



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**POLICE SERVICES BOARD**  
**PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**  
**Meeting Held By Electronic Participation Only**  
**ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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**PSB MEMBERS:**

B. Steele, Chair  
D. Eke, Vice-Chair  
H. D'Angela, Board Member  
B. Gale, Board Member  
K. Gibson, Board Member  
J. Lawson, Board Member  
T. McKendrick, Board Member  
  
D. Reid, Executive Director  
D. Cichocki, Executive Assistant

**NRPS MEMBERS:**

Chief of Police B. MacCulloch  
Deputy Chief B. Flynn, Operational Services  
Deputy Chief B. Fordy, Support Services  
W. Shreve, General Counsel  
Superintendent B. Ash, Emergency Investigative Services  
Superintendent R. Frayne, Operations Support  
Superintendent M. Giannico, District Operations  
Superintendent J. Mackay, Operational Support  
Superintendent D. Meade, Executive Services  
Inspector D. Masotti, Executive Officer to the Chief  
A. Askoul, Director of Information Technology  
L. Rullo, Finance Manager  
S. Sabourin, Corporate Communications Manager  
M. Asher, Executive Assistant to the Chief

**OTHERS:**

D. Sprague, Police Services Advisor, Ministry of the Solicitor General

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Meeting of the Niagara Police Services Board commenced at 9:06 am.

Chair Steele welcomed attendees to the virtual meeting of the Board, which was broadcasted on Zoom and Live Streamed on You Tube. He advised that the Board will continue with this practice during the COVID-19 pandemic until it can safely resume its in-person meetings.

He further stated that although this meeting is taking place virtually, the lands which the meeting is being held on is the traditional territory of First Nations peoples. In particular, the Board recognized and thanked the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples for their stewardship of these lands over the millennia as well as the contribution of the Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous people, both in shaping and strengthening this Region in particular, and the Province and Country as a whole.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, March 25, 2021**

Moved by: H. D'Angela

Seconded by: D. Eke

**That the Minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Thursday, March 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried**

**4. REPORTS FROM BOARD CHAIR**

**State of the Region** - On April 20, Board Members virtually attended the Regional Chair's "State of the Region" address. Regional Chair Jim Bradley delivered his keynote address to the Niagara business community and this was followed by an expert panel discussion on the issues Niagara faced in 2020 and opportunities in 2021.

**1 District Facility Project** - On April 27, Vice Chair Eke will be attending the virtual Joint Region and Police Facilities Accommodations Steering Committee meeting. The Committee will continue to meet monthly to monitor any issues that may arise with police facilities.

**Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) – 2021 Virtual Governance Summit** - The CAPG will be holding two virtual Governance Summits on April 27 and June 30. The Summit on April 27, is entitled "Governance 101: A Refresher for Police Boards and Commissions". It will explore the essentials of Police Governance, including core police governance concepts and best practices regarding accountability; community and government engagement; evaluations; communication; orientation procedures; and individual roles and responsibilities. The June 30 Summit will focus on "Policy Development in Police Governance".

**Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) – Monthly Webinar Sessions** - The CAPG hosts monthly webinars as part of its educational strategy to keep police boards and police executives across Canada apprised of issues currently impacting the policing community. The next webinar will be held on April 29 at 12:00 pm and the topic of the session is "Body Worn Cameras and the Policy Considerations for Police Governance".

**Upcoming PSB Meetings** - The next Committee Meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 9:00 am, and the next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 20 at 9:00 am. These meetings will be held by electronic participation through Zoom.

## 5. REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### **Postponement of the NRPS Annual Awards Ceremony**

The Service was planning on holding the Annual Award's Ceremony – Virtual Edition, on Tuesday May 11, 2021 at our Headquarters facility. The Award's Ceremony was to be held in such a manner that was compliant with all COVID-19 restrictions. Unfortunately, due to the surge in COVID-19 cases and the ongoing and increased public health restrictions associated with the Stay-at-Home Order, the Service has decided to postpone the event until it has a better picture of what the future holds during these COVID times.

### **Operational Statistics**

#### *Homicides*

- 1 for this reporting period with a total of 3 for 2021 to-date compared to year-end totals of 5 in 2020, 7 in 2019, 2 in 2018 and 3 in 2017.

#### *Attempted Homicides*

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 0 for 2021 to-date.

**Homicide Incident of April 12, 2021** - At approximately 8:30 pm, 1 District uniform officers responded to the area of Glenridge Avenue and Marsdale Drive in St. Catharines regarding a person who was on the ground. Upon arrival, officers located a 32-year-old male with gunshot wounds. The male was subsequently transported to hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Investigators are appealing to anyone who may reside or have a business in the area of the crime scene that has security cameras, doorbell cameras or dashboard cameras to contact police. Residential and/or commercial video footage may have captured something that could assist the investigation. Detectives do not have reason to believe there is an ongoing threat to public safety. The Homicide Unit has taken carriage of this matter and the investigation continues.

