

# **The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board**

Public Board Meeting  
March 20, 2023

Report of the Chief of Police

## ***Missing Persons Act, 2018***

### **1. Recommendation**

That the Board receive this annual report and forward the attachment, "Ontario Solicitor General, 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 *Missing Persons Act, 2018*, made by York Regional Police in 2022.

### **3. Background**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 8 *MISSING PERSONS ACT***

Under Section 8 of the *Missing Persons Act, 2018*, police services are required to report annually on their use of urgent demands under the *Missing Persons Act, 2018*, 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. The *Missing Persons Act, 2018*, allows police to respond to missing persons 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 *Missing Persons Act, 2018* 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 1<sup>st</sup> and must include the total number of urgent demands made that year, the number of missing persons investigations to which they related and a description of the types of records specified in the urgent demands for records. 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 Strategic Services Bureau.

## **4. Analysis**

### **DEMANDS FOR RECORDS**

In 2022, there were 15 submissions made to the Inspector of Strategic Services Bureau, outlining an urgent demand for records which related to 10 missing person investigations. Of these 15 submissions, there were nine demands to obtain records of telecommunications or records that contained other electronic communications information, including information about signals, five demands for financial records and one demand for records of travel and accommodation.

## **5. Financial**

There are no financial implications.

## **6. Conclusion**

York Regional Police investigated 1,259 missing person reports in 2022 and 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.

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

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

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Attachment (1) - Ontario Solicitor General, Annual Report Template – Attachment 1