

Motion – Councillor Sendzik

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.