

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Public Board Meeting
March 23, 2022

Report of the Chief of Police

Missing Persons Act, 2018

1. Recommendation

That the Board receive this annual report for information and forward the attached Appendix A, Annual Report Template to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in accordance with O. Reg. 182/19.

2. Summary

This report will provide an overview of reporting requirements under the *Missing Persons Act, 2018* and detail any urgent demands under the *Act* made by York Regional Police in 2021.

3. Background

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 8 *MISSING PERSONS ACT, 2018*

Under Section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act, 2018* police services are required to report annually on their use of urgent demands under the *Act*, and police services boards are required to make this report available to the public. The *Missing Persons Act, 2018* was proclaimed by the government on July 1, 2019 and provides officers with additional

resources to use when a person goes missing and there is no evidence of criminal activity. Previously, when a person went missing without evidence of criminal activity, police were limited in the ways they could investigate. This *Act* allows police to respond to missing person investigations quickly while balancing concerns for an individual's privacy. Officers are now able to obtain copies of records that may assist in a search, obtain a court order to allow entry into a premises to search for a missing person and make an urgent demand for records without a court order in certain urgent circumstances.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the *Act* requires that Chiefs of Police and the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police report annually on the use of urgent demands for records by members of the police service using the Ministry's Annual Report Template Form 7. This report shall be provided to the Police Services Board by April 1st and must include the total number of urgent demands made that year, the number of missing person investigations related to these demands, and a description of the types of records that were requested. After receiving the report, the Police Services Board shall provide a copy of the report to the Minister and make the report available to the public by June 1st.

Officers who make an urgent demand for records are required to make reasonable efforts to provide notice to the individual whose information has been produced as a result of an urgent demand for records. In addition, officers are also required to report the details of urgent demands for records to an individual designated by the organization, who in turn is required to report to the Police Services Board annually. The individual designated by York Regional Police to receive these reports is the Inspector of the Strategic Services Bureau.

4. Analysis

DEMANDS FOR RECORDS

In 2021, there were no submissions made to the Inspector of the Strategic Services Bureau, outlining a demand for records.

5. Financial

There are no financial implications.

6. Conclusion

York Regional Police investigated 1,325 missing person reports in 2021 compared to 1,255 in 2020. This represents a 5.6 percent increase in investigated missing person reports over the prior year. York Regional Police is committed to using all resources at our disposal, including this legislation, to thoroughly investigate these reports so that we can locate these missing persons and ensure their safety.

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

Jim MacSween, B.A.A.
Chief of Police

JMS/cc

Attachment - Appendix A, Ontario Solicitor General, Annual Report Template