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Niagara Regional Police Service 137.

Chief of Police Wendy E. Southall

REPORT OF THE POLICE SERVICE

TO

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

Board Report Number: 154/2011
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 210 – 2000 – Witness Protection.

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 Witness Protection. Subsequent reports will follow annually to continue with this reporting process.

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By-Law 210 - 2000, a *By-Law Respecting Witness Protection*, was enacted as a result of *Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation, Law Enforcement 018 – Witness Protection*. 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 witness protection and security and witness assistance. The report shall include:

- a) A summary of the written procedures concerning witness protection, witness security and witness assistance;
- b) The status of Service compliance with the said procedures; and
- c) On an anonymous basis, the cost of witness protection and assistance.

It is the policy of this Service to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are informed of, and given access to, all rights and privileges accorded them by law, and that they are treated with respect, compassion and courtesy for their personal dignity and privacy. This Service is committed to the development, implementation and support of appropriate victim/witness assistance programs and activities.

When dealing with witnesses, consideration is given to the impact their testimony will have on the prosecution, the impact on the administration of justice and the potential for adverse consequences for the witness in their testimony, if any.

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

- a) **“...a summary of the written procedures concerning witness protection, witness security and witness assistance...”**

The written procedures were developed in order to comply with the *Adequacy Standards* and the Board By-Law. They are as follows:

- General Order 122.05 - Witness Protection and Security Program, and General Order 115.04 – Assistance for Victims and Witnesses

- b) **“...the status of Service compliance with the said procedures...”**

The Niagara Regional Police Service has complied with the “said procedures” by generating the listed General Orders. Members of the Service obtain specialized training regarding “witness protection” through courses provided by Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario (CISO) at the Ontario Police College. Those courses are identified as the Informant Development, the Intelligence Officer Course and the Witness Protection.

c) **“...on an anonymous basis, the cost of witness protection and assistance...”**

The costs incurred during witness protection will fluctuate on the merits of each case. During the current reporting period to the Board, the Witness Protection Program was not initiated. Therefore no costs were incurred.

Also, as in previous years an operating fund has been established. An operational account in the amount of \$2,500.00 has been created and is maintained by the witness protection officer. This fund has been put in place to cover immediate expenses with respect to relocation costs upon the initiation stages of a witness protection application.

Conclusion:

This report is submitted to the Board for review and consideration of information relating to Witness Security and Protection and the duties and obligations of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Relevant Policy Considerations:

By-Law No. 210–2000, A By-Law Respecting Witness Protection.

General Order – 122.05, Witness Protection and Security Program.

General Order – 115.04, Victim / Witness Assistance.

Cost of Recommendations:

There is no cost associated with this recommendation.

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:



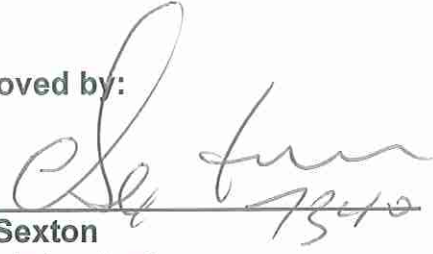
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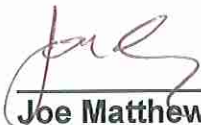
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Respectfully submitted by:



Wendy E. Southall
Chief of Police