



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Services Board Report

CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Subject: Special Investigations Unit – Case Number 23-OCI-162 – Incident of May 2, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Report Date: 2023-11-23

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the Niagara Police Services Board (Board) receive this report for information, and**
- 2. That the Niagara Police Services Board (Board) makes the report available to the public.**

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the findings and any action taken or recommended by the Chief of Police following a notification and investigation of an incident by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU).
- Ontario Regulation 268/10, Section 32 under the Police Services Act (PSA) requires that the Chief of Police initiate an investigation following a notification to the SIU.
- The purpose of the Chief's investigation is to review the policies of, or services provided, by the police force, and the conduct of its police officers.
- On August 30, 2023, the SIU notified the Service that their investigation had concluded and advised that there were no grounds for criminal charges against any police officer.
- The subsequent Section 32 investigation by the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) determined there were no issues with respect to officer conduct, policies, or services provided by the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS).

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained in this report.

Analysis

On Tuesday May 2, 2023, at 1:50 a.m., uniform members of the NRPS responded to a Mental Health Act call for service at an address in the Town of Grimsby. The caller stated that a male, DG, was having a mental health episode and was screaming and

yelling. Two officers arrived and found DG in the basement of the residence. The male was heavily intoxicated and disturbing others in the home. Investigation revealed DG was on court-imposed conditions to not attend the address.

DG was placed under arrest and transported to Central Holding at NRPS Headquarters. DG was paraded in front of the cell Sergeant at 2:55 a.m. and placed into a cell at 3:10 a.m. to await a bail hearing.

At 3:46 a.m., DG was observed by a special constable to fall directly onto his head and go unconscious. Emergency Medical Services were requested and attended, and DG was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Examination at the hospital determined that DG had sustained a fracture to a bone in his neck. DG was treated and released from hospital the same day as the fracture was deemed minor in nature.

The SIU was notified of the incident and invoked their mandate.

The SIU designated Constable AB and Constable CD as Witness Officials.

Sergeant EF was designated as a Subject Official.

On August 30, 2023, the SIU closed its investigation into this matter. In his decision letter SIU Director Mr. Joseph Martino wrote, "In my view, there were no reasonable grounds in the evidence to proceed with criminal charges against the subject official".

A copy of the SIU report was publicly posted on the SIU's website.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 268/10, Section 32, the Service's PSU conducted an investigation and review of this incident, which considered the following 3 areas:

1. The policies of the police service;
2. The services provided by the police service; and
3. The conduct of its police officers.

The Section 32 investigation encompassed a compliance review of applicable provincial legislation, which governs members of the Service, as well as general orders, policies and procedures, and the conduct of the involved officers.

Where available, investigations include a review of communications recordings, Service occurrence reports, forensic evidence and reports, officer interviews conducted by the SIU and all duty book notes, SIU documentation including the Director's conclusion letter and investigative report, statements of civilian witnesses gathered and released by

the SIU at the conclusion of their investigation upon the consent of the civilian witnesses, and any other information and evidence available on a case by case basis.

1. The Policies of the NRPS

PSU investigators determined that the following general orders had primary relevance in this matter, and they have been reviewed accordingly in the context of this incident.

1. General Order 079.10 - Special Investigations Unit
2. General Order 018.21 – Persons in Custody
3. General Order 167.07 – Mentally Ill Persons
4. General Order 168.06 – Officer Note Taking

Upon review, it was determined that the direction and guidance provided by the relevant general orders is sufficient in its governance for members of the Service, and no issues were identified.

2. Services Provided by the NRPS

There were no issues identified relating to the services provided by NRPS during this incident.

3. Conduct of Niagara Regional Police Officers

There were no officer conduct issues identified during the SIU investigation or the PSU investigation and review of this incident with regard to compliance with general orders or legislation. On behalf of the SIU, Mr. Martino thanked the members of the police service for their cooperation during the investigation.

The PSU investigation and review of this incident was undertaken in compliance with Section 32 of Ontario Regulation 268/10 made under the Police Services Act. The relevant policies of the Service, the services provided, and the conduct of the involved Service members was the focus of this review and investigation.

In conclusion, there were no issues identified as it pertains to services provided, the conduct of the involved Service members, or the existing general orders governing these situations.

Alternatives Reviewed

- 1) To not receive the report.
- 2) To not make the report available to the public.

Subsection 34(1) of Ontario Regulation 268/10 made under the Police Services Act provides that, upon receiving this report, the Board may make it available to the public.

The Police Services Act provides that meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, subject to exceptions that are set out in Subsection 35(4). The applicable exception to be considered in this case is whether or not *“the desirability of avoiding disclosure in the interest of any person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of adhering to the principle that proceedings be open to the public.”*

In considering whether or not to make this report available to the public, it is respectfully submitted that the Board consider the following factors:

1. There are no public security matters revealed in this report;
2. This report does not reveal any intimate financial or personal matters.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

Not applicable.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Not applicable.

Other Pertinent Reports

C8.8.2023.11.23 – Request for Legal Indemnification – SIU Case Number 23-OCI-162 – November 23, 2023.

This report was prepared by Lynda Hughes, Inspector, Professional Standards Unit and reviewed by Luigi Greco, Superintendent, Executive Services. Recommended by Bill Fordy, Deputy Chief, Support Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.