#### *Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)*

- 0 for this reporting period with a total of 2 for 2021 to-date, compared to year-end totals of 16 in 2020, 13 in 2019, 13 in 2018, 16 in 2017, 16 in 2016.

#### *Life Threatening Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)*

- 1 for this reporting period.

**Serious Injury MVC Incident of March 22, 2021** - Officers responded to a report of an e-Bike collision that occurred on Arthur Street at Duke Avenue in Niagara Falls. Investigation determined that a 38-year-old male lost control of his e-Bike, falling and striking his head. After declining medical treatment, the male returned to his residence where he was eventually found unconscious. The male was taken to hospital and his injury was determined to be life threatening. The Collision Reconstruction Unit commenced an investigation in the matter, however since, the male's condition has improved and his injuries are now deemed non-life threatening. The male continues to recover and the investigation continues.

## **Enforcement Initiatives**

**Two Males Arrested in Relation to Drug Investigation in Niagara Falls** - During the month of March 2021, Detectives from 2 District Street Crime Unit investigated the sales of illegal drugs from a Unit at a Motel in the City of Niagara Falls. As a result of the investigation, two suspects were arrested on March 24. During the arrest police located a loaded semi-automatic firearm on one of the suspects. Subsequently, Detectives executed a warrant in a room at the Motel and seized green fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine and cocaine. In total, the amount of drugs seized is estimated to be worth a street value of \$3,790. A 57-year-old Niagara Falls male and a 30-year-old male from Bolton were arrested and charged with various drug related offences along with Possession of a Prohibited Firearm with Ammunition. This matter is currently before the courts.

**Detectives Investigating Fort Erie Shooting** - On April 14, at approximately 11:45 pm, uniform officers responded to a report of a shooting at Ridge Road North and Hibbard Street in the Town of Fort Erie. Officers located a 23-year-old male who was suffering from a serious gunshot wound. He was treated by Niagara Emergency Medical Services and transported to an out of region hospital in critical condition. The following day, as a result of continued investigation, Detectives along with the Emergency Tactical Unit arrested two individuals in relation to the shooting. A 19-year-old male and a 16-year-old female, both of Fort Erie, were arrested and each charged with Aggravated Assault and Assault. Both were held in custody pending a bail hearing. On April 20, Detectives arrested a 19-year-old Fort Erie resident who was charged with multiple offences, including:

- Aggravated Assault;
- Assault;
- Pointing a Firearm;
- Discharge a Firearm;
- Unauthorized possession of a Firearm;
- Careless use of a Firearm;
- Possession of a Firearm contrary to Prohibition Order;
- Fail to comply with Release Order and Fail to comply with Probation order; and
- Robbery.

This matter is believed to be a targeted incident.

**Charges issued following St. Catharines Gathering** - The Service continues to provide public safety services to the communities that we serve and supports the efforts of federal, provincial and local health authorities during the current situation involving COVID-19. We appreciate the public's support of these measures. On April 10, a gathering was organized and held in the City of St. Catharines in response to recently implemented government restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Uniform officers were in attendance to ensure public safety and to keep the peace. Since that time, Detectives have been continuing to investigate the gathering to determine appropriate charges. In the duration of a gathering, officers use discretion to best manage the situation to not cause it to escalate and to preserve the peace. The leading principle is keeping the peace and public safety and in doing so, at times, must utilize discretion when it comes to immediate enforcement.

As per the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA), hosting or organizing a public event or other gathering where the number of people in attendance exceeds the number permitted may lead to higher penalties. The investigation by Detectives focused on such individuals, resulting in charges against a 50-year-old West Lincoln male and a 47-year-old St. Catharines male under the ROA. Subsequently, two others, a 30-year-old Lincoln male and a 43-year-old St. Catharines female, were also charged. These charges are in addition to those that were laid by Regional By-law officials. As the individuals have been charged under the ROA, which is provincial legislation and not the Criminal Code, the Niagara Regional Police Service will not be disclosing names.

**Criminal Charges Laid Following Niagara Falls Gathering** - On April 17, a gathering was organized and held in the City of Niagara Falls in response to recently implemented government restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Uniform officers were in attendance to ensure public safety and to keep the peace. Since that time Detectives have been continuing to investigate the gathering to determine appropriate charges.

