



## REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

### PUBLIC MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

VIA TELECONFERENCE

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#### CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 8:32 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. T. McKendrick

Ms. D. Reid, Executive Director  
Ms. D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant

##### NRPS MEMBERS:

Chief of Police B. MacCulloch  
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Support  
Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services  
Ms. W. Shreve, General Counsel  
Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency & Investigative Services  
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services  
Superintendent C. White, District Operations  
Mr. A. Askoul, Director of Information and Technology  
Ms. L. DiDonato-DeChellis, Director of Business Services  
Mr. G. Holden, Records Manager

#### DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

#### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

##### 37. Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2020.

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

That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

**38. Minutes of the Public Accommodations Steering Committee Meeting held Thursday, March 12, 2020.**

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

**That the Minutes of the Public Accommodations Steering Committee Meeting held Thursday, March 12, 2020 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

**REPORTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

Police Service Board Chair Ken Gansel welcomed all participants to the Teleconference Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board. He stated that the Board believes holding its monthly meeting this way and at this time, is the appropriate and responsible approach to the current circumstances as government, public authorities and members of the public, all work together to address the unique and difficult challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Gansel thanked everyone for joining the Board's first tele-meeting and recognized the Niagara Region residents, members of the media, and Niagara Regional Police staff who were listening online for their support and staying connected.

Chair Gansel said these are unprecedented times that we are living through and the daily updates from the Prime Minister and the Premier are stark reminders about our current reality. As the pandemic continues to evolve, he took the opportunity to thank Chief MacCulloch, his Executive Leadership Team, and the Uniform and Civilian Members of the Niagara Regional Police Service, who are working around the clock to keep Niagara's residents safe. These women and men are working under difficult circumstances, with rules and processes that are changing daily.

It is also critically important that the Board is able to continue with its governance and oversight work. While members can't meet in person as we normally do, these difficult times require us to think differently about how we will conduct our business. This Board is doing the best it can and is thankful to everyone that has worked to get the Board to this point. This is the first public tele-meeting and a lot of measures have been taken to ensure that this tele-meeting runs smoothly.

**Tribute to Indigenous Lands** – Although this meeting is taking place on the phone, the Board acknowledges the land on which the tele-meeting is held, is the traditional territory of First Nations peoples. In particular the Board recognizes and thanks the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, for their stewardship of these lands over the millennia as well as the First Nations peoples in Canada for their ongoing and important roles in caretaking of the lands beneath our feet, whenever we stand on Turtle Island.

**Nova Scotia Mass Shooting Incident** – Chair Gansel paused the meeting for a moment of silence to grieve with the people of Nova Scotia for the tragic events that happened last weekend. Honour was paid to RCMP Constable Heidi Stevenson, and all victims and the families of those who lost their lives so tragically through an act of senseless violence. Words cannot express the tremendous grief experienced by the entire nation. On behalf of the Board, he offered deepest sympathies to the victims, their families and friends.

**REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**Continuing COVID-19 Situation** – Chief MacCulloch spoke to the realization of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have been an unprecedented time for the Niagara Regional Police Service, citizens of the Niagara Region and across the globe. The NRPS is alive to the seemingly constant changes to the situation as it pertains to the Niagara Region and ultimately the impact on its members.

The Service continues to see the fluidity of the situation with evolving Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) Emergency Orders and recently an extension of all Emergency Orders until May 12, 2020 by Premier Doug Ford. This unfortunately will be our new "normal" for the time being.

