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Niagara Regional Police Service 135.

Chief of Police Wendy E. Southall

REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE

TO

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Board Report Number: 157/2011
Date of Report: 2011.06.03
Date of Board Meeting: 2011.07.28



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

Reference: Reporting Requirement of Police Services Board
By-Law 235 – 2000 – Vehicle Theft.

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

Background:

On 2000.11.30 and 2000.12.14, a number of Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board By-Laws were enacted in response to the *Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations*. These by-laws contain provisions requiring the Chief of Police to report specific information in order to ensure compliance with the legislative guidelines.

This report is submitted to provide the Board with the necessary and required information, pursuant to certain by-laws, relating to investigations pertaining to Vehicle Theft. Subsequent reports will follow annually to continue with this reporting process.



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By-Law #235-2000, a *By-Law Respecting Vehicle Theft*, was enacted as a result of *Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation, Law Enforcement LE-043 - Vehicle Theft*. This By-Law details specific requirements that are reported as follows:

The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of investigations into vehicle theft occurrences. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning vehicle theft investigations; and
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures.

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

a) “...a summary of the written procedures concerning vehicle theft investigations...”

Niagara Regional Police Service General Order 187.02 – Vehicle Theft specifically addresses the requirements of the Provincial Adequacy Standard and Niagara Regional Police Services By-Law 235-2000.

The General Order addresses the following topics:

- Section 2.0 provides relevant definitions
- Section 3.0 outlines the procedure to be followed when members are called upon to investigate all incidents of vehicle theft, attempted theft and recovered vehicles.

Three other General Orders address the legislative requirements relating to vehicle theft investigations:

1. Responsibility for vehicle theft investigations are detailed in Niagara Regional Police Service *General Order – 095.06 – Major Incidents and Routine Criminal Investigations*. Specific sections of this order state that: personnel of the District Detective Office shall be responsible for conducting investigations including thefts;
2. Niagara Regional Police Service *General Order – 034.04 – Report Submission*, details the methodical management of Police Service records and their entry into the C.P.I.C. system. In summary, this General Order mandates the proper flow of a report when submitted by a member including who is responsible for checking it. If the report concerns a stolen vehicle, it is the responsibility of the Supervisor in charge of the District Uniform Patrol platoon receiving the report to ensure that the C.P.I.C. Unit

has been notified by the Investigating Officer of any addition or modification that is required to be made onto the C.P.I.C. system.

3. Niagara Regional Police Service *General Order – 057- Vehicle Towing, Seizure and Release*, states, “it is the policy of the Service not to unnecessarily tow or detain any vehicle and to dispense with any vehicle lawfully detained in police custody as efficiently as possible, considering its need for evidential and investigative purposes.” Specific sections of this order identify the procedure to be followed when conducting a Police Tow for a stolen vehicle.

b) “...the status of service compliance with said procedures...”

The listed General Orders are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure compliance with the Adequacy Standards to ensure the most efficient manner of investigation of vehicle thefts.

Vehicle theft, attempted vehicle theft and recovered stolen vehicle investigations are assigned to detectives in the District where the incident occurred.

The Niagara Regional Police Service had one member attached to the Provincial Auto Theft Team, of which the Ontario Provincial Police, Organized Crime Section is the lead agency. In addition to Police Services the following agencies are also involved in this initiative: the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada Border Services, the Ministry of Transportation, the Insurance Crime Bureau and the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council.

The objective of the Provincial Auto Theft Team (PATT) is to investigate organized crime as it relates to enterprise vehicle theft, including heavy equipment.

As of the 1st of April 2011 the Niagara Member to the PATT unit has been returned to the Intelligence unit. The focus will now concentrate on stolen autos within the Niagara region. The Niagara Regional Police will continue to liaison with our partners.

During this reporting period - 413 stolen vehicles were stolen in the Niagara region.

In liaison with District Crime Analysts, the former PATT member monitors vehicle thefts, attempts and recoveries to identify trends or patterns.

Training for vehicle theft related incidents is provided by the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Ontario Police College, the Canadian Police College and specialized training by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.

This training includes:

- The General Investigative Techniques Course
- Ontario Major Case Management
- Vehicle Identifiers Course
- Vessel Identifiers Course

Conclusion:

This report is submitted to the Board for review and consideration of information relating to the Service's response to Vehicle Theft related incidents.

Relevant Policy Considerations:

**Provincial Adequacy Standards
Regulation, LE-043 - Vehicle Theft**

General Order – 187.02, Vehicle Theft.

**General Order – 095.06, Major Incidents
and Routine Criminal Investigations.**

**General Order – 034.04, Report
Submission.**

**General Order – 057, Vehicle Towing,
Seizure and Release.**

Cost of Recommendations:

**There are no costs associated to this
report.**

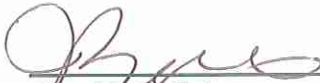
Alternative Options:

To not accept this report.

Reasons for Recommendation:

**To comply with the provisions of Police
Service Board By-Laws and to maintain
compliance with the Provincial
Adequacy Standards Regulations.**

Prepared by:



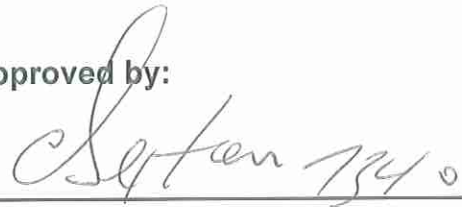
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Deputy Chief of Police

Respectfully submitted by:



Wendy E. Southall
Chief of Police