150,000 dollars and it is expected that this count will go up. A/Chief Flynn recognized and offered thanks to all the participants, supporters, and sponsors of this initiative for their contributions to this noble endeavour.

## SIU Case Closures:

- **Incident of July 21, 2018** – Uniform officers from 1 District responded to a disturbance in the parking lot of an apartment building on Glendale Avenue in St Catharines. Information received by officers upon arrival was that a domestic situation had occurred between a female, her boyfriend and ex-boyfriend. It was determined that the ex-boyfriend, who had fled the scene, was arrested for Domestic Assault and Breach of a Recognizance. Officers established a perimeter and utilized a K9 unit which commenced a search. The suspect was located in a back yard, jumped a fence, and fled into a field ignoring police commands to stop. The suspect was pursued by the K9 handler, police dog, and an escort officer. An interaction subsequently occurred during the arrest of the suspect which resulted in the suspect receiving a facial injury from a dog bite. The suspect was transported by ambulance to the hospital where it was deemed that his injury was serious.

As a result, the SIU was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate. The SIU designated one subject officer and four witness officers. Later, on August 20, 2019, the NRPS received notification from SIU Interim Director Joseph Martino. In his closure letter he advised that the SIU has concluded their investigation and that there were no grounds for criminal charges against any officer. No concerns were expressed by the SIU Interim Director in his notification letter.

- **Incident of October 4, 2018** - A female caller contacted police to report her 19 year old son had left their residence threatening suicide. There was also indication that the son was enroute to the Burgoyne Bridge. Service members in 1 District immediately responded to the Burgoyne Bridge. An NRP Constable located the male on the bridge. The officer briefly interacted with the male however was unsuccessful in preventing the male from harming himself as the male turned from the officer and jumped over the bridge guardrail falling onto the northbound lanes of Highway 406 below.

Emergency Services attended to the male however he was pronounced deceased at the scene. As a result of the brief interaction between the officer and the male, and the male subsequently falling to his death, the SIU was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate. The SIU designated one subject officer and four witness officers. Later, on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the NRPS received notification from SIU Interim Director Joseph Martino. In his closure letter he advised that the SIU has concluded their investigation and that there were no grounds for criminal charges against any officer. No concerns were expressed by the SIU Interim Director in his notification letter.

- **Incident of September 2, 2018** - Officers responded to a licenced establishment in Grimsby regarding a 55 year old male who had just left the premise operating a motor vehicle. There was indication that this male had been consuming alcoholic drinks prior to his departure and was likely impaired. Officers eventually located the male at his residence, where he was spoken with, and officers then left the residence as there were no grounds for arrest. Approximately two hours later, police received another call for service in where this same 55 year old male was calling the same licenced establishment harassing persons within.

As a result, an officer re-attended the male's residence to speak to him. The male subsequently exited the residence in an aggressive manner walking towards the officer with a baseball bat in hand. The officer as a result grounded the male and took him into custody. The male subsequently received medical attention and was diagnosed with a broken nose. The SIU was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate. The SIU designated one subject officer. Later, on September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Service received notification from SIU Interim Director Joseph Martino. In his closure letter he advised that the SIU has concluded their investigation and that there were no grounds for criminal charges against the officer. No concerns were expressed by the SIU Interim Director in his notification letter.

### **Operational Statistics:**

#### **For the period July 24 to September 24, 2019 and Comparable Previous Year-End Totals:**

##### *Homicides*

- *0 for this reporting period with a total of 5 for 2019.*

##### *Attempt Murder*

- *1 for this reporting period with a total of 1 for 2019.*

**Niagara-on-the-Lake Homicide – Incident of August 10, 2019** – Uniform officers from 2 District responded to a long term care facility located on Wellington Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding a female who had sustained serious injury. When officers arrived it was discovered that on the previous evening of August 9<sup>th</sup> at approximately 7:45 pm, a 73 year old male resident pushed a 94 year old female resident causing her to fall. This fall occurred within the long term care facility. The female sustained life threatening injuries and was transported to the Greater Niagara General Hospital by ambulance.

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the female succumbed to her injuries in hospital. An investigation into all the circumstances in this matter, including the fact that the 73 year old male was identified as having serious cognitive issues, and in consultation with the Crown Attorney's office, it has been determined that charges will not be laid.