The Service is focused on ensuring the health and safety of its members and is meeting regularly to ensure staff are prepared and the proper measures are in place for the continuous safety of our members. It is important to note that this is primarily a public health issue and the Service following the guidance of Public Health and medical professionals when making decisions that impact members and also ensuring the information that is shared is both reliable and accurate. Police staff are also working with various stakeholders of which include municipalities, the Region, and participation in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to help guide us through these evolving times. Included within this mutual cooperation framework, members of the Service have at times assisted municipal by-law officers in ensuring the compliance of Emergency Orders through education and in some cases through being present when necessary enforcement action has been taken for offences committed. Chief MacCulloch thanked all the municipalities, and in particular their enforcement personnel, in managing and dealing with the various evolving Emergency Orders and in responding to the various issues and concerns identified within their communities. This no doubt has increased their work load and their efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Fortunately the Service has an adequate supply of N95 masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and wipes. This supply and the supply chains will continually be monitored and assessed taking a proactive approach to ensure that proper amounts of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) are retained in stock for any potential future realities. Members of the Service while having been directed on the appropriate use of PPE when necessary have also been instructed in the responsible use of such equipment to ensure that the use of PPE is not exhausted at an unwarranted rate. Recently, the Province of Ontario has indicated the potential for the re-use of PPE in the event that police experience a shortage due to the protracted duration of the pandemic. Police staff are currently working through various procedures and processes to safely collect discarded PPE's, particularly masks. The Service has also taken steps to ensure the increased sanitization of our facilities, vehicles and equipment, which includes providing direction to its members and steps that should be taken to protect themselves from exposure during their tours of duty. The Service has also taken steps to address human resource considerations. This includes a redeployment strategy should the Service be impacted by sworn members becoming ill or required to stay home due to self-isolation or quarantine. This has meant the redeployment of officers from certain specialty units to work shifts concurrent with various front line personnel. This allows for quick redeployment if required.

As it pertains to absenteeism, on March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Service experienced a high point of 92 members, both sworn and civilian, absent from the workplace specifically related to COVID-19 concerns and 9.78% were front line uniformed members. This included members that were asymptomatic, symptomatic, and self-isolated due to contact with a suspected or confirmed positive COVID-19 individual. As of April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Service had a decrease in absenteeism with 34 members out of the workplace due to COVID-19 related reasons of which include six members awaiting COVID-19 testing or COVID-19 test results, four members being symptomatic, six members in self-isolation (asymptomatic), and currently 18 members out of the workplace due to being identified as high risk individuals, however; six of these members are working remotely from home. Of these numbers only five front line uniform members, being 1.5% of our total frontline uniform strength, are absent due to COVID-19 related issues. As of this date the NRPS has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 affecting any of its members.

The Service has also conducted a critical functions analysis determining which members are able to work from home when provided with the necessary technical equipment such as laptops. While these numbers could fluctuate currently 71 members of the Service, predominantly civilian, however some sworn staff as well are currently working from home. Another 115 members are currently involved in various shift rotations sometimes working from home and sometimes attending the workplace when required.

Also in response to the COVID-19 situation, the Service has enacted a Mobile Support Unit (MSU), which is able to respond to lower priority calls for service alleviating pressures on our front line officers. Where an officer would normally attend a location for a call for service, an officer is now able to take a report by phone when appropriate. This also minimizes unnecessary physical interaction between officers and members of the public when appropriate thus keeping with the spirit of physical distancing during these difficult times.

Initially, when the first EMCPA Emergency Orders were enacted on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Niagara Regional Police Service experienced a drop in volume of calls for service. Since then, the calls for service volume has steadily increased, however; currently we are still running below pre-pandemic levels at 93% calls for service volume. There has and continues to be COVID-19 related calls for service however there has been no significant deviation of calls for service in respect of geographical areas as it pertains to any vulnerable group or any serious breaches of the peace related to the pandemic.

As part of this process the Service has in place a Pandemic Business Continuity Plan which serves as a blue print for steps to be taken during events such as this. Part of the plan addresses the need for the Service to cancel time off which includes annual leave, float time, and statutory holiday entitlement to maintain front line operations. As of this date, the Service has been able to maintain adequate staffing levels and does not require the cancellation of scheduled time off. Should the cancellation of time off need to occur at a future date and for a protracted period of time, this would likely have a significant financial impact on the budget that would be unprecedented.

For situational awareness and to ensure that staff are privy to all timely relevant developments as it pertains to COVID-19 and any Emergency Orders enacted, Chief MacCulloch continues to communicate with all Service members regularly utilizing mass email messaging and through virtual Town Hall meetings, which allows members to ask questions through electronic means so he can address any concerns. In total 31 mass email messages have been sent and as members of the Board are well aware they are also forwarded to the Board's Executive Director who in turn forwards the messages to the Board so that members are aware of developments as it pertains to the NRPS operating in the era of COVID-19.

