



Durham Regional Police Services Board **Highlights**

...from the October 16, 2018 meeting

Cannabis Legalization

DRPS Police Chief Paul Martin advised the board his service is “as ready as we’re going to be” as the legalization of recreational cannabis begins tomorrow.

Online training from the federal government only became available last month and provincial training was revised last week. All officers are taking this training and in addition, about 130 officers have already received specialized training to conduct Standard Field Sobriety Tests. The DRPS has had several meetings with local municipal bylaw officials to discuss response protocols and a public education campaign was launched to help educate the public on what the new law says. (<https://bit.ly/2CNMwn2>)

When asked about police response to nuisance calls, the Chief said all calls will be taken seriously, but each one would have to be prioritized in terms of importance and available police resources at any given time.

Busy Month for Officers

In his monthly report on past police activity, Chief Paul Martin reviewed multiple gun and drug investigations that resulted in dangerous weapons and ammunition removed from the streets of Durham Region.

Over the span of about one week, separate investigations resulted in 10 guns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition seized. In one cocaine investigation, seven people were arrested, three handguns seized and over \$29,000 in drugs and cash recovered.

Road safety remained a top priority. The annual **In The Zone** enforcement campaign in early September resulted in over 1,000 tickets being issued, of which 640 were for speeding in and around school zones. Included in the 1,029 tickets were 105 for stop sign/red light violations.



Tactical Approach: Sgt. Dan Ladouceur of the DRPS Tactical Support Unit and Chief Troy Cheseboro of Durham Region Paramedic Services, give the Board an update on the Tactical Paramedic Program.

Tactical Paramedic Program

The Board received an update on the Tactical Paramedic Program, which began operating in November 2017.

Sgt. Dan Ladouceur of the DRPS Tactical Support Unit and Chief Troy Cheseboro of Durham Region Paramedic Services, provided the Board with an update at today’s meeting. The program adds Tactical Paramedics with members of the Tactical Support Unit to offer medical support within the inner perimeter during critical incidents. The teams have been involved in 60 incidents and immediate medical aid was provided on 15 occasions – all minor in nature.

Critical incidents include hostage taking, armed and barricaded persons and high risk search warrants. It is the policy of the DRPS to resolve these incidents as safe as possible and use as little force as necessary.

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

Both organizations have support programs in place to assist their frontline members and major incidents are debriefed so all details of each response can be reviewed and discussed.

Similar Tactical Paramedic Service models are also in place with police services in Toronto, Peel, York and South Simcoe.

Responding to Mental Health Calls

Responding to mental health calls with specialized units and additional training for officers is paying dividends for the police service. From September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, there were 3,563 mental health calls for service in Durham Region. These calls resulted in 1,973 apprehensions under the Mental Health Act involving 1,451 individuals – 256 people were apprehended more than once.

The DRPS Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU) combines a specially-trained officer with a nurse from Lakeridge Health – Oshawa. This team has saved lives and offers immediate assistance to people in crisis. The MHSU also conducts follow up calls and in-person visits to make sure the people they are helping have the services and supports they require. About 8 per cent of all Mental Health Act calls involve suicide attempts. The total number of mental health calls averaged 297 per month.

The DRPS has also received a Proceeds of Crime grant from the provincial government to start a new Vulnerable Person Outreach Project. In this partnership, a team involving a police officer, a nurse, and a social worker will reach into the community and help the most vulnerable people, especially the homeless. Their work will be assisted by a researcher who will collect and analyze data.

Also, the DRPS is active in supporting Durham Connect, a community hub table where agencies work together to help people in situations of elevated risks. In the 12 months following September 1, 2017, the table has looked at 64 cases and 80 per cent of these cases were successfully resolved.

Board Sets 2019 Meeting Schedule

The Board will continue to meet in the main Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters in 2018. The monthly meeting dates have been set for:

- Tuesday, January 22
- Tuesday, February 19
- Tuesday, March 12
- Tuesday, April 16
- Tuesday, May 21
- Tuesday, June 18
- Tuesday, July 9 or 16 (TBD)
- Tuesday, September 17
- Tuesday, October 15
- Tuesday, November 19
- Tuesday, December 17.

Meetings will continue to be live streamed and later archived for public viewing.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., Regional HQ, 605 Rossland Rd., Whitby, Ontario. ■