



Subject: Video Surveillance Memorandum of Understanding

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2023-67

Meeting Date: May 9, 2023

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2023-67 be received;

That Council approve a memorandum of understanding between the City of Port Colborne and the Niagara Regional Police Service regarding video surveillance feed sharing; and

That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and By-law.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for a memorandum of understanding with the Niagara Regional Police Service for the purposes of video surveillance feed sharing to promote community safety.

Background:

Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) operates a Real-Time Operations Centre (RTOC) that provides key intelligence to optimize public safety and police response. NRPS is desirous of connecting additional video surveillance feeds to the RTOC to further optimize public safety throughout Port Colborne.

In 2020, City staff and representatives from NRPS collaborated on a proof of concept to determine the feasibility of enabling access for NRPS to view the City's live video surveillance feeds. It was determined that connecting the systems was possible, however both systems required significant software upgrades to ensure security and reliability of the connection. These upgrades were fully completed in late 2022. Since

the upgrades have been completed, NRPS has collaborated with two other agencies to successfully connect the RTOC with their respective live video surveillance feeds.

In March 2023, the City's senior management team reviewed and approved an update to the City's video surveillance policies to ensure that the policy direction aligned to the most recent video surveillance guidelines set out by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.

Discussion:

Through consultation with legal counsel, City staff have prepared a memorandum of understanding to outline the relationship between the City and NRPS as it pertains to the sharing of live video surveillance feeds. There is no cost to either party for the purposes of this memorandum of understanding, and the term is set until amendment or termination.

Internal Consultations:

This memorandum of understanding has been discussed by the City's senior management team. City staff have also been working with the leadership at NRPS throughout the drafting of this agreement.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications.

Public Engagement:

Not applicable.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
 - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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Conclusion:

NRPS collaborated with City staff in 2020 to determine the feasibility of accessing live video surveillance feeds for use in their Real-Time Operations Centre to provide key intelligence to optimize public safety and police response. The feasibility was confirmed to be possible following a series of software upgrades by both parties.

A memorandum of understanding between the City and NRPS has been developed regarding the sharing of live video surveillance feeds. Staff recommend that Council approve the memorandum of understanding.

Appendices:

- a. Memorandum of Understanding
- b. By-law

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Adair
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.