



POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

PSB-AI-003

Adopted: 1995/07/28
Amended: 2012/06/22
Amended: 2015/09/25

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board that the policy requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in the administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.

1. Subject

The guiding principles under which:

- a) the Chief of Police is to establish guidelines and appropriate protocol relating to contact between members of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board, elected officials, and members of the police service; and
- b) members of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board are to conduct themselves in relation to contact with members of the police service.

2. Specific Definitions

Board

Means the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board

Elected official

Means an individual elected by the public to serve as a member of municipal, regional, provincial or federal government

Member

Means members of the Peel Regional Police, both sworn and civilian

Officer-in-Charge

Means through the Chief or his/her designate

3. Policy Requirements

It is the policy of the Board that with respect to contact between members of Peel Regional Police and elected officials or members of the Peel Police Services Board, the Chief of Police shall establish guidelines and protocols to ensure:

- a) That members of the police service respond in an appropriate and prompt manner to legitimate enquiries made by elected officials on behalf of constituents, as allowed under governing legislation, including the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- b) That members of the police service respond in an appropriate and prompt manner to legitimate enquiries from elected officials regarding the safety and security of the residents of Peel;

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- c) That, where possible and dependent on the urgency of a situation, elected officials direct their requests for information, or bring issues of concern to the attention of the senior officer in command, as designated by the Chief of Police;
 - d) That any elected official who contacts an investigating officer directly be referred to the senior officer-in-charge;
 - e) That procedures are in place to ensure that members are aware elected officials may not give direction on the manner in which an investigation is to be conducted or in which charges have been laid;
 - f) That in the event an elected official has concerns about the legitimacy of an inquiry concerning a police officer, s/he be requested to direct the inquiry to the Chief of Police or a Deputy Chief of Police; and
 - g) That procedures, processes and protocols between police service members and members of the Board include guidelines as outlined in Section 4 a), b) and c) of this policy.

4. Board Members Contact with Members of Peel Regional Police

The Members of Police Services Boards- Code of Conduct (O. Reg. 421/97 S.2), states “Board members shall not interfere with the police force’s operational decisions and responsibilities or with the day-to-day operation of the police force, including the recruitment and promotion of police officers”.

The *Police Services Act* Section 31(3) and (4), state:

31(3) “The Board may give orders and directions to the chief of police, but not to other members of the police force, and no individual member of the board shall give orders or directions to any member of the police force;

31(4) “The board shall not direct the chief of police with respect to specific operational decisions or with respect to the day-to-day operation of the police force”.

In keeping with legislation it is therefore the policy of the Board, that members of the Peel Police Services Board shall:

- a) Seek general information through Board staff or from the appropriate officer-in-charge with notice to Board staff as it relates to either an issue before the Board or one to be considered at an upcoming Board meeting;
- b) Seek information concerning specific investigations or occurrences only from the Chair and/or Board staff, the Chief of Police, a Deputy Chief of Police, or a designate as specified by the Chief of Police, or within the context of a Board meeting; and
- c) Avoid any suggestion of direction to any member of the police service as it relates to a specific investigation or a specific operational issue.

5. Measurement Methods & Reporting

The Chief of Police, Chair, and/or the Executive Director shall report to the Board on an exception basis. For further clarity, this applies to those circumstances where a breach of this policy has resulted in and ‘exceptional’ circumstance, which may be detrimental to the police service and/or may result in significant issues of potential liability to the Board and the police service.

6. Authority/Legislative Reference

Police Services Act, Section 31 (3) (4)

Members of Police Services Board – Code of Conduct, O.Reg. 421/97 Section 2

Board Minute #61/12

Board Minute #60/15

Replaces: Political Relationships - Adopted 1995/07/28 *(pages I-P-1 to I-P-3)*

7. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-144(F) Contact with Elected Officials & Peel Police Services Board Members