

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL COUNCIL
OPEN SESSION**

**CL 14-2020
Thursday, August 13, 2020
Council Chamber/Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Council Members Present in the Council Chamber: Bradley (Regional Chair), Insinna

Council Members Present via Video Conference : Bradley (Regional Chair), Bellows, Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Junkin, Nicholson, Villella

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: L. Glynn, Technology Support Analyst, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via Video Conference: D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, M. Johnston, Community Safety & Well-Being Program Manager, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

Others Present via Video Conference: Bryan MacCulloch, Chief of Police, Niagara Regional Police Services, and Ken Gansel, Chair, Niagara Regional Police Services Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Changes in Order of Items

There were no changes in the order of items on the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Council Agenda CL 14-2020, **BE ADOPTED.**

Carried

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Niagara Regional Police Services - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (Agenda Item 6.1)

4.1.1 Herman Omilgoituk, Resident, City of Welland

Herman Omilgoituk, resident, City of Welland, appeared before Council to share his personal experience and interactions with the Niagara Regional Police Service.

4.1.2 Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Anti-Racism Association

Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Anti-Racism Association, appeared before Council requesting Council send the Niagara Regional Police Services Board and the Province a loud and clear message that Regional Council supports Black people, Indigenous people and other people of colour (BIPOC) and other marginalized peoples and acknowledge that these individuals face discrimination.

5. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT(S)

5.1 CAO 17-2020

Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update

Moved by Councillor Edgar

Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Memorandum CAO 17-2020, dated July 23, 2020, respecting Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6. MOTIONS

6.1 Niagara Regional Police Services - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Easton

Whereas systemic racism against Black people, Indigenous people and other people of colour (BIPOC) exists in Niagara;

Whereas the tragic deaths of Black people and Indigenous people in Canada and United States by police has created an urgency to challenge and change systems of policing in communities across Canada;

Whereas the Regional Municipality of Niagara is the funding body for the Niagara Regional Police Services;

Whereas the Niagara Regional Police Services Board is an oversight body of the Niagara Regional Police Services, and includes members of Niagara Regional Council;

Whereas the Niagara Regional Police Services Board approved its NRPS 2020-2022 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategic Plan that includes aspects of working with the BIPOC communities;

Whereas more work must be undertaken by the Niagara Police Services Board and Chief of Police to engage with our BIPOC community with an objective to better understand, address and eliminate any prejudice, racism and bias in our Police Service; and

Whereas the Niagara Regional Police Services Board has established a partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Niagara Branch to provide mental health emergency support through the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region Council **REQUESTS** the Niagara Regional Police Services Board direct the Chief of Police to undertake the following:

a. Prepare a report outlining all training, (pre-badge and during badge) on de-escalation techniques, diversity, cultural sensitivity and anti-racism training (both internal and external facing from the membership) and that the Chief include any recommendations for furthering this training to the Niagara Regional Police Services Board for further consideration, and that the Niagara Regional Police Services Board members commit to training on these issues on an annual basis;

- b. That a report outlining the public complaint process be brought forward for information with any recommendations as to provide ease of access to any methods of submitting complaints including but not limited to a communications campaign that makes this process better understood;
 - c. That seeing that Statistics Canada just announced it will start collecting race-based crime data, that the Chief also work to bring back a report with metrics and/or data over the last five (5) years (or appropriate time horizon) on various crime statistics including but not limited to anything that further provides information on/or a picture of police interactions with racialized communities;
 - d. That information on data entry, including how calls for service are entered into the record management system be examined with any recommendations for further expansion of data entry to identify interactions with anyone from the Black, Indigenous, ethno-cultural or people of colour community to further transparency;
 - e. That an independent, third party survey be undertaken to gain a better understanding and receive feedback on interactions between the Niagara Regional Police Service and Niagara residents;
 - f. That the Chief of Police examine opportunities to work with TOES Niagara, Niagara Multicultural Centre, YWCA, Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre and any other group working with newcomers and recently arrived immigrants;
 - g. That the Police Services Board direct the Chief of Police, alongside the Senior Leadership Team to provide an analysis on the implications of directing dollars towards further social service and community outreach initiatives as part of the 2021 budget, versus increases to operational and capital budgets unless deemed essential;
 - h. That the Police Services Board develop a diversity target for board appointees that reflect the diversity of the Niagara community; and
 - i. That a report on the number and specific types of calls related to mental health and addictions, be brought forward and that the report include an actionable plan, developed in partnership with Niagara EMS and local mental health, addictions, and crisis agencies, to respond to these calls in line with guidance and recommendations from the Canadian Mental Health Association; and
2. That the correspondence from the City of St. Catharines Council, dated August 11, 2020, endorsing the recommendations of the City of St. Catharines Anti-Racism Committee **BE FORWARDED** to the Niagara Regional Police Services Board for consideration.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

