

Policy Type: **GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

Policy Title: **BOARD COMMITTEE  
PRINCIPLES**



---

Board committees, when used, will be assigned so as to reinforce the wholeness of the Board's job and so as never to interfere with delegation from Board to Chief of Police.

Accordingly:

1. Board committees are to help the Board do its job, not to help or advise the Chief or members of the Durham Regional Police Service. Committees ordinarily will assist the Board by preparing policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Board committees will normally not have direct dealings with current police operations.
2. Board committees may not speak or act for the Board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the Chief of Police.
3. Board committees cannot exercise authority over members of the Police Service. Because the Chief of Police works for the full Board, he or she will not be required to obtain approval of a Board committee before an executive action.
4. Board committees are to avoid over-identification with organizational parts rather than the whole. Therefore, a Board committee that has helped the Board create policy on some topic will not be used to monitor organizational performance on that same subject.
5. Committees will be used sparingly and ordinarily in an ad hoc capacity.
6. This policy applies to any group which is formed by Board action, whether or not it is called a committee and regardless whether the group includes Board members. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the Chief of Police.