Chief MacCulloch spoke to the cooperation and concern on the part of the Niagara Regional Police Association and the Senior Officers' Association through these unprecedented times and noted that an NRPA representative sits on the Niagara Region Police Service Pandemic Business Continuity Committee for input on the various issues and Emergency Orders. Both Associations have shown flexibility in the application of the Collective Agreements which include staggered start times for tours of duty and the temporary cessation of required two person patrol vehicles in certain districts all in order to practice proper physical distancing. There is currently one exception to the cessation of two person patrol vehicles and this is when a recruit officer is assigned to a coach officer for training purposes. Regardless of any exceptions made to the Collective Agreements, the Service will continue to work within the boundaries of the Collective Agreements through these COVID-19 times and continue to work collaboratively with the Niagara Region Police Association and Senior Officers' Association.

Chief MacCulloch advised of an enquiry as it pertains to succession planning at the Command level of the Service in the event members of Command are unable to perform their duties as a result of the pandemic. Succession planning has always been an integral part of the Service's strategy long before COVID-19 was ever on the radar. The Service is well equipped for members to move into another role or step up in rank should the need arise. However staff remain alive to developments that may occur and continually assess options going forward. The Service has taken steps to conduct virtual meetings to maintain physical separation minimizing contact among Command staff. This is in addition to internal measures taken to ensure cleanliness and the regular disinfection of office space.

Chief MacCulloch assured the Board that the Service has taken many steps in response to the COVID-19 issue and that many aspects of employee well-being and Service delivery are continually being monitored and addressed. This includes steps taken to comply with various Emergency Orders, one of which was received a week and a half ago as to mandated reporting requirements to the Ministry as it pertains to compliance checks under the Emergency Orders.

Chief MacCulloch offered a heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service Pandemic Business Continuity Committee who first met on March 12<sup>th</sup> to address the anticipated arrival of the COVID-19 virus to our Region and its impact. This Committee meets regularly, addressing and documenting any new issues, concerns or actions taken and its membership consists of approximately 25 senior police leaders to ensure the Service is well positioned to continue to support its members while fulfilling its mandate for public safety. Staff have worked late evenings and weekends to address various COVID-19 health concerns and navigate the evolving Emergency Orders to ensure internal systems and procedures are quickly put in place to keep police personnel safe and relay necessary information and enforcement legislation to the front line members so they can be operationally effective. Chief MacCulloch extended his heartfelt thanks to the Board for their support and all Service members for their continued professionalism throughout these uncertain times. The Niagara Regional Police and the citizens it serves, has a long road ahead and we must be diligent and patient with the realities of life today of which includes fear of illness, isolation from our extended families, physical distancing, closure of non-essential businesses just to name a few. This will no doubt be a slow and careful recovery process in getting back to normal as best we can.

**SIU Case Closure – Incident of August 16, 2019** - A Niagara Regional Police Service officer was operating his police vehicle westbound on Woodlawn Road in the City of Welland when he observed a motorcycle with a single occupant travelling eastbound on the same roadway at a high rate of speed. The officer activated his roof lights in order to safely make a U-turn in an attempt to follow the motorcycle. Once the U-turn was completed the officer deactivated his emergency equipment and continued east on Woodlawn Road at a normal rate of speed. It was shortly after this that the Niagara Regional Police received reports of a collision at Woodlawn Road and River Road in Welland where a motorcycle was involved in a collision with a civilian vehicle. Various emergency services attended the location and a 25 year old male operator of the motorcycle was pronounced deceased at the scene. There was also indication that the motorcycle involved in this collision was the same one that had just passed by the Niagara Regional Police officer on Woodlawn Road at a high rate of speed. Given the death of the motorcyclist and the potential police involvement prior to the fatal motor vehicle collision, the SIU was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate. The SIU designated one Subject Officer and four Witness Officers.

On April 20, 2020, the Service received notification from SIU 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. Also, no concerns were expressed by the SIU Director in his notification letter. The SIU Director further commented that the Subject Officers conduct at all times appeared to have been prudent, well considered and in the best interests of the public and the safety of all users of the roadway.

