



**PEEL POLICE SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023**

01-01-24

REGION OF PEEL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5TH FLOOR
10 PEEL CENTRE DRIVE, BRAMPTON, ONTARIO

The public meeting of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Service Board commenced at 10:03 a.m.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair N. Iannicca read an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: N. Iannicca, Chair
S. Kohli, Vice Chair
P. Brown
A. Attia
A. Boughton
L. Carby

Members Absent: B. Crombie

Others Present: N. Duraiappah, Chief, Peel Regional Police
M. Andrews, Deputy Chief, Community Policing
A. Odoardi, Deputy Chief, Innovation and Technology
N. Milinovich, Deputy Chief, Investigative and Emergency Support
M. Dapat, Deputy Chief, Community Safety & Wellbeing
L. Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Ottaway, Staff Superintendent, Executive Officer
C. Payette, Associate Deputy Chief
D. Niles, Staff Superintendent
H. Hiltz, Staff Superintendent
S. Wilmot, Legal Services
K. Doobay, Director, Finance
T. Wilson, Director Human Resources
R. Serpe, Executive Director, PSB
A. Suri, Manager, Board Operations, PSB

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST – NIL

CHIEF'S UPDATE

Chief Duraiappah shared that earlier that morning, a noteworthy provincial announcement took place at Peel Regional Police (PRP) headquarters, introducing a new grant named "Reduce, Enforce, and Protect Against Auto Theft." The primary goal of this grant is to diminish and eradicate auto thefts across the province. PRP secured a substantial \$900,000 in funding over a three-year period from this initiative. Chief Duraiappah highlighted that this financial support will play a pivotal role in bolstering PRP's capacity to enforce anti-auto theft measures in Peel Region.

He emphasized PRP's substantial investments in expanding the auto theft team and implementing various projects and initiatives dedicated to combating auto theft in the region. The grant, Chief Duraiappah noted, will facilitate the training of additional officers in auto theft within different divisions. It will also augment and fortify the investigative response to auto theft, encompassing both general cases and those handled by the commercial auto theft bureau.

The Chief characterized the announcement as significant, attracting policing partners from various municipalities who recognize auto theft as a complex, multi-jurisdictional issue. He briefly recounted a recent dramatic carjacking incident in Peel, wherein a vehicle stolen in Halton entered the region. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of Peel officers and air support from the York Regional Police Aviation Unit, they successfully apprehended the individual involved in the carjacking. Chief Duraiappah concluded by noting the alarming statistic that approximately 20 vehicle thefts occur daily in Peel, underscoring the pressing need for comprehensive efforts to address this issue.

Chief Duraiappah expressed gratitude to board members for their unwavering support of ongoing activities. He acknowledged the Board's participation in various community-related events, each with its unique capacity, and noted the consistent presence of the Board at these occasions. On behalf of the organization and its dedicated members, Chief Duraiappah conveyed tremendous appreciation for the continued support, especially during the busy season for such events.

Staff Superintendent H. Hiltz updated on the annual Festival R.I.D.E. program, emphasizing the dangers of impaired driving. In 2023, five fatal collisions occurred due to suspected impaired driving in Peel Region, highlighting the program's importance. The sobriety test program targets high-risk areas, operating from November 12, 2023, to January 3, 2024. With 24 officers dedicated, it resulted in 366 vehicle investigations and 19 impaired driving charges by November 21st.

Staff Superintendent Hiltz acknowledged the support from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), emphasizing the partnership's commitment to community safety. Peel's leadership in enhancing awareness of impaired driving was noted. To bolster road safety, the service has procured 280 additional screening devices for frontline officers, aligning with the Region's Vision Zero goal.

Deputy Chief Dapat briefed the Board on the Community Crisis Rapid Response Team Program, highlighting its collaboration with CMHA, Punjabi Community Health Services, and Roots. The program dispatches mental health professionals directly from communication centers for lower acuity calls, complementing existing initiatives for rapid response emergencies. In the second phase, starting on October 23rd, positive

outcomes were reported, with 50 calls diverted within the initial two weeks. This saved approximately 161 hours of frontline officer time, optimizing their focus on expertise-related matters. Deputy Chief Dapat emphasized the teams' effectiveness, with 96% of diverted calls handled by mental health professionals or support agencies, minimizing police intervention. He expressed optimism about the program's ongoing success and anticipated a comprehensive report by March 2024, concluding with gratitude for the board's attention and support.