**Fort Erie Attempt Homicide – Incident of September 20, 2019** – Officers from 5 District responded to a call for assistance at the Niagara River near Jarvis Street and Niagara Boulevard in Fort Erie. Information received was that three persons were in the water in need of assistance. The three persons were described as an adult male, adult female and young child. When officers arrived it was determined that a 28 year old male was carrying his five-year old child and ran into the Niagara River in an apparent attempt to end the child's life. The mother of the child within a minute also entered the water to rescue her child. A nearby resident hearing the commotion rescued the mother and child from the water. The mother and child were both transported to hospital where it was determined that the child is expected to recover, however the mother did pass away in hospital the following day. The deceased body of the 28 year old male was also recovered from the Niagara River near the scene of the incident on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This investigation is continuing and the citizen who pulled the mother and child from the water will be recognized for his actions.

*Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC's)*

- *There were 7 fatal motor vehicle collisions during this reporting period.*

For the Board's awareness, A/Chief Flynn advised that four of the 12 fatalities the Service has attended this year are believed to have been caused by a medical condition occurring just prior to the accident. With that being said, seven months into this calendar year, the result of the Service's attendance at Ministry of Transportation reportable collisions is eight, with a running five-year average of just over 15.

*Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collisions*

- *There was one life threatening vehicle motor collision during this reporting period.*

**Fatal MVC - Incident of July 3, 2019** - Police responded to a collision in where a motor vehicle struck a tree in the front yard of a residence located on Portage Road in the City of Niagara Falls. Investigation revealed that the motor vehicle was being operated by a lone occupant, a 55 year old male, southbound on Portage Road. The vehicle veered to its left crossing the northbound lane of Portage Road and then onto the front lawn of a residence located on the eastside of the roadway. The vehicle then struck a large tree on this property. It was ultimately determined that the driver suffered a fatal medical event while driving which caused the vehicle to veer off the roadway and strike a tree.

**Fatal MCV - Incident of July 5, 2019** - Police responded to the area of Albert and Lake Street in the City of St. Catharines regarding a motor vehicle collision in where one person was vital signs absent. Investigation revealed that a 55 year old male and lone occupant of a Hyundai Santa Fe was operating his vehicle eastbound on Albert Street approaching Lake Street. His vehicle subsequently veered to its left striking an unoccupied motor vehicle parked on the north side of Albert Street causing the Hyundai to come to a stop. The male driver was consequently transported to the NHS – St Catharines site and then to an out of region hospital where he was pronounced deceased. It was ultimately determined that the deceased male suffered a fatal medical episode while driving which caused his vehicle to strike the parked vehicle.

**Fatal MVC - Incident of July 5, 2019** - Police responded to Discovery Park located at 360 Niagara Street in the City of St. Catharines for a tractor that had struck a tree within the park in which the driver was vital signs absent. Investigation revealed a 74 year old male, an employee for the City of St Catharines, was operating a tractor and engaged in lawn cutting within the park. The male suffered a fatal medical episode while operating the tractor which caused the tractor to roll into a tree coming to a stop. The male was subsequently found vital signs absent by citizens in the area. The male was pronounced deceased on scene.

**Fatal MVC - Incident of July 9, 2019** - Police responded to Thorold Townline Road in the City of Thorold for the reports of a serious two motor vehicle collision. Upon arrival it was determined that a dump truck had been travelling northbound on Townline Road north of Beaverdams Road. Also at this time a Honda CRV motor vehicle was travelling southbound on Townline Road. For unknown reason, the Honda CRV veered to its left into the northbound lane striking the dump truck head on. The lone 63 year old female occupant of the Honda CRV was pronounced deceased on scene. The lone male occupant of the dump truck was not injured. Cause of the accident is attributed to the deceased female suffering an undiagnosed medical event or driver error.

**Fatal MVC - Incident of July 20, 2019** - Police responded to Netherby Road and South Brookfield Road in the City of Niagara Falls regarding a motor vehicle collision involving a motorcycle. An investigation determined that a Honda motorcycle was being operated by a 51 year old male eastbound on Netherby Road east of McKenney Road. There was not a passenger on the motorcycle. For unknown reason the motorcycle drifted to its right subsequently striking a guardrail on the south side of Netherby Road. This caused the male to be thrown from the motorcycle. The male was pronounced deceased on scene. Cause of the accident is attributed to the deceased male suffering an undiagnosed medical event prior to the accident or driver error.

