

01-11-22-24



**PEEL POLICE SERVICE BOARD
PUBLIC MINUTES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

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 10:02 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. Boughton
L. Carby
C. Parrish
O. Khan

Members Absent: None

Others Present: N. Duraiappah, Chief, Peel Regional Police
M. Andrews, DC, Community Policing
A. Odoardi, DC, Innovation & Technology
N. Milinovich, DC, Investigative & Emergency Services
L. Jackson, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Ottaway, Staff Superintendent, Executive Officer
K. Doobay, Director, Finance
C.L. Holmes, Associate DC
R. Serpe, Executive Director, PSB
A. Suri, Manager, Board Operations, PSB
S. Yasseen, Executive Assistant, PSB

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT/PECUNIARY INTEREST – NIL

CHIEF'S UPDATE

Deputy Chief (DC) N. Milinovich provided an update on two investigations involving Peel Regional Police (PRP).

Project Sledgehammer & Project Midnight

DC N. Milinovich provided an update on Project Sledgehammer, an investigation that focused on illegal firearms possession. The investigation led to the recovery of 11 firearms and several devices capable of converting handguns to fully automatic weapons. He expressed his appreciation to the entire investigative team for their work, as well as to the Board for the ongoing support.

DC N. Milinovich updated on Project Midnight, a joint operation with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), addressing a series of violent incidents in Caledon and Peel last year. These incidents led to two tragic deaths, injuries to a young girl, and multiple shootings. On October 17, 2024, representatives from PRP presented the results in Los Angeles with U.S. partners, including the FBI. The operation led to indictments for those responsible for the homicides, including a key suspect linked to a Mexican cartel trafficking large quantities of drugs into Canada. The success of Project Midnight underscores the expertise and commitment of PRP in protecting the community.

Project Tallahassee

DC M. Andrews provided an update on Project Tallahassee, an auto theft investigation by the Airport Criminal Investigative Bureau (CIB). Earlier this year, CIB identified a group targeting parking lots around Pearson Airport. From May to September 2024, 77 car thefts were linked to this group. Working with Toronto and Halton Police, 50% of the vehicles were recovered in Montreal containers, resulting in 9 arrests and 135 charges. The remaining cars are believed to have been shipped abroad. This project highlights the cross-regional nature and costs of crime at high-traffic areas like Pearson Airport, which serves 50 million travelers annually.

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS and/or ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Vice Chair S. Kohli extended wishes for a happy Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas, noting that while the celebrations last two days, in Canada, they proudly continue throughout the month.

L. Carby reported on a recent visit to the Communications Center, highlighting improvements like Next Generation 911 (NG911), which has reduced call times, boosted staff morale, and lightened workloads. L. Carby thanked Inspector M. Noble and Staff Superintendent D. Niles for organizing the tour and noted the benefits of the Community Safety Operations Centre and vulnerable individuals registry, which help locate missing persons faster by tracking movement patterns. L. Carby recommended enhancing the registry and engaging the public for greater community safety. Chair N. Iannicca added that PRP adopted advanced 911 technology ahead of most other services in Canada, though limited local media coverage has kept public awareness low.

Chief N. Duraiappah emphasized that all 3,500 PRP members are dedicated to serving Peel's residents and noted that part of PRP's role is to advocate for provincial and federal resources. He thanked the Board for its support last year in funding investments and infrastructure, which has successfully reduced call center wait times.

DC A. Odoardi noted that three years ago, PRP adopted the NG911 technology to reduce long 911 hold times. Despite challenges, the Communications team adapted quickly, allowing PRP to implement NG911 three years ahead of the federal mandate. As a result, 911 calls are now answered in 10-12 seconds, compared to 12-minute waits in nearby regions.

Chair N. Iannicca reported that he, the Chief, and Rob Serpe attended and presented to an audience of 500 peers at the 2024 Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Halifax. He received positive feedback from attendees, who praised Peel's progressive leadership, and expressed pride in PRP and its 3,500 members for their dedication and innovation. He also apologized for missing Mississauga's 50th-anniversary event due to prior commitments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the Board Meeting held September 27, 2024.

Resolution:

That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Friday, September 27, 2024, be adopted as read.

Moved by: P. Brown
 Seconded by: S. Kohli

CARRIED 01-11-01-24

DEPUTATIONS

- No depositions were received for the Board meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

- Homicide and Missing Persons Presentation** – Inspector T. Custance and Detective Sergeant M. Mavity provided the Homicide and Missing Persons Presentation.

Vice Chair S. Kohli expressed gratitude for the dedication and expertise involved in solving homicides. She acknowledged the leadership of Chief N. Duraiappah and DC N. Milinovich, highlighting the team's tireless behind-the-scenes efforts, from reviewing footage to adapting to new technology. This commitment and adaptability, often unseen by the public, exemplify the team's dedication to justice and public safety in the region.

