



**PEEL POLICE SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024**

01-02-24

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 10:05 a.m.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice-Chair S. Kohli read an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: N. Iannicca, Chair

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
C.L. Holmes, Associate Deputy Chief
R. Serpe, Executive Director, PSB
A. Suri, Manager, Board Operations, PSB

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Chair N. Iannicca was present for the Board's caucus session but unable to attend the Board meeting. Vice-Chair S. Kohli assumed the Chair and announced the Board's decision to re-elect N. Iannicca as Chair and S. Kohli as Vice-Chair of the Peel Police Service Board for the year 2024.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST – NIL

CHIEF'S UPDATE

Chief N. Duraiappah extended his warm wishes for a Happy New Year to the Board. He congratulated Vice-Chair Kohli and Chair Iannicca on their re-election, expressing enthusiasm for continuing to work with them. He also acknowledged Councillor Mahoney and expressed eagerness to collaborate with him and the Board.

Superintendent H. Hiltz presented the Board with comprehensive updates and final statistics related to this year's Festival Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program. The RIDE program, which commenced on November 12, 2023, and concluded on January 3, 2024, involved the commitment of 24 officers, supported by members throughout the campaign. Superintendent H. Hiltz reported that a total of 12,472 vehicles were investigated during the program, resulting in 4,123 roadside tests. Notably, 117 individuals faced charges for impaired driving-related offenses. Superintendent H. Hiltz highlighted two specific instances where RIDE investigations led to the seizure of two loaded prohibitive firearms of interest. One of these firearms was identified as a loaded Glock 9-mil style 3D-printed ghost gun with an attached laser sight, featuring a loaded round in the chamber and a magazine holding 17 rounds of ammunition. Superintendent H. Hiltz took the opportunity to commend and recognize all participating members for their dedication and commitment to community safety, road safety, and the region's Vision Zero goal.

Deputy Chief A. Odoardi updated the Board by acknowledging the sensitivity of the 911 Communication Center, emphasizing its crucial role as the first point of contact for individuals in distress. Deputy Chief Odoardi shared that last year, the Peel Regional Police call center received over 1 million calls, reflecting a significant 22% increase from the previous year. Notably, 750,000 of these calls were 911 emergencies, underscoring the critical nature of the service. He addressed concerns about misuse, focusing on non-emergency pocket dials and calls that did not meet the criteria for a 911 emergency response. In response to these challenges, Deputy Chief Odoardi reported a 20-second, 17% reduction in total call wait times over the past year, with ongoing strategies to further improve this metric. He mentioned the proactive steps taken in the early part of the year and anticipates a more substantial decrease in call wait times with the implementation of Next Generation 911 technology in March 2024. The Deputy Chief also highlighted ongoing collaboration with Regional Council on matters related to 911 fines and misuse, with discussions informed by research from other areas. He concluded his update by reaffirming the commitment of the team and the Communication Center staff, to addressing 911 challenges and enhancing public safety.

A. Boughton shared his recent experience of spending a day doing a shift at the 911 Communication Center. He expressed his initial impression of the center, noting that on previous visits, he had only observed from a distance. However, this time, wearing a set of headphones for an entire shift provided a new perspective on the dedication and professionalism of the staff. He commended the efficient manner in which the operators cleared bad 911 calls, often within 8 to 10 seconds, including call-backs for hang-up calls. He highlighted the staff's impressive handling of emergency calls, particularly a case involving a report of an attempted murder. He emphasized the level of professionalism that left him thoroughly impressed.

Acknowledging the challenges of addressing the high volume of non-emergency calls, A. Boughton emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach, including facilities, hardware, software, and personnel. He pointed out the difficulty in issuing invoices for misuse 911 calls, citing the impracticality of spending significant administrative resources on relatively small fines. He underscored the importance of education, advocating for community-wide efforts through advertisements on various platforms. A. Boughton commended the entire team at the Communication Center for their exceptional work.

Deputy Chief N. Milinovich provided an update on the planning for the second annual Auto Summit, scheduled for March 20th. Deputy Chief Milinovich conveyed enthusiasm about the positive momentum generated by the summit, noting its growth and increased inclusivity with more industry stakeholders and voices participating. He emphasized the importance of collaboration beyond enforcement, highlighting that the summit would bring together partners and stakeholders capable of making substantial changes to address the issues at hand. Deputy Chief Milinovich credited the advocacy and efforts of the Board and the Police Service, pointing out that the momentum and opportunities to share concerns had increased, as evidenced by the upcoming Federal summit on February 8th. He expressed confidence that these collaborative initiatives would contribute to genuine change in addressing critical issues.

P. Brown expressed gratitude, acknowledging Deputy Chief Milinovich's extraordinary efforts on the auto theft file. He noted that the upcoming Federal Auto Theft Summit on February 8, to which both he and Deputy Chief Milinovich had been invited. He highlighted the widespread struggle with auto thefts and emphasized that it extends beyond local concerns, recognizing it as a broader Central Canada problem. He commended Deputy Chief Milinovich for his advocacy, detailing instances where he briefed the former Public Safety Minister, the Attorney General, and visited the Port of Montreal, showcasing a superior knowledge set compared to other police leaders in the country. P. Brown expressed pride in Peel's leadership role in addressing the national crisis of auto thefts, a billion-dollar industry for organized crime. He expressed hope that the advice provided on February 8 would be heeded, leading to effective solutions. He concluded by expressing optimism and a sense of pride in the Peel Police as a leading entity in the country for innovative solutions. Additionally, he expressed the desire for CBSA to be invited to the March 20 Summit.