**Fatal MVC - Incident of August 16, 2019** - A single male operator of a motorcycle was involved in a collision with another motor vehicle in the intersection of Woodlawn Road and River Road in the City of Welland. The operator of the motorcycle as a result received fatal injuries. Circumstances in this incident resulted in SIU notification who ultimately invoked their mandate. A/Deputy Chief Flynn advised that further details pertaining to this matter will be provided to the Board in closed session.

**Fatal MVC - Incident of August 17, 2019** - Police responded to Concession Road 7 near Line 6 Road in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding an accident in where a vehicle fled the scene. A female pedestrian was located on the roadway with serious injuries. An investigation determined that a 33 year old female migrant worker from Mexico was walking south on Concession Road 7. Also at this time, a Dodge pickup truck was travelling southbound on Concession Road 7 when it struck the pedestrian. The Dodge pickup truck made no attempt to stop and fled the scene. The pedestrian was transported by ambulance to the Greater Niagara General Hospital and then to an out of region of hospital. Later, on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the pedestrian died from her injuries. On August 21<sup>st</sup>, a 21 year old male suspect was identified as the driver of the Dodge pickup truck and arrested that same day for the offences of Failing to Remain at the Scene of an Accident and Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle Causing Death.

**Life Threatening MVC - Incident of August 18, 2019** - Police responded to Mississauga Street near William Street in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding a motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian. An investigation determined that a Chevrolet Impala was being driven northbound on Mississauga Street when a 76 year old male pedestrian stepped out in front of the Impala resulting in the pedestrian being struck by the motor vehicle. The male received injuries that were initially thought to be life threatening. He was subsequently transported by air ambulance to an out of region hospital. Once at the hospital it was determined that the male's injuries were not as severe as initially thought and the male has since recovered. The cause of the accident was attributed to pedestrian error.

**Enforcement Initiatives:**

**Niagara Falls Bike Thefts** - With warmer summertime temperatures, the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) reminded cyclists to "Lock it or Lose it" when it comes to bicycles in the Niagara Region. During summer months, the numbers of reported stolen bikes typically rise. Stolen bicycles range from low to high end models and are easy targets for thieves who are able to remove them quickly from exterior car bike racks with the use of bolt cutters. The Niagara Falls Street Crime Unit dedicated resources to patrolling known locations of bike thefts in an effort to take a proactive approach to this issue. As a result, approximately 20 stolen bicycles (both mountain and high-end road bicycles) have been recovered that have remained unclaimed. Residents were asked to contact Constable Craig Zsoldos to inquire about recovered bicycles. Through the course of the investigation, 19 persons have been arrested and charged. The NRPS is strongly encouraging the public to report all incidents of bike thefts and suspicious activity to Police or CrimeStoppers.

**Impaired Driver Found with Large Quantity of Suspected Fentanyl** - On July 29, 2019, with the assistance of concerned citizens, police attended a rear parking lot in the area of 51 East Main Street in the City of Welland to check on the condition of a male. The male was apparently unconscious sitting in the driver seat of a running motor vehicle. Investigation led to the 34 year old Welland man being arrested and charged for Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle by Drugs, Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking and Possession of Proceeds of Crime. An estimated \$5,600 in suspected Fentanyl was located in the vehicle and approximately \$750 in currency was also seized.

**Rash of Commercial Break and Enters Solved** - Since June 19, 2019, Niagara Region has had numerous commercial break and enters where suspects were targeting cash drawers, cigarettes, lottery tickets and vaping products in the premises. In a joint effort, Street Crime Units in Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines worked with members of the Special Investigations Unit to investigate. Later, on July 29<sup>th</sup>, search warrants were executed and police seized stolen items along with other evidence. Three people were arrested in relation to these break and enters and two males from Welland, aged 41 and 19 along with a 28 year old St. Catharines male are also facing various charges for over 20 commercial break and enter incidents.

**Investigation Quashes Drug Trafficking Network** - Several residents of the Niagara Region, Sudbury and Ottawa face numerous charges following a multi-jurisdictional investigation into a drug trafficking network involving members and associates of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs). Project SKYLARK began as a high-level investigation targeting members of the Hells Angels Nomads, the Red Devils, and the Hooligans and their association to a drug trafficking network. Members from these Ontario Motorcycle Gangs have facilitated the trafficking of cocaine, methamphetamine and fentanyl throughout the Niagara Region, Sudbury and Ottawa areas.

