



Board Extends Chief's Contract

After today's meeting, the Durham Regional Police Services Board announced it has extended the contract of Chief Paul Martin until May 2021.

"Chief Martin has successfully led the Durham Regional Police Service for the last four years. He has earned the confidence of the Board by leading the development and implementation of collaborative and effective policing strategies, focused on building community trust," said Board Chair Randy Wilson. "Policing in Ontario continues to undergo significant transformation, and we look forward to Chief Martin's experienced and skillful leadership in preparing the DRPS for future challenges."

Chief Martin joined the DRPS in 1990, and he has worked in a variety of operational and administrative units, including Tactical Support, Nuclear Security and Human Resources. He has been an active volunteer in the community, coaching youth sports and serving on the Board of Directors of the John Howard Society of Durham Region and as past President of the Durham Children's Aid Society.

Appointed Deputy Chief in 2012, he was selected as Chief of Police in 2014.

Force Seldom Used by the DRPS

The annual Use of Force (UOF) report for 2017 showed the DRP rarely used force during thousands of interactions with the public. In fact, force was used far less than 1 per cent of the time.

With 96,676 calls for service in 2017, UOF options were employed in only 238 incidents (only 0.25 per cent of calls). This is consistent with the five-year average of deployments. In the 238 incidents, there were no injuries reported to the subject or a third party 93.7 per cent of the time.



New Member: Pickering Regional Councillor Kevin Ashe, left, was officially welcomed to the Board by Chair Randy Wilson (centre) and Justice of the Peace Robert Boychyn, right.

Welcoming New Board Member and New Vice Chair

Pickering Regional Councillor Kevin Ashe was welcomed back to the Board as Regional Council's new appointment.

He had served as a Board member from 1997 to 2003 and now fills the vacancy caused by the death of Roger Anderson. Mr. Ashe was sworn in by Justice of the Peace Robert Boychyn in a brief ceremony at the beginning of today's meeting.

Mr. Ashe was first elected as Ward 1 City Councillor in 2003, and was re-elected by Ward 1 residents in 2010 and 2014. On November 2, 2015 Kevin was appointed as Regional Councillor - Ward 1.

Prior to sitting on city council, Kevin served as a trustee on the Durham Catholic District School Board, representing Pickering from 1985 to 1997, and served as chair of the board in 1994. Kevin also served on the board of directors of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association from 1991 to 1997. He has served on the Boards of the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation, Ajax Pickering Big Brothers and Sisters, and the Ajax Pickering United Way.

Pickering Regional Councillor Bill McLean was elected Vice Chair of the PSB at the same meeting.

Marihuana Law Comes at Busiest Time

Chief Paul Martin advised the Board that police services in Ontario generally “won’t be ready” this summer if the recreational use of marihuana is enacted.

“Summer is our busiest season,” said Chief Martin, adding it would be difficult to find the time to train officers during the peak summer hours.

“It’s going to be a challenge, at best,” he told the Board.

Currently, the DRPS has 120 officers trained to conduct the Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) and two qualified SFST instructors. Five officers currently have Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training. At this point, no roadside measuring device has been approved, so officers will have to rely on this training while investigating drivers impaired by drug.

By comparison, it took months of training and \$250,000 to train frontline officers in preparation for the new street check regulations last year.

The Chief said that at least one nearby police service has announced it will not be responding to nuisance-type calls, such as marihuana being smoked in a private backyard. Those calls will be referred to local Bylaw Enforcement officers and the Chief wondered if local bylaw departments will be properly staffed and trained in time.

Auxiliary Power

The Board received the annual report of the DRPS Auxiliary Unit, which contributed an impressive 19,000 hours of service to local community events and community safety initiatives.

The 68-member team is made up of civilian volunteers, who each contributed to some 152 events in 2017.

In addition to helping keep crowds safe at 14 Santa Claus parades, 15 Remembrance Day ceremonies and eight Canada Day celebrations, the Unit also supported many public education campaigns and helped canvass neighbourhoods in support of some investigations.

First Quarter Stats

Both violent crimes and property crimes in Durham Region have increased in 2018.

Brad Carter of the Strategic Planning Unit provided the Board with a statistical report from the first quarter of 2018. Comparing the first quarter of 2018 to the first quarter of 2017, both violent crime and property crime increased 13 per cent.

The violent crime increase was driven by more reports of Level 1 assaults and sexual assaults. The property crime increase was attributed to more fuel thefts, break & enters and fraud reports.

Overall, calls for service increased by 5 per cent to 23,594 calls. Emergency calls increased by 17 per cent, driven by the fact that more domestic calls are now being dispatched as emergencies. Citizens are reporting crime online more than ever – jumping 48 per cent in Q1. Citizens can report some property crimes online using the DRPS app or through the website www.drps.ca.

The Service’s ability to solve the more serious crimes is getting better. The Weighted Clearance Rate increased 13 per cent in early 2018, with a 20 per cent increase being seen in both violent and property crime clearances.

Next Meeting

Due to the availability of the Regional Council Chamber at Headquarters, the remaining PSB meetings will be switched to Tuesdays.

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., Regional HQ Council Chambers, 605 Rossland Rd., Whitby, Ontario. ■

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