**SIU Case Closure – Incident of March 3, 2019** - Uniform officers from 2 District responded to an address in Niagara Falls in regards to a male that had been stabbed. Upon arrival, officers located a 55 year old male with stab wounds. The injuries to the victim were later determined to be non-life threatening. The victim pointed to another male on the street stating that he was responsible for assaulting him. As the officers attempted to arrest the male he violently resisted the arrest. Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) were deployed and the male tried to disarm police officers. The officers used multiple use of force options to gain control and handcuff the male. The male accused was transported to the GNGH for assessment since he displayed symptoms similar to excited delirium. Following a medical assessment the physician determined that the accused had sustained a nasal bone fracture.

As a result of the diagnosis of serious injury being the fracture which was alleged to have occurred during an interaction with police officers, the Special Investigations Unit was notified and invoked their mandate to investigate.

The SIU designated three Subject Officers and four Witness Officers. On April 21, 2020, the Service received notification from SIU 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.

**International Association of Women in Policing Conference for 2021** – With the support of the Board, the Niagara Regional Police Service made preparations for a bid to host the International Association of Women in Policing (IAWP) Annual Training Conference for 2021. The IAWP has been in existence in some form or another since 1915 to educate and enlighten the public about women in law enforcement activities throughout the world, and to provide support and education for women in policing and related activities. In September 2019, members of the Service presented the bid at the IAWP Annual Training Conference in Alaska to host the 2021 IAWP Annual Training Conference in Niagara Falls and were successful in winning the bid. Resultantly the IAWP Training Conference was scheduled to be held locally at the Scotiabank Convention Centre September 20 - 24, 2021.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Service received notification from the IAWP Board that the IAWP Annual Training Conference scheduled for Yogyakarta, Indonesia in September 2020 has been postponed in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Resultantly, the Indonesian IAWP Annual Training Conference scheduled for 2020 has been deferred to September 2021. Further, as a result of this decision, the IAWP Annual Training Conference scheduled for Niagara Falls in September 2021 has now been deferred to September 2022, in which the Niagara Regional Police Service will remain the host police service.

Although this decision is not ideal and the NRPS was looking forward to hosting the Conference in 2021, Chief MacCulloch has indicated to the IAWP that the Service will continue to work with the co-chairs and organizing committee to bring this endeavor to a successful realization. The Service will select appropriate dates for 2022 and secure venues and hotels that coincide with those dates.

#### **Operational Statistics:**

##### *Attempted Murders*

- *1 for this reporting period.*

##### *Homicides*

- *1 for this reporting period with a total of 2 for 2020 to-date compared to year-end totals of 6 in 2019, 2 in 2018 compared 3 to in 2017 and 1 in 2016.*

**Homicide Incident of March 29, 2020** – Uniform officers from 2 District responded to the rural area of Marshall Road and Ort Road in the City of Niagara Falls following a report of found human remains. Further investigation at the scene revealed that the found human remains were located in a wooded area and were that of a male. A post mortem was conducted on March 30, 2020. The deceased was confirmed to be a 23 year old male from Toronto. Due to the evidence found, this matter was treated as a homicide investigation. On April 4, 2020, a 21 year old male and a 20 year old female, both of Scarborough, were arrested and each charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder. A 25 year old male and a 22 year old male were also arrested and each charged with Accessory after the Fact to Murder. The investigation remains ongoing.

**Attempt Homicide Incident of April 11, 2020** – Uniform officers from 3 District responded to a residence on Ridge Road in the City of Welland following the report of a disturbance. Further investigation at the scene revealed that a 35 year old male assaulted a 37 year old male victim with a weapon prior to fleeing the scene. The victim was treated by EMS and transported to a local hospital for assessment before being airlifted to an out of town hospital with life threatening injuries. The 35 year old male was eventually located in St Catharines and arrested and charged with Attempted Murder and Uttering Threats. The victim in this matter is now expected to survive and remains in hospital recovering from his injuries. Both males are known to each other and the matter is now before the courts.

*Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) (MTO Reportable)*

- 3 for 2020 to date compared to year-end totals of 13 in 2019, 13 in 2018, 16 in 2017, 16 in 2016 and 15 in 2015.

*Life threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) (MTO Reportable)*

- 2 for 2020.