As previously mentioned in the St. Catharines gathering media release, officers used discretion to best manage the situation to not cause it to escalate and to preserve the peace. Subsequent investigation has led to criminal charges - 43-year-old Alicia Hirter of St. Catharines and 30-year-old Cullen McDonald of Lincoln both face the charge of Common nuisance endangering lives or safety of public, contrary to Section 180(1)(a) of the Criminal Code. Both were released on a Form 10 undertaking with a future court date of June 28, 2021. Further charges are pending, in addition to those issued by Niagara Regional By-law to attendees of the event.

The Service will continue to work proactively and collaboratively with our municipalities respective by-law enforcement officers with a goal to gain voluntary compliance with the Emergency Orders. Our officers will continue to engage the public to explain the role we all play in staying safe during the pandemic while encouraging compliance, and where appropriate, initiate proceedings through the issuance of offence notices or criminal charges. With rising case counts and the critical strained being realized throughout Ontario and in Niagara, the NRPS is urging the public to comply with restrictions to limit the continued community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We appreciate the public's support of these measures.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

### **6.1 Niagara Regional Police Service - Crime Reports/Mapping Tool**

Stephanie Sabourin, Manager of the NRPS Corporate Communications Unit, provided a brief demonstration on how to navigate through the Service's Crime Reports/Mapping Tool made available on the Niagara Regional Police Service's public website. This reporting tool is designed to visualize crime statistics by using colour coded pins on a map in a geographical area to represent occurrences of crime relating to assaults, assaults with deadly weapons, sexual offences, sexual assaults, violent offences, trespassing, theft, etc., and to provide valuable information about recent crime activity so the public can be more vigilant and implement crime awareness and prevention efforts in their homes, workplaces and community.

Moved by: B. Gale

Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the presentation be received.**

**Carried**

## **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **7.1 Monthly Report - Niagara Regional Police Service - Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic - April 2021**

Service report dated April 20, 2021 providing the Board with a detailed update regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Niagara Regional Police Service and the actions taken to mitigate risks.

### **7.2 Quarterly Report - Brock University Campus Security Services - January 1 to March 31, 2021**

Report dated April 1, 2021 from Scott Johnstone, Senior Associate Vice President, Infrastructure & Operations, Brock University, providing a quarterly report about complaints, use of force, discipline and arrests associated to officers designated as Special Constables while employed with Brock University Campus Security Services.

### **7.3 Annual Report - Arrest - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 4, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 197-2000.

### **7.4 Annual Report - Criminal Investigation Management and Procedure - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated February 17, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 198-2000.

### **7.5 Annual Report - Crisis Negotiation - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 25, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 245-2000.

### **7.6 Annual Report - Equal Opportunity Discrimination and Workplace Harassment Prevention - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated April 7, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 331-2012.

### **7.7 Annual Report - Firearms Training - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 18, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 221-2000.

### **7.8 Annual Report - Marine Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 29, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 227-2000.

### **7.9 Annual Report - Policing Aboriginal Occupations and Protests - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 10, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 324-2012.

**7.10 Annual Report - Proceeds of Crime - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 19, 2021 submitted in accordance to the reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 233-2000.

**7.11 Annual Report - Robbery Investigations - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated February 17, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 234-2000.

**7.12 Annual Report - Secure Holsters - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 24, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 269-2005.

**7.13 Annual Report - Skills Development and Learning Plan - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 18, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 250-2000.

**7.14 Annual Report - Stolen or Smuggled Firearms - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 23, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 211-2000.

**7.15 Annual Report - Tactical Units - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 15, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 242-2000.

**7.16 Annual Report - Underwater Search and Recovery Unit - January 1 to December 31, 2020**

Service report dated March 29, 2021 submitted in accordance to the annual reporting requirements set out in Board By-law 273-2005.

**7.17 Ministry of the Solicitor General - PSB Re-Appointment of Tara McKendrick**

Correspondence dated April 6, 2021 from Gita Ramburuth, Appointments Officer, Ministry of the Solicitor General, providing Order in Council No. 413/2021 reappointing Tara McKendrick to the Niagara Police Services Board for a further period of three years, effective April 1, 2021.

**7.18 Township of West Lincoln - Resolution - Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns**

Correspondence dated March 23, 2021 from Joanne Scime, Clerk, Township of West Lincoln, addressed to the Federal Minister of Health, advising of a resolution adopted at its Council Meeting held March 22, 2021 in support of the correspondence from the Niagara Police Services Board regarding Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns. *(Refer to the attached letter dated November 4, 2020 from the Board).*

**7.19 Town of Fort Erie - Resolution - Cannabis Licencing and Enforcement**

Correspondence dated March 23, 2021 from Carol Schofield, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk, Town of Fort Erie, addressed to the Federal Minister of Health, advising that at its meeting held March 22, 2021, the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie received and supported the resolution from the Township of Brock recommending legislative changes to cannabis licencing and enforcement by Health Canada. *(Refer to the attached letter dated March 2, 2021 from the Township of Brock).*

