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Niagara Regional Police Service

Chief of Police Wendy E. Southall

REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE

TO

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Board Report Number: 178 / 2011
Date of Report: 2011-07-30
Date of Board Meeting: 2011-08-25

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Public Agenda

**Mr. Todd Shoalts, Acting Chairperson
and Members of the
Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board**

Reference: Bylaw 269-2005 - Adequacy Standards Secure Holster AI-014

Background:

The Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board recognized the importance of workplace and public safety, including safety with respect to holsters, and therefore has developed policy that requires the Chief of Police to set out procedures as with respect to the provision, use and function of secure holster equipment.

Legislative/Regulatory Requirements

- The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) sets out the responsibilities of employers, supervisors and workers for workplace safety.
- Section 3 of the Ontario Regulation 123/98 (General), under the Police Services Act, requires that all articles of uniform and equipment necessary for the

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performance of duty shall be provided by the municipality, but, where a uniform or equipment is damaged or lost through the fault of the member of a police force, the member shall bear the cost of replacement.

- Section 135 of the Police Service Act allows for the making of regulations regarding the use of any equipment by a police force or any of its members. Ontario Regulation 926 ("Equipment and Use of Force"), under the Police Service Act, sets out requirements in relation to the use of force, including use of approved weapons, training, and reporting and use/technical specifications for handguns.

Report to the Board

The Chief of Police shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30th of each year with respect to the secure holster equipment for police service firearms. The report shall contain:

- (A) A summary of the written procedures relating to secure holster equipment for police service firearms;

Performance Indicators:

1. Adequacy Standard AI-014 Secure Holsters
2. **General Order 048.04** entitled “**Uniform and Equipment Supply**”
Section 3.8 - Inspection of articles of uniform and equipment –
 - (a) Supervisors shall inspect articles of uniform and equipment issued to members, ensuring that the articles are serviceable.
3. **General Order 053.13** entitled “**Use of Force**” **Section 3.49** -
Secure Holsters
 - (a) All police officers, whether assigned to uniform or plainclothes duties, shall be issued with and receive appropriate training on the use of a secure holster that is designed to meet the needs of their particular assignment, in compliance with the requirements of the Policing Standards Manual;
 - (b) Police officers issued with a secure holster shall:
 - i) use the holster in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and the prescribed training;
 - ii) maintain and care for the holster in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and prescribed training;

- iii) regularly inspect their issued secure holster for damage or defect; and,
 - iv) immediately report to their supervisor the absence of, or defect detected in any article of equipment or protective device issued to them, including their secure holster.
- (c) All officers, while wearing their issued uniform duty belt with a secure holster shall wear a minimum of two (2) issued duty belt keepers. One shall be positioned directly in front of the secure holster and one directly to the rear of the secure holster.
- (d) Upon being made aware of the absence of, or defect detected in any article of equipment or protective device issued to a member under their command, a supervisor shall cause an investigation into the matter if appropriate and arrange for the absent or defective equipment to be replaced without delay (unless their is cause not to replace the equipment);
- (e) In accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Health and Safety Act, Supervisors shall ensure that members under their command properly use and care for issued secure holsters. To accomplish this, Supervisors shall routinely examine holsters during line inspections or other suitable opportunities and reinforce the requirement for members to maintain and care for this equipment as outlined in this General Order;
- (f) During annual “Use of Force” refresher training, secure holsters shall be examined for defects (in compliance with the Policing Standards Manual), by members holding a designation from the Province as a “Use of Force Trainer.” Any defects discovered will be addressed in accordance with this section.
- (B) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and

Performance Indicators:

1. NEW recruits prior to attending the Ontario Police College are trained on proper fitting and use of their new issue Safariland 6360 ALS level three police duty holsters. They are also issued the Safariland Owner’s manual for the said holster. An entire 90-minute period is devoted to belt equipment and holster fitting. Recruits also receive an additional 8 hours of pistol training, during which they receive instruction on the use, function and limitations of the issued holster. Recruits are also given a molded plastic Glock training pistol to practice drawing.

2. At the Ontario Police College, holster and firearms training is again re-enforced for 13 weeks.
3. In September 2009 the Police Services Board passed a motion to transition to a new holster to replace the Safariland 070 SS III level three holster. In 2011, between the months of January and June the Niagara Regional Police followed this recommendation, Issuing and training the entire membership on the Safariland 6360 ALS level three police duty holsters. All members were issued the Safariland Owner's manual for the said holster. A 4 hour training period was devoted to the care, maintenance and use of the holster.
4. During annual use of force re-qualification sessions provided by the Training Unit, each officer is provided with the opportunity to inspect their issued belts, holsters and equipment under the supervision of instructors. If problems are found they are corrected, or new equipment, including a holster are issued.
5. Supervisors attending training courses are advised of their responsibilities in regards to equipment issued to their members.

(C) Confirmation that members have been trained in accordance with section 4.2.

Performance Indicators:

1. New recruits are issued holster Owner's manuals and are provided training in the use, care and maintenance of the Safariland 6360 ALS level three police duty holster..
2. Successful completion of Firearms and Defensive Tactics training under supervision of qualified use of force facilitators at Ontario Police College is required of all officers.
3. Completion of the Safariland 6360 ALS level three holster Transition Training as well as Attendance records for Annual requalification and refresher Training for the 2011 year are maintained in the Niagara Regional Police Records Management System.
4. When involved in supervisory courses, Supervisors are advised of their responsibilities in regards inspection and maintenance to equipment issued to members under their command.

Performance Management

The Safariland 6360 ALS level three police duty holster has met all expectations of the Niagara Regional Police Service. The results of the implementation are a commonality of equipment throughout the Service between uniform and specialty units. There is a sense of competence and confidence demonstrated throughout the

service after the completion of the transition training. The Training unit will ensure this confidence and competence is upheld by continued testing and evaluation of the Safariland 6360 level three police duty holster.

Relevant Policy Considerations:

Police Services Act of Ontario Regulation 926. Police Services Board Bylaw 269-2005. General Order 053.13, entitled, Use of Force.

Cost of Recommendations:

There are no costs associated with this report.


Alternative Options:

Not to receive the report as relevant information.


Reasons for Recommendation:

To comply with the requirements of the Board Bylaw.

Prepared by:




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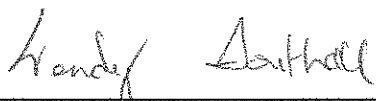
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Approved by:



Robert Wright
Superintendent 8052, Executive Services

Respectfully submitted by:



Wendy E. Southall
Chief of Police