Chief Duraiappah thanked Deputy Chief Dapat for updating on the Community Crisis Rapid Response Team program. He emphasized its unique nature in Ontario, noting challenges in relying on social service agencies for resources. Peel Regional Police's exceptional deployment was underscored, likely the only one in Ontario. Nationally, such initiatives are rare, and the CMHA partnership is significant. Chief Duraiappah appreciated the culturally responsive lens and established partnerships, recognizing the model's potential for Ministry consideration in other regions.

Deputy Chief Odoardi updated the Board by addressing the misuse of 911 calls, acknowledging discussions on potential fines. He thanked his team, specifically call takers, for their work in discouraging misuse, where 40% of calls are identified as such. Leading a provincial group for Next Generation 911 implementation, Deputy Chief Odoardi highlighted concerns submitted to the Solicitor General's office, exploring the possibility of fines. Environmental scans showed 911 fines in six provinces, but none in Ontario. Deputy Chief Odoardi assured ongoing exploration for a program to discourage misuse and potential fines, inviting S. Wilmot for legislative insights.

S. Wilmot clarified the proposed initiative as a regulatory or quasi-criminal offense, suggesting administering potential fines through the *Provincial Offenses Act*. She highlighted other provinces using this approach under provincial legislation, emphasizing the challenge for the board to administer directly due to the nature of the offense. S. Wilmot reaffirmed the achievability and significance of the approach, emphasizing the importance of provincial administration.

P. Brown expressed concerns about 911 misuse, acknowledging Deputy Chief Odoardi's efforts. He visited the 911 headquarters, and emphasized the challenges Peel Regional Police faces with unprecedented call volumes. P. Brown highlighted regional budget discussions on 911 wait times, linking issues to negligent calls contributing to the 40% misuse figure. Urging proactive measures, he stressed Peel's unique 911 operational challenges and advocated for exploring local options, suggesting fines for negligent calls, with proceeds supporting public safety. P. Brown drew parallels to fire services' fine practices, seeking clarification on provincial offenses related to negligent fire calls.

S. Wilmot clarified that a municipal bylaw offense would also be administered under the Provincial Offenses Act. If handled at the municipal level, it would be considered a regulatory offense, akin to a provincial offense.

P. Brown discussed the potential for a municipal bylaw offense for misuse of 911 calls, drawing parallels to his experience with a home alarm fine. He emphasized the appropriateness of fines for genuine misuse cases, acknowledging unintentional calls. P. Brown expressed the need to discourage misuse, especially in cases with ill intent, and suggested exploring this through a motion at Regional Council. He sought Deputy

Chief Odoardi's perspective on the feasibility and support for a regional-level bylaw offense to address inappropriate 911 usage.

Deputy Chief Odoardi expressed support for the proposal and conveyed the need for additional information before providing a definitive recommendation. He highlighted the importance of understanding factors such as the percentage of pocket dials and the impact on mental health-related distress calls. Deputy Chief Odoardi assured that the information could be gathered swiftly, with the superintendent in charge of communications currently exploring the topic in Alberta. He acknowledged Peel's unique pressures, agreeing on the necessity for an immediate and distinct approach to address inappropriate 911 usage. He committed to presenting a credible recommendation to the Board in the coming weeks.

A. Attia expressed interest in further exploring the proposal, citing the precedence in the region and P. Brown's remarks. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach, not only relying on fines but also incorporating educational campaigns to clarify the difference between emergency and non-emergency situations for residents. A. Attia commended the idea as interesting and suggested the Board should actively drive a more comprehensive response or proposal.

A. Boughton highlighted the importance of education, particularly in schools and diverse communities with English as a second language. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive package to help residents understand the difference between emergency and non-emergency situations. A. Boughton expressed concern about the significant number of calls, referencing data from 2022, and raised a question about the manpower involved in handling hang-up or cut-off 911 calls, seeking clarification on whether five full-time staff members are dedicated to this task.

Deputy Chief Odoardi clarified that the equivalent of five full-time communicators per month is dedicated to returning misuse 911 calls.

A. Boughton expressed support for P. Brown's position on addressing misuse of 911 calls. He acknowledged the financial impact, suggesting a mechanism to address repeat offenders with fines. A. Boughton emphasized the need for thoughtful consideration in implementing fines, avoiding disproportionate costs for minor fines. He highlighted the importance of finding a balance between reducing calls and penalizing those who misuse the system. A. Boughton echoed the significance of education in tandem with penalties, recognizing it as a crucial component in addressing the issue.