**Fatal MVC Incident of February 21, 2020** - Police responded to a report of a pedestrian who had been struck by a motor vehicle on Lundy's Lane near Kalar Road in the City of Niagara Falls. Investigation determined that a 79 year old female was walking southbound across Lundy's Lane east of Kalar Road. Also at this time a Ford pick-up truck being operated by a 56 year old male was proceeding eastbound in the curb lane on Lundy's Lane. The pick-up truck struck the pedestrian. The pedestrian was transported by EMS to a local hospital without vital signs where she was pronounced deceased. There were no passengers in the pick-up truck and the driver sustained no physical injury. This collision remains under investigation by the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

**Fatal MVC Incident of March 4, 2020** - Police responded to a report of a motor vehicle into a pond at a rural residential address on Foss Road in the Town of Pelham. Investigation determined that an 80 year old male was operating his Cadillac motor vehicle on his property when for unknown reason the vehicle entered a man-made pond. When the Cadillac was located, the male was found inside suffering from hypothermia. The male was transported to a local hospital by EMS. Unfortunately on March 15, 2020 the male passed away in hospital. This incident is attributed to driver error or a medical event on the part of the driver. The Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this matter.

**Fatal MVC Incident of March 19, 2020** - Police responded to a report of a collision involving an E-Bike on Drummond Road near Dunn Street in the City of Niagara Falls. Investigation determined that a 52 year old male was operating his E-Bike southbound on Drummond Road north of Dunn Street when he lost control of his E-Bike and fell to the ground. The male was treated at the scene by EMS and transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Emergency medical personnel at the hospital advised that the injuries to the male were not consistent with falling from the bike however more consistent with being struck by a motor vehicle. As a result, the Collision Reconstruction Unit was notified and continued with the investigation. As the investigation continued it was determined that after the male lost control of his E-Bike and had fallen to the ground he was struck by a Mazda motor vehicle that was also travelling southbound on Drummond Road. The Mazda motor vehicle did not stop and left the scene. It was eventually determined that a 26 year old male was driving the Mazda at the time of the collision and he has since been charged with Failing to Remain at the Scene of an Accident contrary to the Criminal Code. The investigation into this matter continues.

**Serious Injury MVC Incident of February 1, 2020** - Police responded to a report of a three vehicle motor vehicle collision at Bunting Road and Ridgeview Avenue in the City of St Catharines. Investigation determined that a 45 year old male was operating a GMC, Sierra pick-up truck southbound on Bunting Road at a high rate of speed. While passing an uninvolved vehicle, the GMC entered the northbound lane of Bunting Road and struck a northbound Volkswagen Jetta head on that was being operated by a 29 year old male. The Volkswagen was redirected by the force of the collision and was subsequently struck by a northbound Chevrolet tow truck being operated by a 42 year old male. The GMC and the Volkswagen were demolished as a result of the collision. Drivers of both the GMC and Volkswagen had to be extricated by emergency services personnel and were transported to hospital with life threatening injuries. The injuries to both drivers have since been downgraded from life threatening and both are now at home recovering. The driver of the Chevrolet sustained no physical injury and there were no passengers in any of the vehicles. This collision investigation remains ongoing by the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

**Serious Injury MVC Incident of February 3, 2020** - Police responded to a report of a pedestrian who had been struck by a motor vehicle on Mountain Road near Elm Tree Road in the Town of Grimsby. Investigation determined that a 34 year old female was walking near the centre of the roadway on Mountain Road during night time hours.

Also at this time a Toyota Corolla being operated by a 63 year old female was travelling southbound on Mountain Road when it struck the pedestrian. The pedestrian sustained life threatening injuries and was transported by EMS to an out of town hospital. The sole occupant of the Toyota did not sustain any physical injuries. While the pedestrian's injuries have since been downgraded from life threatening, her injuries are still considered serious and she remains in hospital. This collision remains under investigation by the Collision Reconstruction Unit.