L. Carby thanked PRP for their efforts in solving crimes, emphasizing the work involved in tracking vehicles from crime scenes. He highlighted the importance of community engagement, noting how doorbell camera footage from residents aids investigations. L. Carby also raised concerns about the influx of U.S. firearms and sought insights on addressing the issue, asking how the community can support efforts to prevent illegal guns from entering the region.

Inspector T. Custance emphasized that community cooperation is essential in every homicide investigation, whether or not video footage is available. He noted that community members often provide critical evidence, including video, eyewitness testimony, social media links, and other information, which has been vital in solving cases.

DC N. Milinovich reported that firearms are a growing issue in the community, fueling homicides and shootings. This year, record firearm seizures were achieved through initiatives like Project 24K, Project Chrome, and U.S. partnerships. PRP is advocating for increased CBSA resources to intercept firearms at the border. He noted that those arrested for firearm offenses, including

robberies and homicides, often have violent histories. He emphasized that PRP leadership and the Board are actively pushing for policies targeting repeat violent offenders.

Chief N. Duraiappah recognized the human side of homicide investigations, noting that officers like Inspector T. Custance and Detective Sergeant M. Mavity form lasting bonds with grieving families. He demonstrated that this reflects the character of PRP officers. Chief N. Duraiappah thanked the entire team for their dedication, acknowledging that while homicides are rare, their impact is profound.

A. Boughton referenced the Henderson murder, sharing that he is close friends with the family. He noted the family's deep appreciation for the support and response of the officers involved. A. Boughton echoed the Chief's remarks on the compassion of officers handling homicide cases, citing the Henderson case as a firsthand example. He commended the homicide team for their dedication and hard work.

Resolution:

That the presentation be received.

Moved by: L. Carby
Seconded by: A. Boughton

CARRIED 3.1-11-01-24

3.2 Project Lantern – Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Presentation – J. Versluis, Mgr. Community Safety & Well-Being, Sgt. J. Vandenbrink and Katie Griffiths, Director of Community Services at the Alzheimer's Society presented information on Project Lantern.

Vice Chair S. Kohli attended the launch of Project Lantern, highlighting the registry's importance for families of aging parents, particularly those with Alzheimer's or dementia, in quickly locating missing individuals. She praised the Alzheimer Society of Peel for its extensive programs and community outreach, even for those not yet diagnosed. She thanked everyone involved and urged greater awareness and participation in this free, valuable community resource.

L. Carby asked K. Griffiths from the Alzheimer Society of Peel to share insights on PRP's improved capacity to handle support-focused situations over criminal apprehensions. He noted the evolution of officer training to address non-criminal cases and sought K. Griffiths' perspective on their growing ability to provide social service-level support.

K. Griffiths noted that many families hesitate to call the police due to the stigma around Alzheimer's, fearing punitive outcomes. However, PRP's compassionate approach and real-time support during home visits have reassured families. She highlighted that officers' awareness of the Alzheimer Society of Peel's programs helps build trust and confidence in their support.

Resolution:

That the presentation be received.

Moved by: C. Parrish
Seconded by: P. Brown

CARRIED 3.2-11-01-24

3.3 2025 Peel Regional Police - Budget Presentation – Chief N. Duraiappah presented the 2025 Budget.

A. Boughton, Chair of the Board's Finance and Collective Bargaining Committees, opened the 2025 budget presentation by affirming the Board's commitment to the safety and well-being of Peel Region. He explained that the budget is a strategic response to growing safety needs, addressing rising response times, mental health crises, and crime prevention. Key investments include technology, staffing, and specialized units to combat issues like auto theft, intimate partner violence, and organized crime. He highlighted the successful completion of collective bargaining, ensuring a stable workforce vital for effective policing. While acknowledging fiscal constraints, he emphasized that public safety remains the top priority, with the budget focused on long-term sustainability and future readiness.

P. Brown referenced a per capita slide from the presentation, voicing concerns about Peel's large underreported population and the growing impact of organized crime. He highlighted that Peel is short by 600 officers compared to Toronto, noting that while Toronto's police union cites inadequate staffing, Peel's situation is even more critical. P. Brown sought clarification on why PRP cannot address this staffing gap and requested an explanation of the limitations imposed by the college.

Chief N. Duraiappah explained that PRP is grappling with the impact of past decisions and urgently needs to recruit 600 officers. However, onboarding at this scale is nearly impossible due to training capacity constraints, even with additional training seats provided by the province. He warned of an emerging public safety crisis, with current service levels falling short of community needs. Chief N. Duraiappah expressed confidence that, with adequate resources, PRP can significantly improve service delivery over time. He emphasized that the solution for Peel is clear: more officers are essential to meet local demands.