A. Boughton commended Deputy Chief Milinovich for a remarkable job and recalled a prior conversation urging a visit to the Port of Montreal. A. Boughton highlighted significant findings, mentioning the deputy's random check of 72 containers, revealing 110 vehicles. Reference was made to a past Auto Summit where an MP suggested opening every container, prompting a discussion on its feasibility. A. Boughton noted

the Port of Montreal's perspective, stating that they consider the issue not solely theirs but a collective problem, emphasizing the responsibility to prevent stolen cars from being shipped. A. Boughton encouraged the deputy to share insights on the Port of Montreal experience, seeking ways to enhance collaboration and implement effective measures, such as container inspections and X-ray scans, to improve outcomes and reduce auto theft numbers.

Deputy Chief Milinovich confirmed that he had personally visited the Port of Montreal, acknowledging it as a bustling and expansive location. He emphasized the Port's vulnerability as a significant and readily addressable issue. He highlighted the potential for immediate improvement and noted the considerable resources dedicated to the local auto theft unit, asserting that if CBSA could allocate even a fraction of these resources exclusively for container inspections, it could result in the recovery of tens of millions of dollars' worth of vehicles. Deputy Chief Milinovich underscored the practicality and urgency of addressing this vulnerability to mitigate auto theft.

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS and/or ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair S. Kohli welcomed the Board's newest member Councillor Matt Mahoney to his first Board meeting. She thanked Bonnie Crombie for her contribution to the Board and for her service as Mayor of Mississauga.

Vice Chair S. Kohli acknowledged that January was Crimestoppers Month and extended her sincere appreciation to Peel Crimestoppers for their commendable contributions to the community and steadfast support of Peel Regional Police.

Vice Chair S. Kohli congratulated PRP on the kickoff for the 50 year celebrations for Peel Regional Police.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting held November 24, 2023.

Resolution:

That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Friday, November 24, 2023 be adopted as read.

Moved by: A. Boughton

Seconded by: L. Carby

CARRIED 01-01-24

DEPUTATIONS

2. No deputations were received for the Board meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

3. No presentations were received for the Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

4. **2024 User Fees** – The Board considered a report dated January 3, 2024 from L. Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer, Deputy Chief, Corporate Services Command, providing the Board with the 2024 User Fees Report.

Resolution:

That the report be approved

Moved by: M. Mahoney

Seconded by: L. Carby

CARRIED 04-01-23

5. **Annual Body Worn Camera Report** – The Board considered a report dated January 11, 2024 from Deputy Chief A. Odoardi, Innovation & Technology Command, providing the Board with the 2023 annual body worn camera report.

Resolution:

That the report be received.

Deputy Chief A. Odoardi highlighted that approximately 200 new users have been added to the body worn camera program and compliance rates have been maintained. He reported that the redaction team redacted over 700,000 pieces of evidence and collected over 800,000 recordings and interactions. The work being done on the digital evidence management system will be presented to the Board in next year's report. He further stated that they continue to work closely with the community on developing new policies and best practices with respect to body worn cameras.

A. Attia asked if there was a specific reason why we see lower compliance rates at the airport.

Deputy Chief A. Odoardi offered an update, emphasizing ongoing investigations into random audits that could highlight areas of non-compliance at the airport. He underscored the importance of understanding that there are five components assessed for full compliance, and an officer must meet all five for full compliance to be achieved. Deputy Chief A. Odoardi noted that in other jurisdictions, meeting three out of the five components is considered full compliance. However, he pointed out that PRP consistently exceeds compliance rates in comparison to other jurisdictions. The Deputy Chief assured the board that active investigations are underway to address and resolve this discrepancy.

A. Attia inquired what reasons would be given for rejecting a freedom of information request.

Deputy Chief Odoardi addressed the Board, emphasizing the stringent criteria for releasing footage. He explained, "First and foremost, it starts with the privacy and the requestor. If there's an individual not involved in the particular circumstance and it is not of public interest, indicating it's not suitable for public release, the request would be denied. In cases where we cannot redact the video sufficiently to protect the identification of an individual, we would similarly refrain from releasing it." Deputy Chief Odoardi went on to highlight the third, and less common, reason for denial, which is the absence of a nexus to an event of public interest. He noted that this reason is infrequently used, and any cases falling under this category are typically escalated to him. Deputy Chief Odoardi clarified, "We have not received any of those requests, so those would not have been included in our responses."

A. Attia raised a hypothetical scenario, inquiring on behalf of a journalist or a curious member of the public who is not directly involved in an incident. A. Attia sought clarification on whether the existing policy permits individuals in such a scenario to access the relevant footage for better understanding or investigation.