### **Enforcement Initiatives**

**Joint Investigation Leads to Weapons Charges** - A joint investigation involving the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit (PWEU) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has concluded into the illegal importation of prohibited weapons. The investigation commenced in early February 2020 when a prohibited firearm suppressor device was intercepted and seized at the CBSA International Mail Processing Centre in Toronto. On February 19, 2020, investigators from the NRPS, OPP – PWEU, CBSA (Southern Ontario Region Investigations) with the assistance of the NRPS 2 District – Niagara Falls Street Crime Unit, and the Emergency Task Unit executed a search warrant at a Fort Erie residence in the area of Belleair Boulevard and Dominion Road. A 26 year old male was arrested and charged with several criminal code offences related to the possession and importation of prohibited devices as well as drug related charges.

**Downtown St. Catharines Shooting Investigation Results in 97 Charges** - Detectives from the 1 District (St. Catharines) detective office along with the Special Investigations Services Unit (SIS) have continued to investigate the shooting incident that occurred in downtown St. Catharines on September 29, 2019, that resulted in six persons being shot. A six-month investigation into this incident has now concluded with further arrests and charges filed. With the assistance of the Niagara Regional Police Emergency Task Unit (ETU) and Hamilton Police Emergency Response Unit, multiple search warrants were executed on March 30 and April 2, 2020. As a result, four additional individuals were arrested for their alleged involvement in the shooting and/or alleged criminal acts discovered throughout the investigation. The investigation resulted in a total of 9 arrests and 97 Criminal charges having been laid. As the matter is now before the courts, no further information will be released to protect the integrity of the judicial process. On behalf of Niagara Regional Police Investigators, Chief MacCulloch thanked the public and the media for their cooperation and support over the course of this investigation as well as the York Regional Police Service, Toronto Police Service and Hamilton Police for their assistance throughout this investigation. This

**Niagara Falls Robbery Leads to Arrests and Weapons Seizures** - On April 12, 2020, 2 District – Niagara Falls uniform officers were called to a hotel in the area of Beaverdams Road and Kalar Road regarding a robbery with a gun. Officers attended the hotel and determined that three masked men attempted to force their way into a hotel room. The male victim in the room, who was not physically injured, saw that one of the suspects was carrying a gun. The commotion caused other hotel guests to be alerted and the suspects ran from the scene. The suspects jumped a nearby fence into the backyard of a neighbouring home. A second male victim was playing in the backyard with his children and while attempting to protect his children, one of the suspects slashed him with a knife. Another suspect pointed a gun at the second victim. This victim was treated at the scene and transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The suspects fled the scene to an awaiting car which officers located a short distance away. The persons in the car were arrested and weapons were recovered. The investigation subsequently led officers to another Niagara Falls hotel. Having received information that involved suspects were in a hotel room, the NRPS Emergency Task Unit, and Crisis Negotiators were called in to assist. After negotiating with the persons in the room, they agreed to surrender themselves to officers. As a result of the investigation four persons were then arrested and charged with numerous offences with a fifth suspect outstanding.

On April 18, 2020, 2 District Niagara Falls uniform officers responded to a report of a residential break and enter in Niagara Falls. The home owners located a male inside their home. The suspect ran from the house into neighbouring backyards.



A member of the NRPS K9 Unit along with Police Service Dog Bronson attended the scene. Accompanied by 2 District uniform officers a track of the suspect was conducted that led to a backyard on Pamela Drive near Alpine Drive. PSD Bronson located the suspect hiding near a shed. The fifth outstanding suspect, a 42 year old male was placed under arrest and is also now facing numerous charges.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 39. Short Hill Provincial Park – 2019/2020 Deer Harvest and Associated Policing Costs**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 10, 2020 providing a report to inform the Board of the policing activities and associated costs related to the 2019/2020 Deer Harvest conducted at the Short Hills Provincial Park in St. Catharines on the dates specified in the report throughout the months of October, November, December 2019 and January 2020.
- 40. Monthly Status Report – NRPS 1 District (St. Catharines) Facility Project**  
The Board considered report dated April 6, 2020 from Nicole Menard, Senior Project Manager, Niagara Region, and Report #18 from Board Chair Ken Gansel, providing the Board with a monthly status update report on the 1 District Project for March 2020.
- 41. Quarterly Report – Administration of the Public Complaints System – January 1 to March 31, 2020**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 6, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 301-2010.
- 42. Quarterly Report – Authorized Strength as at April 1, 2020**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 1, 2020 providing a summary of the actual versus authorized strength by rank/salary band of the uniform and civilian complement of the Niagara Regional Police Service.
- 43. Quarterly Report – Brock University Special Constables – January 1 to March 31, 2020**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 1, 2020 from Scott Johnstone, Senior Associate Vice President, Infrastructure and Operations, Brock University, providing information relating to the complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables employed through Brock University Campus Security Services.
- 44. Quarterly Report - Overtime Activities Incurred by the NRPS – October 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 5, 2020 providing a five-year uniform and civilian trend analysis by quarter and year-to-date along with additional information that provides insight into the factors that impact the Service's requirement for overtime.
- 45. Annual Report – Acoustic Hailing Devices - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 8, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 335-2013.
- 46. Annual Report – Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers - January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 10, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 254/255-2003.

