

PUBLIC

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

Semi-Annual Report on Public Complaints

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board receive this report pursuant to Section 31(1)(j) of the *Police Services Act*, Board By-Law No. 01-11 respecting the Administration of the Complaints System under Part V of the *Police Services Act*.

SYNOPSIS

Each year, a semi-annual report on Public Complaints is filed in accordance with the Board's direction.

In the first six months of 2015, 80 complaints were received against 95 members of York Regional Police, compared to 58 complaints against 90 members for the same period in 2014. Of the 80 Public Complaints received by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD), 61 were not accepted (29 were deemed to be not in the public interest, frivolous, or more appropriately dealt with under another Act or law, 8 Public Complaints were withdrawn by the complainant, 3 were not dealt with due to the six month limitation, 12 complainants were not directly affected and 9 complaints were resolved informally.) The remaining 19 complaints are currently under investigation as compared to 16 in 2014. No discipline has arisen out of complaints received during this reporting period.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Section 31 (b) of Ontario Regulation 3/99, made under *The Police Services Act - Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services*, requires the Board to receive a report on Public Complaints annually. In accordance with the Board's direction, a semi-annual report is also filed.

The *Police Services Act* states that a member of the public may complain about the conduct of an officer or officers, or about the policies of or services provided by a police force.

On October 19, 2009, the OIPRD, governed by Ontario Regulation 263/09 and Part V of *The Police Services Act*, took over responsibility for the intake, processing and managing of Public Complaints in Ontario. As a result, all Public Complaints made against members of York Regional Police must be received by the OIPRD. OIPRD encourages members of the public to first discuss their complaint directly with the police service. As a result, there are three methods available to the public to address their complaint:

1. Local Discussion
2. Local Resolution
3. Formal Public Complaint

A Local Discussion involves the complainant making contact directly with the police service and discussing their complaint with a front-line supervisor. A Local Discussion occurs when the complainant does not wish to pursue the complaint beyond advising the supervisor of their concerns. This method encourages informal discussion and promotes an increased level of understanding between the police and the complainant. OIPRD is not involved in Local Discussions.

A Local Resolution involves similar contact directly with the police service. This process involves proposing a resolution of the complaint which is agreeable to both the complainant and the officer. This Local Resolution is documented on an OIPRD form. Once completed, this form is forwarded to OIPRD and the Chief of Police for their approval.

A Formal Public Complaint requires that the complainant complete an OIPRD Complaint Form at either a police station, or via the OIPRD website. Once this complaint form is signed and submitted to OIPRD, OIPRD will classify the complaint, make a decision whether to accept it, and then assign it for investigation. The OIPRD assigns Public Complaint investigations in one of three ways:

- They will refer the complaint back to the originating police service for investigation.
- They will assign the complaint to another police service for investigation.
- They will retain the complaint and investigate it themselves.

OIPRD has the authority to screen incoming complaints and if they choose, can refuse to accept a Public Complaint. When OIPRD makes a decision not to accept a Public Complaint, their reasons fall into five categories:

- Frivolous
- Better dealt with by another act or law
- Not in the public interest
- Complainant not directly affected
- Over 6 months

Once a Public Complaint has been accepted and assigned for investigation, there are four ways for the complaint to be resolved:

1. Withdrawn by the complainant
2. Unsubstantiated following an investigation
3. Resolved by way of Informal Resolution
4. Misconduct is identified and disciplinary action is initiated.

As the attached charts indicate, 80 public complaints were made against members of York Regional Police during the first six months of 2015, compared to 58 in 2014. This is an increase of 18% over the same period last year. Of the 80 Public Complaints received:

- 44 complaints were not accepted by the OIPRD:
 - 17 were deemed to be not in the public interest
 - 7 were deemed to be better dealt with under a different act or law
 - 5 were deemed to be frivolous
 - 3 were deemed to be over 6 months
 - 12 were deemed not directly affected
- 8 were withdrawn by the complainant
- 9 complaints were dealt with by Informal Resolution
- 19 complaints are still under investigation by York Regional Police

The 12 complaints that were deemed not directly affected, stems for a single incident – the bear shooting in Newmarket.

York Region is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada. As a result of this growth there is an increase of occasions where our members are interacting with the public through various means, including but not limited to investigations, calls for service and regular inquiries from the public. Continuing efforts are made by members of the Professional Standards Bureau and Training and Education Branch to educate and train our officers about the Public Complaints process by making presentations to recruit classes, coach officer classes, and civilian and supervisor training workshops. The intention is to familiarize members with the complaint investigation process, as well as to discuss the common reasons that complaints are made in an effort to reduce or eliminate public complaints about officers.

