



...from the February 12th, 2018 meeting

Public Complaints Drop in 2017

The total number of public complaints against DRP officers dropped once again in 2017.

The DRPS Professional Standards Unit (PSU) said there were 81 complaints received in 2017, down from 91 complaints in 2016. There were 102 in 2015.

Of the 81 complaints, 44 were addressed by the OIPRD and 36 were investigated by the PSU. Most complaints are found to be unsubstantiated or “not in the public interest” after an investigation. Many are withdrawn by the complainant after consultation with investigators. The DRPS currently has six officers suspended from duty.

Collision Reporting Centre Saves Time

The Collision Reporting Centre (CRC) located at 650 Rossland Rd. E. in Whitby continues to save valuable time for front-line officers.

The CRC processed 4,553 non-injury collisions in 2017, saving the equivalent of five full-time police officers. The calculation is based on an average collision taking about 1.5 hours of officer time to respond and investigate. A total of 7,959 drivers attended the CRC, which averaged 22 per day and DRP officers laid 1,236 charges as a result of collisions being reported at the centre. The peak collision reporting time occurred between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Action on Inquest Recommendations

The Board received a report on the efforts underway by the DRPS in response to recommendations made by the Coroner’s Inquest into the death of Mr. Michael MacIsaac. The DRPS has now provided advanced mental health response training to over 250 officers and increased the mental health content of other courses, such as recruit training, annual Block Training and supervisory courses. Other improvements include the launch of two Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams, the Durham Connect human services hub, and a new e-course for officers on mental health & de-escalation training.



Recruiting Overview: Vidal Chavannes, left, Dean of the DRPS Police Education and Innovation Centre and Sgt. Shawn Heitzner of HR/Recruiting provided the Board with an overview of recruitment efforts.

Recruiting Efforts Continue

The Board was given an update on current recruiting efforts by the DRPS Human Resources Unit. Like most police services in Ontario, the DRPS uses the Constable Selection System (CSS) to determine the suitability of police constable applicants. It is a lengthy and rigorous process to ensure only the best applicants are selected. The DRPS received 1,052 applications in 2017 and hired a total of 50 officers (32 new recruits and 18 experienced) to replace those officers retiring or resigning.

The recruiting team spends a lot of time and energy reaching out to under-represented populations in Durham Region. Some of the events organized included a Women’s Symposium, female-only PREP sessions, advertisements on CP24 and social media platforms and participation in multi-cultural events across the community. Efforts will continue in 2018 to attract more applications from diverse and under-represented populations.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., Regional HQ, 605 Rossland Rd., Whitby, Ontario. ■

For further information about the Police Services Board, contact Executive Assistant Anita Longo at (905) 579-1520 ext. 4307.