Further to Board direction, the Chief was requested to amend the yearly summary chart in future reports with an additional column for 'new auxiliary recruits' so the year-end numbers and start of the following year numbers better align.

47. **Annual Report – Respecting Equal Opportunity, Discrimination and Workplace Harassment Prevention - January 1 to December 31, 2019** – Report dated March 3, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 331-2012.
48. **Annual Report – Child Abuse and Neglect - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 219-2000.
49. **Annual Report – Child Pornography - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 333-2013.
50. **Annual Report – Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 2, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 360-2016.
51. **Annual Report – Illegal Gaming - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 224-2000.
52. **Annual Report – Major Incident Command - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 7, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 235-2012.
53. **Annual Report – Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 8, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 283-2008.
54. **Annual Report – Parental and Non/Parental Abductions and Attempts - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 295-2010.
55. **Annual Report – Proceeds of Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 8, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 233-2000.
56. **Annual Report – Public Order Units - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 7, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 239-2000.
57. **Annual Report – Safe Storage of Police Service Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 6, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 258-2003.
58. **Annual Report – Secure Holsters - January 1 to December 31, 2019**  
The Board considered Service report dated April 6, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 269-2005.

59. **Annual Report – Stolen or Smuggled Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2019** – The Board considered Service report dated April 7, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 211-2000.

Further to Board direction, the Chief was requested to include a narrative with further details in future reports to better explain the discrepancy between the number of seized firearms and the number of firearms sent for disposal.

60. **Annual Report – Sudden Death and Found Human Remains - January 1 to December 31, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated February 19, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 229-2000.

61. **Annual Report – NRPS Tuck Shop – January 1 to December 31, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated March 4, 2020 informing the Board that net proceeds in the amount of \$2,068.11 have been received from the sale of the Services' souvenir and display sales program for the year 2019, and that the funds have been transferred to the Board's Special Fund Account.

62. **Annual Report – Witness Protection – January 1 to December 31, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated March 11, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 210-2000.

63. **Annual Report – Use of Force – January 1 to December 31, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated March 10, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 346-2014.

64. **Annual Report – Vehicle Theft - January 1 to December 31, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 235-2000.

65. **Annual Report – Youth Crime – January 1 to December 31, 2019**

The Board considered Service report dated March 19, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 236-2000.

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the information be received.**

**Carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

66. **NRPS 2018 Annual Report – January 1 - December 31, 2018**

The Board considered Service report dated March 10, 2020 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 262-2003 providing a “draft” copy of the Niagara Regional Police Service's 2018 Annual Report and further requesting final approval of the Annual Report.

In order to ensure timely reporting, the Board requested the Chief to provide the 2019 Annual Report within the 2020 calendar year. It was recognized that there are timing challenges with the release of information from Statistics Canada as well as other ongoing NRPS workload matters, however; the Chief will endeavor to complete within that timeframe.