Eric Joliffe, O.O.M., BA, MA, CMM III
Chief of Police

EJ:sr

Attachment

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

COMPARISON JANUARY to JUNE 2014 – 2015
PUBLIC COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

NATURE OF COMPLAINTS

YEAR	Police Procedure	Physical Assault	Verbal Abuse	Misuse of Authority	Policy/ Service	TOTALS
2014 January - June	25	7	18	5	3	58
2015 January - June	38	5	16	7	14	80
% Change* 2014/2015	+52%	-29%	-11%	+40%	+366%	+38%

* indicates the comparison in total number of complaints for the 6 month period.

NATURE OF COMPLAINTS - % OF TOTAL

YEAR	Police Procedure	Physical Assault	Verbal Abuse	Misuse of Authority	Policy/ Service	TOTALS
2014 January - June	43	12	31	9	5	100%
2015 January - June	47	6	20	9	18	100%

PUBLIC COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS **NATURE OF COMPLAINTS – DETAILED**

POLICE PROCEDURE	2015	2014	2013
Fail to Identify	0	0	0
Neglect of Duty	11	9	23
Improper Detention (Includes stopping car)	0	1	3
Improper Search–Person	2	0	1
Improper Arrest	5	1	1
Improper Charge	11	8	2
Improper Entry	0	1	2
Improper Use of Discretion	6	5	0
Other / General	3	0	0
TOTAL	38	25	32

MISUSE OF AUTHORITY	2015	2014	2013
Corruption	0	0	0
Theft	1	0	1
Fraud	0	0	0
Lying Under Oath	1	0	0
Deceit	1	0	0
Disclose Confidential Information		0	3
Intoxication	0	0	0
Improper Driving	2	0	0
Improper Use of Position	1	2	4
Other	1	0	5
TOTAL	7	2	13

PHYSICAL ASSAULT	2015	2014	2013
Assault	4	4	1
Assault with Injury	0	0	4
Sexual Assault	0	0	0
Assault While Restrained	0	0	0
Other Assault	0	0	0
Excessive Force	1	3	4
Excessive Force with Injury	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	7	9

POLICY AND SERVICE	2015	2014	2013
TOTAL	14	3	1

VERBAL ABUSE	2015	2014	2013
Verbal Abuse/Incivility	11	12	13
Harassment/Threat	4	0	1
Implied Harassment/Threat	1	5	2
Sexual Harassment	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0
TOTAL	16	18	16

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS BREAKDOWN

JANUARY – JUNE 2015

SUBJECT OFFICER BY AGE	
Under 25	0
25 – 29	11
30 – 34	23
35 – 39	19
40 – 44	18
45 – and over	24
Total	95

SUBJECT OFFICER BY TENURE	
Under 4 years	13
4 – 7 years	25
8 – 12 years	30
13 – 20 years	12
20 years and over	15
Total	95

PRECIPITATING FACTORS/EVENTS	
Criminal Investigation	22
Traffic Violation /MVC investigation	18
Parking Violation	0
Request For ID (other than traffic related)	0
Other Non-Criminal Investigation	5
Domestic Occurrence	10
Incidental To Arrest	6
Off-Duty	2
Unknown	2
Other	15
Total	80

PUBLIC COMPLAINT DISPOSITIONS
JANUARY – JUNE 2015

Summary of Dispositions

Section 60(4) - Frivolous - Not in Public Interest - Other Act or Law - No Jurisdiction	29
Section 66(2) - Unsubstantiated	0
Section 74(1) - Withdrawn	8
Section 60(2) - Over 6 months	3
Section 60(6) - Not Directly Affected	12
Section 93(1) - Informal Resolution	9
Section 61(2) - Policy / Service	0
Section 72(1) – Directed by OIPRD	0
Section 66(4) - Informal Discipline	0
Action Taken – Formal Discipline	0
Total Resolved	61
Ongoing	19
Total	80

PUBLIC COMPLAINT DISPOSITIONS
JANUARY – JUNE 2015

Disposition	Service / Policy	Police Procedure	Physical Assault	Verbal Abuse	Misuse of Authority	Total
Unsubstantiated s. 66(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not dealt with - Frivolous Other Act or Law Not in Public Interest s. 60(4)	1	16	3	5	4	29
Not dealt with – over 6 months s. 60(2)	0	2	0	0	1	3
Not dealt with – not directly affected s. 60(6)	12	0	0	0	0	12
Withdrawn s. 74(1)	0	7	0	1	0	8
Informal Resolution s. 93(1)	0	1	0	7	1	9
Directed by OIPRD 72(1) not accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Informal Discipline	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resolved	13	26	3	13	6	61
Outstanding	1	11	2	3	2	19