Deputy Chief Milinovich provided an update on the Peel Safe Center's expansion into Mississauga, which was announced on November 15th. He highlighted the significance of this expansion, considering that approximately 50% of their calls related to intimate partner violence are in Mississauga. Deputy Chief Milinovich expressed pride in the organization's collaboration with partners and the positive impact of the Peel Safe Center model. Board members congratulated him on the accomplishment, acknowledging the center's valuable work.

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS and/or ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair N. Iannicca having just returned from a meeting at Peel Regional Police (PRP) headquarters, where the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, made a funding announcement for PRP and the entire province, conveyed the Premier's heightened concern about the escalating auto theft crisis and the emerging issue of homes being broken into to gain access to vehicles.

Mayor Crombie expressed gratitude for the Provincial funding but raised concerns about its allocation, given the persistently high rate of auto theft in Peel Region. Given Peel's designation as the auto theft capital, she questioned the adequacy of the funding and sought clarification on how it would be utilized.

In response, Chief Duraiappah explained that PRP had been allocated \$900,000 out of the \$19 million designated for the entire province. He outlined that the funding would support the training of divisional officers, allowing them to assist in six-month rotations with PRP's auto theft unit. Additionally, it would contribute to hosting industry partners for the annual auto theft summit and bolster ongoing activities and efforts addressing auto theft.

Chair N. Iannicca, unable to attend the morning caucus session due to his presence at the Premier's announcement, delegated the remainder of the meeting to Vice Chair S. Kohli.

L. Carby expressed appreciation for Deputy Chief Milinovich's leadership in the partnership with the Peel Safe Center and commended the organization's expansion into Mississauga. L. Carby acknowledged the positive impact of the integrated services provided by the Safe Center, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships. He also highlighted a growing partnership with Acorn to Oak, led by Pastor Pat Francis, and commended Superintendent J. Colley's appointment to the board of that organization. L. Carby shared insights from a workshop hosted by the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance and the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, where PRP's Human Rights Project was recognized as a model for community engagement and safety. L. Carby expressed pride in Peel Regional Police's leadership in evolving policing practices and contributing to best practices in the field.

A. Attia sought Chief Duraiappah's perspective on the ongoing crisis in the Middle East and its impact on Peel residents. He specifically inquired about the rise of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in the region, highlighting the increased need for support from Peel Regional Police. A. Attia asked Chief Duraiappah to provide insights into how PRP has been supporting communities in navigating these challenges.

Chief Duraiappah acknowledged the impact of the crisis in the Middle East on Peel residents, particularly regarding the rise of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. He shared that there has been a 7% increase in reported hate crimes in Peel, emphasizing the challenges of underreporting and the fear of stigma. He highlighted proactive efforts, including the reassurance protocol, to address hate crimes and explained that officers conduct follow-up reassurance calls and mobilization teams saturate community centers, places of worship, and schools. He committed to dedicating resources to ensure public safety at peaceful gatherings and protests. Chief Duraiappah expressed

the ongoing commitment of Peel Regional Police to support the community in various capacities, responding to hate crimes and providing reassurance.

A. Attia raised a follow-up point regarding the recent motion at Mississauga City Council addressing issues of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian racism. He noted that while communities affected by Islamophobia and anti-Semitism have established lines of communication with PRP, there might be a need for additional outreach to the Palestinian community. A. Attia suggested that PRP consider reaching out to better understand the specific impacts and concerns of the Palestinian community, especially in relation to hate crimes and support needed.

Chief Duraiappah acknowledged the importance of proactively engaging with communities that may not have had natural pathways of communication with PRP. He emphasized that PRP welcomes any opportunity to reach out and engage with communities, especially those that may not have historically interacted with the police. Chief Duraiappah mentioned that PRP can independently engage with communities and encouraged them to contact PRP through the reassurance protocol on the public-facing website. He assured that PRP is willing to physically meet with communities in their places of worship, community centers, schools, or any organized setting to discuss what support and assistance they can provide.

L. Carby raised a follow-up question to Chief Duraiappah regarding the additional supports provided by PRP to the community in light of protests and demonstrations. He inquired about the potential impact on PRP's resources, specifically in terms of increased costs and the strain on officers providing support for these events.

Chief Duraiappah responded to L. Carby's question regarding the impact of providing additional support to the community during protests and demonstrations. Chief Duraiappah mentioned that the need to maintain public safety at such events involves deploying specially trained officers, particularly from the public order unit. He acknowledged the significant associated costs, with deployments for one weekend reaching up to \$60,000. He suggested that Deputy Chief Milinovich could provide more specific details on the financial impact.

