Northumberland OPP Detachment Board Policy

Media Relations and Public Transparency

Policy No: 2024-8

Effective Date: April 1, 2024

Rescinds all other Policies and Procedures relating to this subject.

Whenever reference is made to "Detachment Commander" ("DC"), the term is intended to include the Ontario Provincial Police ("OPP") more generally to the extent the actual responsibility/authority relating to the establishment of policies, procedures and processes lies at more senior levels within OPP management or as otherwise may be required under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* and regulations (collectively the "CSPA").

1. Policy Statement

1.1. The Board and the DC recognize the importance of providing the public with timely and accurate information about policing decisions, initiatives, services, and policies, subject to in-camera, privacy, and confidentiality requirements.

1.2. The Board has adopted a policy regarding the release of information to the public with respect to OPP operations and disclosable Board activities, goals, and objectives.

2. Statutory Authority or References

2.1. CSPA*; Code of Conduct O. Reg 409/23; By-Law No. 001-2024*

3. Purpose

3.1. The Policy is intended to:

(a) help keep the public informed and promote dialogue with respect to police services and oversight; and

(b) increase community awareness regarding OPP activities and the Board's responsibilities, achievements, activities, and objectives.

4. Scope

4.1. This Policy will apply to Board Members and the Executive Assistant in the conduct of their duties.

5. Definitions

5.1. As defined herein.

6. Policy Guidelines

6.1. The Board shall comply with its Policy on Protocol for Information Sharing (Policy D3(r))

6.2. Subject to the following and the Code of Conduct, Board members shall keep confidential any private or restricted information obtained in the performance of their duties.

6.3. The public spokesman for the Board shall be the Board Chair or other delegate authorized by Board resolution. If the Chair or authorized delegate is unavailable, the Vice-Chair shall be the alternate. The content of any public or private discussion that is not otherwise in the public domain shall be restricted to non-confidential information unless specifically otherwise authorized by the Board. On matters of factual information, administration of the Board, or communicating a decision of the Board in response to an enquiry, the Secretary, in consultation with the Chair, may act as a resource person on behalf of the Board.

6.4. Board members (other than the public spokesperson authorized pursuant to paragraph 6.2), while entitled to express individual opinions as their own, should not speak publicly or privately on behalf of the Board unless expressly authorized by Board resolution. Where a Board member expresses disagreement with a decision of the Board the member shall make it clear that he or she is expressing a personal opinion and in so doing shall refrain from engaging in conduct that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board or the police service.

6.5. When a media inquiry is made directly to a Board member, the Board member will not comment but will immediately advise the Chair or Vice-Chair. News releases and press conferences will be prepared and authorized by the Board in advance and will be coordinated in consultation with the DC, as appropriate, to the extent OPP operational activities are involved.

6.6. The Board recognizes the importance of its website in fulfilling its public transparency objectives. In this regard the Board shall, to the extent compliant with confidentiality and Code of Conduct requirements, review its governance documents and other information in its possession from time to time and decide on the extent to which public transparency can be improved by posting such documents and information on the Board's website. In this regard, the Board has adopted the following Transparency Directive:

> "All Board governance material, including by-laws, memos, policies, and protocols, except to the extent any such material may from time to time be determined by the Board to be confidential/privileged or contain sensitive in-camera information."

7. Review and Revision History

Revision Date	Description of Changes
April 1, 2024	Reflect the new CSPA

Approved and ratified by the Northumberland OPP Detachment Board effective April 1, 2024.

John Davison

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Chair

Lou Rinaldi

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Vice-Chair