Moved by: J. Lawson

Seconded by: T. McKendrick

**That the information be received.**

**Carried**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 Corporate Services Committee (CSC) - Councillor Information Request Respecting Report CSD 17-2021**

Service report dated April 12, 2021 providing information requested at the Region's March 10, 2021 Corporate Services Committee meeting with respect to the PSB/NRPS Financial Variance Overview for the Year Ending December 31, 2020, that was included as Appendix 8 to Report CSD 17-2021, specifically the correlation between the NRPS Casino Unit loss of revenue and NRPS staff funding, and the status of NRPS project hiring from 2020/2021 and the budget impact. *(Refer to the attached letter dated March 26, 2021 from the Niagara Region.)*

Moved by: D. Eke

Seconded by: B. Gale

**That the Board receives this report and forwards the report to the Region's Corporate Services Committee.**

**Carried**

**8.2 Special Fund Request - Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) 2021 Governance Summits**

Report dated April 6, 2021 from Deb Reid, Executive Director, Niagara Police Services Board, providing a funding request from the Canadian Association of Police Governance to support the CAPG's 2021 Governance Summits being held on April 27 and June 30, 2021.

Moved by: K. Gibson

Seconded by: J. Lawson

**That the Board authorize a donation at the Supporter Sponsor Level in the total amount of \$1,000 (\$500 for each summit) from the Special Fund to the Canadian Association of Police Governance in support of its 2021 Governance Summits.**

**Carried**



## 9. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

### 9.1 Niagara Regional Police Service - Crime Reports/Mapping Tool

Further to Item 6.1, the NRPS Presentation on the Crime Reports/Mapping Tool, Member Gale referenced the Disclaimer posted on the site, specifically the comments that appear on the disclaimer as follow: *"Information on Sex Offenders is not displayed. The Information Privacy Commissioner has approved the release of some information from the Ontario Sex Offender Registry (OSOR); specifically, the total number of registered sex offenders residing in a geographic area, identified by the first three digits of a postal code. Anyone wishing to access the geographic distribution numbers will have to file an Freedom of Information (FOI) request with the OSOR (1-705-529-7474)".*

Member Gale expressed concern with the limited information that is being made available when simply entering the first three digits of a postal code as instructed. He advised that for public safety purposes detailed information in regard to numbers of registered sex offenders residing in local municipalities should be made available to members of local communities. Having members of the community being required to file a Freedom of Information request can be deemed as a deterrent given many individuals may not opt to pursue obtaining the information through that process.

Chief MacCulloch advised that the information being made available is in keeping with Information Privacy Commissioner regulations and guidelines. He reassured that anytime a sex offender is convicted in Canada, they are automatically added to the Sex Offender Registry. Once an individual becomes a member of the Sex Offender Registry, they are compelled to update their residence location with the Offender Management Unit.

Chief MacCulloch advised that the Niagara Regional Police Service has come to realize that in other jurisdictions where information relating the names and residences of known sex offenders is made public, it causes the known offenders to go off the radar to evade any public reprisal of their actions. When taking that into consideration, the Niagara Regional Police Service currently maintains a high rate of compliance at approximately 98% in regard to sex offenders residing where they say they reside.

Chief MacCulloch advised that Service will review the matter for options of more information being made public and the matter will be reported back to the Board. Ministry Police Services Advisor Duane Sprague will also review the issue at a provincial level in regard to high level sex offender criminal activity being reported publicly for inclusion on the crime report/mapping tool.

Moved by: B. Gale

Seconded by: K. Gibson

**That the Service prepare a report exploring the option to provide information related to sex offenders on the NRPS Crime Reports/Mapping Tool, while in keeping with Information Privacy Commissioner regulations and guidelines and not having to file a Freedom of Information request;**

**And further, that the matter be reported back to the Board at the earliest opportunity.**

**Carried**

**9.2 Niagara Regional Police Service Leadership**

Member Gibson publicly recognized the leadership of Chief MacCulloch and the NRPS Executive Command Team on the action taken by the Service with regard to the provincial government's extensive controls recently issued by the Solicitor General as they relate to COVID-19 and the ability for police to randomly stop vehicles. He commended the Chief's public announcement that the Niagara Regional Police Service would not be following that decision and that the Niagara community would not be subject to random police stops for any purpose relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**10. IN CAMERA REPORTS**

There were no In Camera reports.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Police Services Board adjourned the public portion of the meeting and reconvene in-camera for consideration of confidential matters pursuant to Section 35(4) of the Police Services Act.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

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William C. Steele, Chair

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Deb Reid, Executive Director