During the course of the investigation, the investigative team combined to seize 12.5 kilograms of cocaine, 12.2 kilograms of cannabis, 640 grams of shatter, 1,400 packages of cannabis edibles, fentanyl patches, 2000 methamphetamine tablets, as well as Hells Angels and Red Devils motorcycle patches. Project SKYLARK investigators seized 11 firearms and 700 rounds of ammunition, \$75,000 in Canadian currency, \$30,000 in jewelry, multiple vehicles including three motorcycles and one residence. Fifteen people have been charged with 195 offences, including charges related to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), the Criminal Code of Canada and the Cannabis Act. Investigators are thankful to the public for their assistance in this matter.

The Board questioned if there is any statistical information that would support the appropriate court sentencing and classification of charges that are being applied for matters involving the distribution of fentanyl. A/Chief Flynn advised that the Service will review its findings for statistical information relating to trafficking opioids and the subsequent charges being laid and forward the information to the Board when available.

**Two Injured in Niagara Falls Sundowner Shooting** - On August 2, 2019, at approximately 1:52 am officers were called to the Sundowner adult entertainment bar on Lundy's Lane in the City of Niagara Falls for a report of a shooting. Uniform officers from the 2 District Niagara Falls Office of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) along with Paramedics from Niagara EMS responded for a report of multiple shots being fired in the parking lot of the Sundowner. The early part of the investigation determined that a motorcycle entered the parking lot and the lone driver fired multiple shots from a firearm. Following the shooting the suspect fled the scene at a high rate of speed. Officers located two males suffering from gunshot wounds. The males were treated on scene and transported to out of region hospitals for further care. Both victims were in serious condition at the time of their transport. Detectives are reviewing video and speaking to witnesses. The investigation has led detectives to believe that this was a targeted incident.

**Arrests Made in Thefts from Cemetery** - On August 2, 2019, members of Niagara Regional Police Service began investigating reported thefts from a local cemetery. As the investigation unfolded it became apparent that items from 289 grave sites were stolen over several days. The loss incurred by the thefts affected not only the business, but the families of the respective grave sites as well.



Uniform officers and detectives from 3 District were aided in this investigation by community business partners. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, the investigation culminated with four arrests and the recovery of much of the stolen property. Some property had been damaged beyond repair.

**Niagara Falls Shooting Suspect Arrested** - On August 2, 2019, officers were called to an address on Willoughby Drive in the City of Niagara Falls in response to a shooting. Officers from 2 District, along with Detectives from the 2 District Criminal Investigation Branch attended the scene. As a result of the investigation, a male suspect was identified. A subsequent investigation led to the arrest of the male on August 10<sup>th</sup> with the assistance of the Emergency Task Unit. No one was injured as a result of this incident. This incident is believed to be an isolated matter.

**St. Catharines Officer Removes Occupant from Smoke-Filled Residence** - On August 16, 2019, Sergeant Mike Langlais was on general patrol in central St. Catharines when he noticed a large amount of smoke coming from a residence. Sergeant Langlais approached the residence and attempted to awaken the occupants without success. He then managed to gain access to the residence on his own and once inside he encountered thick smoke while proceeding through the residence attempting to locate any occupants. He eventually located the lone occupant of the residence. Sergeant Langlais was able to safely escort the occupant out of the residence prior to the arrival of the Fire Department. The cause of the fire was not suspicious in nature and damage to the residence was minimal.

**Traffic Enforcement Results in 37 Charges** - On August 22, 2019, police attended the area of Effingham Street and Pelham Road in the City of St Catharines in response to public complaints of speeding and aggressive driving. During a two hour period 37 tickets were issued. One vehicle had its plates removed and was towed. Another vehicle was stopped after driving 104 km/h in a 50 km/h zone. Two drivers had no license and several were speeding over 40 km/h over the limit.

**Suspect in Custody following Niagara Falls Incident** - On August 22, 2019, uniform officers were called to the area of Drummond and Dunn Street in the City of Niagara Falls over the reports of a vehicle driving erratically. An officer was able to initiate a traffic stop, but was then subsequently dragged a short distance following an interaction. One shot was fired towards the vehicle by the involved officer. No injuries were sustained. The suspect fled in the vehicle and the officer was taken to hospital where he was treated for minor injuries and released. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, a male suspect was arrested and charged with various offences.