In response to a query, Deputy Chief Odoardi clarified, "The policy allows for public interest requests for public release, falling under a distinct section, just under Section D. Presently, there have been no received requests for public release based on public interest." Deputy Chief A. Odoardi, in his explanation, offered clarity on the absence of such requests in this category, detailing the relevant policy and procedures.

A. Attia requested clarification on the difference of Section C and D of the report.

Deputy Chief Odoardi explained, "The number of requests made by a member of the public to view body-worn camera footage is generally set aside for community members involved in interactions where body-worn cameras were used. They meet criteria and go to a division, with Peel Regional Police being one of the agencies facilitating this process." He continued, "Regarding the number of body-worn camera recordings released to the public by the service, there were no requests apart from one made for international award recognition. This statistic speaks for itself."

In response to another question regarding the release of footage to legal counsel representing individuals involved in court cases, Deputy Chief Odoardi clarified, "At the earliest onset, within two weeks of a charge being filed, our team handles redactions and provides access through evidence.com, a proprietary digital evidence management tool. This access is granted to both the Crown's office and defense office for copies of the videos."

A. Boughton addressed the board, expressing concern over recent news regarding community resistance to implementing body-worn cameras (BWCs) in other police services outside of Peel. He stated, "We've been involved with BWCs for three years now, essentially since 2020 when our pilot began. We're now entering our fourth year."

Referring to the report, A. Boughton highlighted the section on costs and savings, noting that a revised agreement with Axon has been signed, which will include additional features. He raised questions about the funding and the lifespan of the BWCs worn by officers, asking, "How often are we going to have to upgrade? Will that be part of the forthcoming report in early 2024?"

He continued, seeking clarification on whether the report would include information on the useful life of the BWCs, potential upgrades, and the relationship between costs and ongoing maintenance. A. Boughton emphasized the importance of understanding the long-term financial implications, including how they relate to the costs of digital evidence management systems (DEMS) moving forward.

Deputy Chief Odoardi provided an update, stating, "Due to the high compliance and usage of body-worn cameras in our region, we realized that our storage capacity would likely be insufficient in the coming years." He explained that a new cost-saving approach was agreed upon to address this issue, ensuring more data for less money. Additionally, Deputy Chief Odoardi highlighted that body-worn camera hardware and software are now on an evergreening cycle, with costs included in the contract. He emphasized that there will be no further additional cost to the service for these upgrades, which occur every two to three years. Furthermore, Deputy Chief Odoardi mentioned that additional features will allow the examination of body-worn camera footage in conjunction with community input and exploration of artificial intelligence for expedited redaction. He referenced insights from the IACP conference regarding the significant storage requirements for body-worn camera data, highlighting the importance of understanding storage needs and associated costs.

Addressing future plans, Deputy Chief Odoardi confirmed that the storage agreement in place allows for unlimited storage of body-worn camera data at no extra cost. He assured the Board that these aspects would be further detailed in the upcoming report. In addition, Deputy Chief Odoardi proposed moving the Police Services Board report to a February meeting for the year 2024 reporting in 2025 to allow for a deeper analysis with the extra information provided after the December break.

A. Attia addressed the section on complaints and discipline, seeking clarification on the second sentence, which stated, "There were 46 public complaints in which BWC was utilized, and zero complaints were substantiated," Attia inquired whether this meant that 46 public complaints were made but unsubstantiated due to BWC footage or if it referred to 46 complaints of BWC misuse.

Deputy Chief Odoardi clarified, stating, "That should be reworded. There were 46 public complaints in which body-worn camera was used to assist the investigation, and those investigations were unsubstantiated for conduct against officers."

A. Attia acknowledged the significance of this aspect, highlighting its importance for both the community and officers. He emphasized the role of transparency and expressed satisfaction that the investigations, supported by BWC footage, often resulted in unsubstantiated complaints.

A. Attia inquired whether there were public complaints where BWC was not used, thus preventing investigation with BWC footage.

Deputy Chief Odoardi stated that there were no complaints in which body-worn camera was deemed not to be used in a complaint."

Mr. Len Carby expressed gratitude for the report and raised a specific item concerning a survey intended to gauge public trust regarding the use of body-worn cameras. He requested further details on the process, particularly regarding its collaboration with the Ontario Human Rights Project (OHRC) project.

In response, Deputy Chief Odoardi elaborated on the extensive preparatory work undertaken, including discussions with academic partners to develop a suitable methodology. Superintendent D. Niles provided additional insights, explaining the complexities involved in designing the survey methodology, particularly in quantifying qualitative information related to procedural justice. He affirmed that the study was in progress, with Dr. A. Luscombe and Professor A. Owusu-Bempah actively developing the framework, including elements such as voice neutrality, trust, and respect. Superintendent Niles assured that the survey would align with recommendations for accountability and monitoring, as outlined in the OHRC project's multi-year plan, with completion expected by the end of the calendar year.

Moved by: A. Boughton

Seconded by: A. Attia

CARRIED 05-01-24

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

The public portion of the Board meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Sumesta Kohli

S. Kohli, Vice Chair

R. Serpe

R. Serpe, Executive Director