Deputy Chief Milinovich responded to L. Carby's question regarding the impact of providing additional support to the community during protests and demonstrations. Deputy Chief Milinovich affirmed that it does create a draw on personnel and staffing. He provided context by stating that since 2020, the public order unit and officers managing such events have invested over 30,000 hours, equivalent to about 250 40-hour work weeks. Due to these pressures, there is an expansion in the unit to grow responsibly and manage the challenges presented.

L. Carby shared information regarding the postponement of consultations for the Governance and Human Rights Committee. He informed the audience that the consultations initially planned for November 28th have been rescheduled to early 2024, with additional consultations scheduled for the new year.

Vice-Chair S. Kohli acknowledged the Peel Police basketball team for winning the Teamwork Award at the Association of Black Law Enforcers (ABLE) gala. She commended the team for their community engagement and outreach efforts, extending her congratulations and inviting any comments or remarks.

Deputy Chief Andrews expressed gratitude for the recognition of the Peel Police basketball team at the ABLE Gala. He highlighted the team's collective efforts over the past 30 years, including engagement in numerous basketball games against high schools and fundraising for various causes. He acknowledged the team's impact in building authentic relationships with young people in the community, and he thanked the entire team and the board for their support over the years.

Vice Chair S. Kohli commended the successful Pride Gala held in the region of Peel since the last board meeting. She acknowledged the Chief's leadership and requested Deputy Chief A. Odoardi to provide a brief update on the event.

Deputy Chief A. Odoardi reported that on October 21st, the largest "Serving with Pride Gala" was held, with attendance almost doubling from the previous year. Approximately 500 justice professionals gathered in Brampton to celebrate and support justice professionals across public safety in the province. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to host the event and looks forward to contributing to next year's gala.

Vice Chair S. Kohli mentioned that the Police South Asian Collective ISN Gala was a sold-out event with significant community organization participation. She acknowledged the hard work of the ISN team and gave a shout-out to co-chairs A/Insp Chris Krause and Sgt. Manjit Basran and the organizing committee including Inspector Harry Dhillon, S/Sgt. Paul Dhillon, A/Insp. Darren Doody and Det. Anthony Mendonca. She further commended the team for their ongoing work on the South Asian Collective and strategy and thanked everyone involved.

Deputy Chief Andrews expressed gratitude for the successful Police South Asian Collective ISN Gala. He acknowledged Inspector Harry Dhillon's leadership and the team's efforts, emphasizing the importance of connecting with the South Asian community in a meaningful way. He highlighted the significance of the gala and the broader South Asian initiative, recognizing the opportunities for future community engagement and service delivery.

Vice Chair S. Kohli expressed gratitude for the many Service Awards events, acknowledging the dedication and hard work of numerous individuals at Peel Regional Police. She specifically mentioned the 40-year Service Awards, highlighting the significant contributions of those with long-standing service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting held October 20, 2023.

Resolution:

That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Friday, October 20, 2023 be adopted as read.

Moved by: A. Boughton

Seconded by: P. Brown

CARRIED 01-11-23

DEPUTATIONS

2. No deputations were received for the Board meeting
3. **Fifty Years of Peel Regional Police** - Presentation provided by K. Cranley, Staff Sergeant and Regimental Sergeant Major, and Staff Sergeant T. Noonan, Peel Regional Police.

Resolution:

That the presentation be received.

Moved by: A. Boughton

Seconded by: A. Attia

CARRIED 03-11-23

NEW BUSINESS

4. **Police Records Check System – Rogue Data Corporation Contract Renewal. Document #2018-039P** – The Board considered a report dated October 25, 2023, by Deputy Chief A. Odoardi, Innovation and Technology Command, providing the Board with the request for the approval of the contract renewal with Rogue Data Corporation.

Resolution:

That PSB approves the renewal of Rogue Data Corporation contract for Police Online Records Check on an annual basis for the remaining operational lifecycle of the system based on satisfactory service, performance, and pricing until February 2030.

Moved by: A. Attia

Seconded by: L. Carby

CARRIED 04-11-23

5. **Peel Police Services Board – 2024 Proposed Schedule of Section 31 Meetings** – The Board considered a report dated November 3, 2023 from R. Serpe, Executive Director providing the Board with the Proposed PPSB Meeting Schedule for 2024.

Resolution:

That the Board adopt the 2024 Peel Police Services Board Meeting schedule as proposed.

Moved by: A. Attia

Seconded by: A. Boughton

CARRIED 05-11-23

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

The public portion of the Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Sumesta Kohli

S. Kohli, Vice Chair



R. Serpe, Executive Director