**Investigation Leads to Three Arrests** - Throughout the summer months of 2019, the 1 District Street Crime Unit began investigating the sale of fentanyl and cocaine. On the morning of August 29<sup>th</sup>, the St. Catharines Street Crime Unit, with the assistance of the Special Investigations Unit, 3 District Street Crime Unit, Emergency Task Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit and uniform officers along with the Toronto Police Service Tactical Unit executed search warrants at two residences in the City of Thorold and one residence in the City of Toronto. Execution of the search warrants yielded approximately 1158 grams of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$100,000, one long gun, one hand gun, and a large quantity of Canadian currency estimated at \$105,000. Two males from Thorold as well as a female from Toronto are all facing numerous charges.

**2019 Back to School – Traffic Safety and Awareness Day** - On September 3, 2019, the Niagara Regional Police Service conducted its 19<sup>th</sup> annual back to school traffic safety and awareness day. Once again, officers attended dozens of school zones in Niagara, with the primary focus on crossing guard and student safety. Officers mostly looked for offending drivers who were speeding, driving while distracted, not wearing their seatbelts, who disobeyed a crossing guard and who failed to stop for a school bus.

Each year, senior officers and those who work in specialty units who are not regularly assigned to uniform patrol duties, put on their uniforms and head out to the local schools to take part in this traffic safety and awareness day. In addition to the general uniform patrol, another 57 officers took part in the initiative this year. The officers that participated in this project advised that most of the motorists were driving appropriately in and around the school zones; however there were still several tickets and warnings that were issued. In total, 73 tickets were issued and 89 warnings were given out.

Of the tickets issued, 45 were for speeding, two were for distracted driving, two for not wearing a seatbelt and 24 for other various Provincial offences.

New to the Niagara Region this year are two Community Safety Zones. The first is located at St. David's Public School located on York Road in St. David's, and the second at Twenty Valley Public School located on Victoria Avenue in Vineland. Officers were present at both of these schools handing out information cards explaining the details about these Community Safety Zones. Police continued to attend these locations during school hours over the next few weeks to inform the public about these new changes. Any driver that is stopped and charged with an offence within these designated areas will be faced with increased fines. If speeding is the offence, then the fine will double. Also beginning this year's first day of school, the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) will now have school buses that will be equipped with video cameras for both the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board. For the first few weeks of the school year, 10 buses will be equipped with video cameras that will provide video evidence to the Niagara Regional Police to support a complaint that is filed from a bus driver. The driver or the registered owner of the vehicle could be issued a ticket if the driver disobeys a stopped school bus with red overhead flashing lights activated. By the end of November, NSTS hopes to have 100 buses outfitted with these video cameras.

The Board suggested that the Service prepare a report detailing the pilot project to the school buses with video cameras and that the information include details regarding expansion of the project to include over 100 school buses, any additional resources that may be required, the NRPS and Court role in the ticketing process and any concerns that the Service may have with the project. A/Chief Flynn advised that on a go forward basis, the Traffic Management Enforcement and Road Safety Plan annual reports will include the details of this specific program in accordance to the reporting requirements to address the Service's traffic related initiatives.

**Male Arrested in Connection to Theft from Cathedral** - In September of 2019, the Niagara Regional Police Service began investigating multiple theft and mischief incidents that have taken place at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, located at 3 Lyman Street in the City of St. Catharines. One particular item stolen was a large bronze and copper lamppost. Further investigation led to the recovery of this item on September 20<sup>th</sup> along with the subsequent arrest of a 60 year old St. Catharines male.

**Incident at Niagara College – Niagara on the Lake Campus** – On September 22, 2019, uniform officers from 2 District responded to Niagara College at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Glendale Campus for a gun related call. Officers attended the campus residence in the area of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road. The investigation revealed that a man who is a student, however resides off campus, had attended the campus residence. There was an altercation with some students who reside on campus, at which time the man is alleged to have pointed a handgun. The suspect subsequently fled the scene in a car prior to police arrival.

The investigation led detectives to an address in the area of Cleveland Street and Richmond Street in the City of Thorold. Officers located the suspect vehicle, and out of an abundance of caution, our Crisis Negotiators and Emergency Task Unit were called in. The Thorold residence was contained by officers at which time some nearby homes were evacuated and other residents were sheltered in place. After nearly six hours from the commencement of the incident, the suspect surrendered peacefully to police after speaking with our Crisis Negotiators. The suspect was taken into custody and charged accordingly.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **160. Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara (KRCACN)**

The Board considered a presentation from Janet Handy, Executive Director, Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara and Mark Doyle, Chair/President, Fundraising Committee, Retired NRPS Former Deputy Chief of Police Frank Parkhouse, who were in attendance to discuss the KFCACN's operations and to address its future direction.