P. Brown acknowledged that, with adequate resources, strong leadership can address critical challenges, as demonstrated by last year's 911 improvements. However, PRP is currently at a disadvantage, operating with fewer officers than neighboring regions and barely meeting minimum service levels due to historical underfunding. He asked for clarification on which critical calls might be affected by these limitations and how the proposed budget will prioritize essential responses, particularly for domestic violence. P. Brown referenced a CBC report highlighting a 270% increase in intimate partner violence (IPV) cases in Peel, with calls rising from 9,000 to nearly 18,000 annually.

Chief N. Duraiappah emphasized that PRP must prioritize calls carefully due to limited resources, which cannot meet all community demands. He highlighted recent efforts to address intimate partner violence (IPV), leading to reduced femicides and the upcoming opening of a Safe Centre in Mississauga to improve access to support. While response times for high-priority incidents, such as "priority one" and "priority two" calls, are expected to improve, lower-priority calls, like minor property crimes or neighbor disputes, may still face delays.

Chief N. Duraiappah noted a significant rise in non-criminal calls, including mental health crises and homelessness-related incidents, which consume substantial time and resources, impacting responses to quality-of-life issues. He assured that, with adequate resources, PRP could better address the community's highest-priority needs and, in the meantime, will focus on calls with the greatest potential for harm.

P. Brown expressed his support for the budget, acknowledging it was a difficult decision. He highlighted the unique challenges of policing in Peel, where officers often handle multiple calls simultaneously, unlike smaller cities. He also reflected on the loss of seven officers in Canada last year, emphasizing the importance of ensuring officer safety while protecting the community.

C. Parrish thanked the Board's Executive Director, R. Serpe, for addressing her budget-related questions. She acknowledged that while approving the budget at Regional Council will be challenging, it sets the tone for another demanding year ahead.

C. Parrish proposed establishing a small sub station in Malton with a platoon of 30–40 officers to serve the airport area and Malton's unique jurisdiction. She highlighted the success of increased police presence during Diwali on October 31, 2024, which ensured peace at Westwood Square through additional patrols and security measures. She also noted the positive impact of the youth hub established after the 2019 Jonathan Davis shooting, which officers credit with reducing crime. With another youth hub in development in Mississauga, she emphasized that Malton would greatly benefit from a permanent police base to ensure consistent and visible deployment.

Chief N. Duraiappah acknowledged that Malton is underserved, particularly in maintaining a consistent police presence. He stated that securing a dedicated deployment location in Malton would significantly enhance PRP's ability to provide effective coverage. Options are currently being explored, either utilizing a facility near the airport or identifying an alternative location.

DC M. Andrews shared that a long-term solution is being developed in collaboration with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), with a meeting planned in December to discuss a new dual-purpose facility. In the meantime, efforts are underway to deploy officers to Malton from the existing shared airport facility. While this interim measure won't provide the desired level of presence, it represents an important first step.

C. Parrish requested statistics on shoplifting and petty crime since the youth hub in Malton opened, noting the hub's significant impact, including providing daily meals for 300 children arriving at school without breakfast or lunch, funded by the city. She emphasized that these statistics would be valuable in securing additional funding from the Provincial government to support youth hub programs. While expressing criticism of this year's budget, C. Parrish acknowledged and thanked PRP for their dedicated work in ensuring public safety.

O. Khan recognized that the 2025 budget addresses the Region's growing public safety needs while equipping PRP to serve its diverse population effectively. He commended the budget for balancing fiscal responsibility, legal obligations, and community trust, ensuring alignment with the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) mandate and strengthening public safety.

O. Khan expressed his support for the budget and thanked DC N. Milinovich for the tour of the 180 Derry Road facility. He also extended his appreciation to PRP staff and A. Boughton from the Board for their contributions to the budget presentation.

The Chair called for receipt of the Budget presentation and C. Parrish asked that the minutes reflect that she abstained from the vote.

Resolution:

That the presentation be received.

Moved by: A. Boughton
Seconded by: L. Carby

CARRIED 3.3-11-01-24

NEW BUSINESS

4. **Microsoft EA/SCE Agreement Purchase Order Increase** – The Board considered a report dated September 20, 2024, from DC A. Odoardi, Innovation & Technology Command providing the Board with the request to extend the contract with Dell Canada for the supply of Microsoft Enterprise licenses for PRP.

Resolution:

That PSB approve the extension of contract (Document 2022-521T) for the supply of Microsoft Enterprise licenses for Peel Regional Police (PRP), awarded to Dell Canada Inc., be increased by \$3,000,000 (excluding applicable taxes) for a new contract total of \$9,735,133.19 (exclusive of applicable taxes).

And further, that subject to budget availability, PSB grant authority to the Chief Administrative Officer, Peel Regional Police to increase the contract if actual estimates exceed estimated quantities.

Moved by: S. Kohli
 Seconded by: A. Boughton

CARRIED 04-11-01-24

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**IN CAMERA SESSION**


N. Ianniccaa, Chair



R. Serpe, Executive Director