

Classification **PUBLIC**

Meeting **June 15, 2021**

Agenda Item **Cost of Policing Services Ends Report: 2019 Results**



Recommended Motion:

**THAT the Board find that all provisions of the Cost of Policing Services Ends Policy have been complied with.**

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I hereby submit my report on your Ends Policy "Cost of Policing Services" according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

Signed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Police

Date: June 1/21

**Policy Statement**

Policing is a critical public service, and an expensive one for the taxpayer. Financial resources must be treated with great respect and diligence, and the potential for efficiencies examined continually.

It is the policy of the Durham Region Police Service Board that policing shall be provided at a competitive cost, relative to the following similar communities in Ontario:

- Halton,
- Hamilton,
- Niagara,
- Peel,
- Toronto,
- Waterloo and
- York.

**Note on Comparator Group:** In 2010, the Peel Regional Police decided to cease participation. As a result, no reported data for Peel is available after 2009.

## Reporting

The following measures will be considered in an assessment of policing costs:

- Cost per capita
- Cost per police member (officers and civilians)
- Cost per police officer

The Chief shall report annually on this policy.

### Chief's Interpretation:

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Costs of Police Services is directly related to section 50(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019(CSPA)* which imposes a duty on municipalities to provide adequate and effective police services in accordance with its needs, and the associated infrastructure and administration necessary for providing such services.

It is my interpretation that the Board, in developing the strategic plan will take into consideration the costs of providing those essential services as outlined in sections 10(1) and 11(1) of the *CSPA*, and the budgeted costs associated with other services or programs that are deemed to be within the purview of the Service. The Service is required to examine the potential for efficiencies as part of the business planning and budgeting process.

It is my interpretation that assessing cost competitiveness in policing involves annual reporting in relation to cost per capita, cost per police member (civilian and sworn) and cost per police officer. These measures will be derived from the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada reports (formerly known as the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative) which provide historical reporting based on a standard methodology for all municipal contributors. The website address is [mbncanada.ca](http://mbncanada.ca).

It is my interpretation that a competitive cost is one which is similar in quantity to the comparator services and/or to the average of those services.

### Data in Support:

Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada is a voluntary organization sponsored by the Chief Administrative Officers of a number of Canadian Municipalities in which the Region of Durham is an active participant. Police Services are represented on an Expert Panel which reviews and advises on performance measures to be compiled, compared and analyzed to aid in improving the provision of services to the public. The reported data will be used to assess DRPS compliance with this Board policy.

The reported data for 2019 has been collected and certain of the measures collected became public on March 19, 2021. Cost Per Capita and Cost Per Staff Member are publicly reported. Cost Per Police Officer is not publicly reportable so individual municipal

results may not be released publicly. We have presented the municipal average compared to Durham to make that comparison for this report.

## Cost Per Capita

<b>PLCE227</b>		<b>Operating Cost for Police Services (excluding amortization) per Capita</b>				
<b>Publicly Reportable:</b>		<b>Yes</b>				
<b>Priority Measure:</b>		<b>No</b>				
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2019 Result</b>	<b>2018 Result</b>	<b>2017 Result</b>	<b>2016 Result</b>	<b>2015 Result</b>	
1 Halton	\$251	\$246	\$240	\$240	\$238	
2 <b>Durham</b>	<b>\$297</b>	<b>\$288</b>	<b>\$286</b>	<b>\$280</b>	<b>\$281</b>	
3 Waterloo	\$302	\$292	\$300	\$292	\$282	
4 Hamilton	\$307	\$305	\$308	\$303	\$301	
5 York	\$309	\$303	\$283	\$286	\$274	
6 Niagara	\$352	\$348	\$348	\$343	\$347	
7 Toronto	\$390	\$378	\$389	\$394	\$392	
<b>Average of Municipal Results</b>	<b>\$315</b>	<b>\$309</b>	<b>\$308</b>	<b>\$305</b>	<b>\$302</b>	

Staffing costs make up the majority of Policing costs, and so there is a strong correlation between those jurisdictions with higher levels of police staff in relation to population and those with higher police costs.

Durham's cost per capita remains at the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest of the comparator group for 2019, at \$297. It is competitive when reviewed against the comparator services, being 5.8% lower than the group average of \$315.

Over the 5-year period shown, the increase in Durham's Cost Per Capita was \$16 dollars which represents the median position, with Toronto reporting the lowest growth of -\$2 and York reporting the highest growth of \$35.

It should be noted that the 2015 operating cost result includes operating costs related to the PanAm games. The 2015 result excluding these costs would be \$277.



## Cost Per Staff Member

PLCE320		Operating Cost for Police Services (excludes amortization) per Police Staff Member (Officers and Civilians)				
Publicly Reportable:		Yes				
Priority Measure:		No				
Municipality	2019 Result	2018 Result	2017 Result	2016 Result	2015 Result	
1 Halton	\$146,609	\$143,202	\$137,462	\$136,672	\$133,496	
2 Toronto	\$146,806	\$141,737	\$142,061	\$141,070	\$140,682	
3 Hamilton	\$152,515	\$155,731	\$153,551	\$146,717	\$144,230	
4 York	\$157,216	\$157,732	\$147,476	\$148,075	\$146,361	
5 Waterloo	\$162,816	\$158,469	\$161,885	\$155,460	\$149,797	
<b>6 Durham</b>	<b>\$163,442</b>	<b>\$158,670</b>	<b>\$156,849</b>	<b>\$151,388</b>	<b>\$149,864</b>	
7 Niagara	\$163,453	\$161,768	\$158,886	\$155,273	\$155,230	
Average of Municipal Results	\$156,122	\$153,901	\$151,167	\$147,808	\$145,666	

Durham's Operating Cost per Police Staff Member in 2019 was \$163,442, representing an increase of 3.0% over the 2018 result. Durham's result was 6<sup>th</sup> lowest of the comparator group for 2019, which is consistent with prior years. This result was 4.7% higher than the average of the comparator group, at \$156,122.

## Cost Per Police Officer

Computed		Operating Cost for Police Services (excludes amortization) per Police Officer				
Publicly Reportable:		No				
Priority Measure:		No				
Municipality	2019 Result	2018 Result	2017 Result	2016 Result	2015 Result	
5 Durham	\$229,982	\$226,886	\$223,543	\$216,202	\$214,680	
Average of Municipal Results	\$223,160	\$219,457	\$214,265	\$210,006	\$206,714	

Durham's cost per police officer measure is computed from the total operating costs divided by the number of police officers. Durham's 2019 operating cost per police services was \$229,982. This represents an increase of 1.36% over the 2018 result.

Durham's 2019 result is 3.1% higher than the comparator average (\$223,160), and represents the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest of the comparator group, consistent with the 2018 result.

**Data Reference – MBN Canada' 5 Year Results Report 2015-2019, for 6 comparators**