Ms. Handy addressed the importance of funding support from the Niagara Regional Police Service and Family and Child Services, which accounts for 30 percent of their operating budget, and of the additional sponsorships from other community partners and the countless fund raising initiatives undertaken by program volunteers especially given that the program does not receive any core government funding assistance. In closing and for the safety of our youth, Ms. Handy stressed the importance of being vigilant in reporting any child victim crimes.

Moved by: H. D'Angela  
Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the presentation be received.**

**Carried.**

**161. Motorcycle Ride for Dad – Plaque Presentation**

The Board considered a presentation from NRPS Staff Sergeant Mike Webb and Sergeant Matt King who were in attendance to present a commemorative plaque in recognition of the valuable contributions of the Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service to support prostate cancer research and to raise public awareness of the disease as part of the annual Niagara Motorcycle Ride for Dad event. Sergeant King spoke briefly to the achievements that are being realized in the fight against prostate cancer and subsequent treatment options that are being made possible by the fundraising efforts of the Motorcycle Ride for Dad which raised over \$75,000 in 2019 and an overall total of \$225,000 since the program's inception in 2010.

Moved by: D. Eke  
Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the presentation be received.**

**Carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**162. Ministry of the Solicitor General – Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act**

The Board considered correspondence dated August 15, 2019 from the Honourable Minister Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, providing a response to the Board's letter dated July 11, 2019 requesting the Ministry develop provincial standards or regulations with respect to police response times to emergency calls for service.

**163. Quarterly Report – Special Fund Administration – April 1 to June 30, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated August 20, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 376-2018.

**164. Quarterly Report – Administration of the Public Complaints System – April 1 to June 30, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated September 13, 2019 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 301-2010.

**165. Annual Report - Violence and Harassment Prevention in the Workplace - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated August 15, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 362-2016.

**166. Annual Report – Occupational Health and Safety – January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated August 15, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 330-2012.

**167. Annual Report - Youth Crime – January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated August 27, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 236-2000.

Chair Gansel referenced the statics reflected in the report, specifically the reduction in youth charges from to 686 in 2011 to 311 in 2018, which supports a 50% percent reduction that is being attributed to work being done by the Service's School Resource Officers who are having a positive influence on students. Chair Gansel praised the efforts of these officers and requested that A/Chief Flynn extend the School Recourse Officers compliments on a job well done.

**168. Annual Report – Marine Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated September 5, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 227-2000.

In regard to the statistical and operational comparisons for Community Public Safety Events as reflected in the report, the Board questioned the reasoning for the decline in the number of events involving the Niagara Regional Police Service which support a decline for NRPS participation at 12 events in 2018 being down from 20 in the two prior years. Superintendent Ash advised that the decline may be due the Service's opportunities throughout the past couple years to make presentations and join groups such as the Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue Unit (POCOMAR) and the Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit (GAMRU). Events such as this may provide opportunity for the Service's participation that does not necessarily need to be repeated on a yearly basis. He advised that the issue may not necessarily be resource related and that he will confirm if the Service missed any opportunities due to a lack of resources.

**169. Annual Report – Secure Holsters - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated September 12, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 269-2005.

**170. Annual Report – Safe Storage of Police Service Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated September 12, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 258-2003.

**171. Annual Report – Equipment – Body Armour - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated September 11, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 311-2011.

**172. Annual Report – Bail and Violent Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated September 3, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 215-2000.

**173. Annual Report – Community Patrol - January 1 to December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated September 18, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 193-2000.

The Board supported that it may prove advantageous for police involvement in round table discussions with all municipal Mayors to address community concerns from a socio-economic perspective and to consider the development of a unified Region-wide strategy to deal with homelessness, addictions, poverty and the various issues that are plaguing the streets of Niagara communities. It was determined appropriate that the Region should be the lead agency of any round table discussions given that police are a small component of the resources that would be involved in the development of any given strategy to address these issues. This is also in keeping with the Region's responsibility to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan as mandated by the Ministry.