i. That a report on the number and specific types of calls related to mental health and addictions, be brought forward and that the report include an actionable plan, **including options for both an extension of the current MCRRT but also an alternate NRP led plan funded by the Niagara Region**, developed in partnership with Niagara EMS and local mental health, addictions, and crisis agencies, to respond to these calls in line with guidance and recommendations from the Canadian Mental Health Association.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

h. That the Police Services Board develop a diversity **target plan** for board appointees that reflect the diversity of the Niagara community.

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That the motion **BE AMENDED** by adding the following clauses:

j. Prepare a report on use of body worn cameras in the NRPS, including acquisition and possible implementation; and

k. Declare a moratorium on “collection of identifying information” for 2020, to determine whether or not there is a disproportionate number of BIPOC citizens involved.

Each clause was considered separately.

j. Prepare a report on use of body worn cameras in the NRPS, including acquisition and possible implementation.

Recorded Vote:

Yes: (12) Bellows, Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Sendzik.

No: (15) Bylsma, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Insinna, Redekop, Rigby, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

k. Declare a moratorium on “collection of identifying information” for 2020, to determine whether or not there is a disproportionate number of BIPOC citizens involved.

Recorded Vote:

Yes: (4) Butters, Chiocchio, Ip, Sendzik.

No: (22) Bellows, Bylsma, Champion, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Jordan, Redekop, Rigby, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

2. That the correspondence from the City of St. Catharines Council, dated August 11, 2020, ~~endorsing~~ **containing** the recommendations of the City of St. Catharines Anti-Racism Committee **BE FORWARDED** to the Niagara Regional Police Services Board for consideration.

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion as amended, as follows:

1. That Niagara Region Council **REQUESTS** the Niagara Regional Police Services Board direct the Chief of Police to undertake the following:

a. Prepare a report outlining all training, (pre-badge and during badge) on de-escalation techniques, diversity, cultural sensitivity and anti-racism training (both internal and external facing from the membership) and that the Chief include any recommendations for furthering this training to the Niagara Regional Police Services Board for further consideration, and that the Niagara Regional Police Services Board members commit to training on these issues on an annual basis;

b. That a report outlining the public complaint process be brought forward for information with any recommendations as to provide ease of access to any methods of submitting complaints including but not limited to a communications campaign that makes this process better understood;

c. That seeing that Statistics Canada just announced it will start collecting race-based crime data, that the Chief also work to bring back a report with metrics and/or data over the last five (5) years (or appropriate time horizon) on various crime statistics including but not limited to anything that further provides information on/or a picture of police interactions with racialized communities;

- d. That information on data entry, including how calls for service are entered into the record management system be examined with any recommendations for further expansion of data entry to identify interactions with anyone from the Black, Indigenous, ethno-cultural or people of colour community to further transparency;
 - e. That an independent, third party survey be undertaken to gain a better understanding and receive feedback on interactions between the Niagara Regional Police Service and Niagara residents;
 - f. That the Chief of Police examine opportunities to work with TOES Niagara, Niagara Multicultural Centre, YWCA, Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre and any other group working with newcomers and recently arrived immigrants;
 - g. That the Police Services Board direct the Chief of Police, alongside the Senior Leadership Team to provide an analysis on the implications of directing dollars towards further social service and community outreach initiatives as part of the 2021 budget, versus increases to operational and capital budgets unless deemed essential;
 - h. That the Police Services Board develop a diversity plan for board appointees that reflect the diversity of the Niagara community; and
 - i. That a report on the number and specific types of calls related to mental health and addictions, be brought forward and that the report include an actionable plan, including options for both an extension of the current MCRRT but also an alternate NRP led plan funded by the Niagara Region, developed in partnership with Niagara EMS and local mental health, addictions, and crisis agencies, to respond to these calls in line with guidance and recommendations from the Canadian Mental Health Association; and
2. That the correspondence from the City of St. Catharines Council, dated August 11, 2020, containing the recommendations of the City of St. Catharines Anti-Racism Committee **BE FORWARDED** to the Niagara Regional Police Services Board for consideration.

Carried

7. **BY-LAWS**

7.1 **Bill 2020-53**

Moved by Councillor Ugulini
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Bill 2020-53 being a by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its special meeting held on August 13, 2020, **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**.

Carried

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk