



**BY-LAW NO. 406-2024**

**A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH POLICY  
FOR CITIZEN REWARDS BY THE NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE**

**1. PREAMBLE**

- 1.1 WHEREAS subsection 37 (1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, ("CSPA")*, as amended, provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by Section 10 of the CSPA;
- 1.2 AND WHEREAS subsection 38 (2) of the CSPA provides that the Police Services Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing;
- 1.3 AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Chief of Police of the Niagara Regional Police Service to administer the policing services of the Regional Municipality of Niagara in accordance with the policies, priorities and objectives established by the Niagara Police Service Board;
- 1.4 AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Chief of Police to develop the necessary procedures to ensure compliance with Board policies and effective operations of the police service;
- 1.5 AND WHEREAS the payment of rewards to citizens in order to assist police in investigating crimes is sometimes considered necessary and advisable.

NOW THEREFORE THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICE BOARD ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

**2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 "Act" or "CSPA" means the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*, and amendments thereto;
- 2.2 "Board" means the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board;
- 2.3 "Chief of Police" or "Chief" means the Chief of the Niagara Regional Police Service;
- 2.4 "Law Enforcement" means policing, or any public sector organization whose employees or members can conduct investigations or inspections that lead or could lead to proceedings in a court or tribunal if a penalty or sanction of incarceration could be imposed in those proceedings;

- 2.5 “*Member*” means a Member of the Service, a Board employee, or a Member of the Board;
- 2.6 “*Relative*” means a person who is a wife, husband, common law spouse (as defined in the Family Law Act, R.S.O. 1990), same sex spouse (either married or living together in a conjugal relationship for at least three months), child, parent, sibling, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparents of wife, husband, spouse or same sex spouse as defined above, grandchildren, grandparents, persons who stand in loco parentis, current step-parent, step-child or step-sibling of a member or employee;
- 2.7 “*Service*” means the Niagara Regional Police Service.

### **3 BOARD POLICY**

- 3.1 It is the policy of the Board to offer and pay rewards upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police in appropriate circumstances as described below.
- 3.2 Upon the recommendation of the Chief, the Board may offer and pay rewards in such amounts as it approves to any person who supplies information that results in the apprehension and conviction of a person, or for information leading to the location or return of missing persons and property.
- 3.3 The offer of a reward shall remain open for one year from the publication date given on the reward notification, or such lesser time as the Chief may recommend and the Board shall determine.
- 3.4 Members and employees, and relatives of a member or employee, of the Niagara Regional Police Service, the Niagara Police Service Board or any other law enforcement agency shall not be entitled to claim any reward monies regulated pursuant to this By-law.
- 3.5 In addition to Board-funded rewards, the Board may offer rewards posted by third parties provided the conditions set out under paragraphs 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 below are met, and provided that the Board determines it is in the public interest to offer such third party reward.

### **4 DIRECTION TO THE CHIEF**

- 4.1 The Chief shall establish written procedures and processes with respect to citizen rewards in accordance with this By-law and Board Policy.
- 4.2 In making a recommendation to offer or pay a reward, the Chief shall disclose to the Board relevant background information, except for information which may compromise an investigation, or which may compromise the safety of a person to whom the reward is being paid, or of the third party posting the reward.
- 4.3 Prior to offering or authorizing the payment of a reward, the Board shall determine that sufficient sums of money are posted by a third party or are available in the Board’s Special Fund.
- 4.4 A person wishing to post money to assist the Niagara Regional Police Service in offering a reward to any individual who supplies information shall:
- 4.4.1 Deposit the full amount of such reward money with the Board; and

4.4.2 Sign a release in a form satisfactory to the Board's Solicitor indicating his or her consent to the release of all or any portion of the reward monies to a person that supplies information that in the opinion of the Chief, meets the terms and conditions of the reward offer. Such release of reward monies shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief of Police.

4.5 The Board shall be notified of any advertisement, publication or notice respecting a third-party reward as soon as practicable.

4.6 Upon receiving the recommendation from the Chief of Police, the Board shall determine whether or not a person is entitled to all or a portion of any reward offered for the supply of information.

4.7 The Chief of Police shall not be required under any circumstances to disclose the name of the person or persons entitled to any reward money, except as required by the Board.

4.8 The donor of such monies may apply to the Board for the release of such monies after the expiration of one year from the date when the reward monies were deposited with the Board.

## **5 REPORT TO THE BOARD**

5.1 The Chief of Police shall provide the Board with annual status reports on rewards posted.

## **6 IMPLEMENTATION**

6.1 By-law No. 327-2012, 390-2021, 393-2021, and all other By-laws, section of By-laws and policies of the Board inconsistent with the provisions of this By-law are hereby repealed, effective March 31, 2024.

6.2 This By-law shall come into force on April 1, 2024.

6.3 The Chief shall implement this By-law, where applicable, through general order.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA POLICE SERVICE BOARD



Jen Lawson, Chair



Deb Reid, Executive Director