The Board directed that its Regional Councillor representatives address the matter at the Regional level to ensure the Region takes the lead on future discussions with local Mayors and that the Board and the Service be active participants at all appropriated discussion meetings. For the Board's interest, A/Chief Flynn advised that during October the Service will host the initial meeting for the development of the CSWB Plan, which will includes representation from all required community stakeholders.

- 174. Annual Report – Problem Oriented Policing - January 1 to December 31, 2018 –**  
Service report dated September 8, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 191-2000.

- 175. Annual Report – Traffic Management Enforcement and Road Safety - January 1 to December 31, 2018**  
The Board considered Service report dated September 5, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 292-2009.

- 176. Annual Report – Criminal Investigation Management - January 1 to December 31, 2018**  
The Board considered Service report dated September 19, 2019, submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 198-2000.

Moved by: D. Eke  
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That the information be received.**

**Carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 177. Police Services Board - 2020 Proposed Meeting Schedule**  
The Board considered a memorandum dated September 13, 2019 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing the proposed meeting schedule for the year 2020.

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That the Board approve the Schedule of Regular Meetings for the Niagara Police Services Board and Committee meetings for the year 2020 as presented.**

**Carried.**

- 178. Trivia Night Fundraising Initiative - Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary**  
The Board considered Service report dated August 9, 2019 requesting the Board approve the Trivia Night fundraising initiative for the Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary, in accordance with Board By-law 328-2012, as outlined in the report.

Moved by: B. Gale  
Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the Board approve the Trivia Night fundraising initiative for the Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary.**

**Carried.**

**179. Special Fund Request – National Peace Officers Memorial Run to Remember**

The Board considered Service report dated September 9, 2019 requesting the Board consider a donation to assist Service members who will be incurring expenses while participating in the 2019 National Peace Officers Memorial Run to Remember from Queens Park, Toronto, to Parliament Hill, Ottawa. (*Previous Board donations are as follow: 2014-2015 - \$500; 2016 and 2018 - \$1,000*).

Moved by: D. Eke  
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That the Board authorize a donation from the Special Fund in the amount of \$1,500.00 to assist with the monetary expenses incurred by members of the Niagara Regional Police Service participating in the 2019 National Peace Officers Memorial Run to Remember.**

**Carried.**

**180. Special Fund Request – Crime Stoppers Golf Tournament**

The Board considered Service report dated September 14, 2019 requesting the Board considered a donation to Crime Stoppers of Niagara to help offset expenses incurred to host their annual golf tournament, which is being held to raise funds for promotional efforts of the Crime Stoppers program. (*This is a first time funding request for this event.*)

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the Board authorize a donation from the Special Fund in the amount of \$400.00 to Crime Stoppers of Niagara to assist with hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament.**

**Carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NRPS Mobile Command Post – Verbal Report**

The Board considered a verbal report from Member Gale who spoke to the Board motion of September 12, 2019 being that subject to approval by Regional Council of the consolidated Capital Budget, the Board approve the Capital Project for the Command Post including Specialized Equipment in the amount \$450,000. Member Gale indicated that he received several inquiries from members of the public supporting that the Service consider alternate funding opportunities for police capital purchases, such as the Mobile Command Post, to include corporate donations, sponsorships, advertisement incentives, etc.

After a general discussion, the Chief of Police was directed to review this matter and report back with recommendations on public donations, sponsorships or private sector funding opportunities for police capital purchases in keeping with the mandate of the *Police Services Act*, Board/Service policy and any other applicable legislative guidelines. The Board directed that a comprehensive report be prepared for further discussion at the Finance Committee meeting to be held on November 14, 2019.

**IN CAMERA REPORTS**

(FOR PUBLIC RELEASE FROM THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 IN-CAMERA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING)

**C.1 Police Services Board – Draft Operating Budget for 2020** – Report dated September 9, 2019 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, providing the Board with a draft budget for review and final determination to allow it to be incorporated into the police service. The following motion was passed:

*"That the Board approve the draft 2020 budget for the operation of the Police Services Board;  
And further, that the Board approve in principle a transfer of any remaining funds from the 2019 approved budgeted funds to the PSB Contingency Reserve Fund;  
And further, that the report be amended for public disclosure and reported back on the Public Agenda."*

Moved by: K. Gibson  
Seconded by: H. D'Angela

**That, in accordance with Board direction, the above noted amended report be received for information purposes.**

**Carried.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth A.W. Gansel, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director