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: B. Steele

**That the Board approve the Niagara Regional Police Service's 2018 Annual Report;**

**And further, that the document be posted on the NRPS website and that Regional Council be notified of such.**

**Carried.**

**67. Ontario Police Video Training Alliance (OPVTA) - 2020 Membership Contract**

The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 requesting the Board approve the 2020 Membership Contract as appended to the report to serve as the contract template that will be entered into with each of the 83 new and returning OPVTA partnering policing agencies. *(The item was preapproved by the Board on March 5, 2020 and is before the Board for ratification.)*

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

**That the Board authorize the Chief of Police to enter into contractual agreements in relation to the Ontario Police Video Alliance (OPVTA) membership for 2020;**

**And further, that the Chief of Police be authorized to make minor adjustments to the contract, as may be necessary, in consultation with Board counsel.**

**Carried.**

**SPECIAL FUND REQUESTS**

*With respect to the Special Fund Requests noted below, this will clarify that the Board has a discretionary pool of funds, which it uses for grants and donations. Disbursements from the fund are in accordance with guidelines provided in the Police Services Act, and also with Board policy. Section 132(2) of the Police Services Act establishes that the Niagara Police Services Board has the sole authority for spending the proceeds from the sale of property which lawfully comes into the possession of the police service. The Act stipulates that "the Chief of Police may cause the property to be sold, and the Board may use the proceeds for any purpose that it considers in the public interest." These funds do not form part of the police operating budget and are separate from the Regional tax base.*

**68. Special Fund Request – Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band**

The Board considered Service report dated March 2, 2020 requesting financial support to assist the Band with offsetting costs for uniform upgrade and replacement. *(Previous Board donations were approved as follows to assist the band with performance related costs: 2002 – 2003 - \$5,000; 2004 – 2006 - \$6,000; 2008 - \$8,000; 2009 - \$6,000)*

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

**That the Board authorize a donation in amount of \$2,500.00 from the Special Fund to the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band to assist with offsetting costs for uniform upgrades and replacements.**

**Carried.**

**69. Special Fund Request – International Police Hockey Tournament – NRPS Men's Over 35 Team**

The Board considered Service report dated March 1, 2020 requesting the Board approve a donation to cover the registration fee for the team to participate in the 2020 International Police Hockey Tournament held in Ottawa, Ontario on February 27-28, 2020. *(The Board has approved annual donations for NRPS hockey teams in the amount of \$500 since 2006 and in January 2020 the Board approved a \$700 donation to two additional NRPS teams that competed in the event.)*

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

**That the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$700.00 from the Special Fund to the NRPS Men's Over 35 Team competing in the 2020 International Police Hockey Tournament.**

**Carried.**

**70. Trivia Night Fundraising Initiative - Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary**

The Board considered Service report dated February 27, 2020 requesting the Board approve the Trivia Night fundraising initiative for the Constable Dale Racine Educational Bursary in accordance with Board By-law 328-2012.

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.**

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other business reported.

**IN CAMERA REPORTS**

(FOR PUBLIC RELEASE FROM THE FEBRUARY 27, 2020 CONFIDENTIAL BOARD MEETING)

- 71. Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Public Reporting** – The following reports were provided to the Board at its February 27, 2020 Confidential Board Meeting and were approved for public release:

C.42 SIU Case Number 18-OFI-146  
C.43 SIU Case Number 18-OCI-067  
C.44 SIU Case Number 18-OCI-085  
C.45 SIU Case Number 18-OFI-371  
C.46 SIU Case Number 18-OCI-217  
C.47 SIU Case Number 18-OCD-297  
C.48 SIU Case Number 18-OCI-265

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

**That, in accordance with Board direction, the above noted In Camera Reports be received for public information.**

**Carried.**

- 72. Recommendation to Award Contract – Police Services Board Electronic Meeting Management System/Software (C.67)** – The Board considered correspondence dated March 10, 2020 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, seeking Board approval to award the contract to eSCRIBE for the supply and implementation of an electronic meeting management software solution for the Niagara Police Services Board. The following motion was passed:

***"That the Board approve the Subscription Agreement with eSCRIBE Software Ltd., to automate and manage Board agendas and reports, effective March 27, 2020, for a three (3) year term, under the terms and conditions as set out in the contractual documentation appended to the report;***

***And further, that the Executive Director be authorized to execute the required documentation and exercise automatic renewal options on behalf of the Board;***

***And further, that the Board's decision be reported back on the Public Agenda.  
Carried."***

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

**That, in accordance with Board direction, the Board's decision be received for public information.**

**Carried.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

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Kenneth A.W. Gansel, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director