



LONDON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

“Deeds Not Words”

Report #: 20-84

To: Chair and Members of the London Police Services Board

Date: October 15, 2020

Subject: Collection, Preservation, and Control of Property and Evidence

Synopsis:

This Report provides a synopsis of the personal property, money, and firearms that have come into possession of the London Police Service, between June 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, including the disposition of these items, in accordance with sections 132, 133, and 134 of the *Police Services Act*.

The London Police Service Firearms, Property and Evidence Control Unit handles a multitude of items that must be cataloged, tracked, and preserved as evidence of a crime, returned to the lawful owner, or otherwise disposed of. Members working in the unit receive items internally from officers and requests externally from members of the public.

Background:

The Policing Standards Manual, created under Ontario Regulation 3/99 Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services, made under the *Police Services Act*, requires Police Services Boards to have a Policy “*with respect to property and evidence control and the collection, preservation, documentation and analysis of physical evidence [and] that the Chief of Police will ensure and report back on compliance by members of the police service with sections 132, 133 and 134 of the Police Services Act.*”

The London Police Services Board Policy (LPSB Policy #23-2000 - Collection, Preservation, and Control of Evidence and Property) reflects the language of the *Police Services Act* and requires the Chief of Police to Report to the Board accordingly.

Section 132 *Police Services Act* - Reporting Requirements (Seized and/or Found Personal Property, except Currency and Firearms):

During the reporting period of June 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, the Firearms, Property and Evidence Control Unit housed 33,789 items including personal articles (e.g., clothing, tools, electronics, etc.), securities (including identification and currency), firearms, jewelry, bicycles, drugs, and liquor.

In total, 16,165 items were taken into the property room, and 13,443 items were disposed of.

This represents an increase of 3,617 items from the previous period (attached Report for details). The impacts of the COVID pandemic has resulted in one fewer property auction during the reporting period and fewer returns of property during the restricted access to Headquarters.

Section 133 *Police Services Act* - Reporting Requirements (Disposition of Found and Seized Currency):

During the reporting period, unclaimed money in the amount of \$15,322.69 CDN + \$93.00 USD were submitted to the Board.

\$8060.49 CDN was submitted to the Board from one property auction.

\$880.15 CDN was submitted to the Board derived from scrap metal returns and liquor bottle returns.

Section 134 *Police Services Act* - Reporting Requirements (Disposition of Found and Seized Firearms):

During the reporting period, 550 firearms were seized and/or found by London Police Officers. 118 firearms were returned to their lawful owner.

On October 4, 2019, 269 firearms were destroyed under close police supervision.

Financial Implications

The Board has received \$24,356.33 CDN during the reporting period.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board receive this Report for its information.

SUBMITTED BY: Stuart Betts, Deputy Chief - Administration

Attachment: Collection, Preservation, and Control of Property and Evidence Report prepared by Sgt. Brendan Hicks, Firearms, Property and Evidence Control Unit.

Collection, Preservation and Control of Property and Evidence

Adequacy Standards Reference: LE-020

Submitted by: Superintendent Paul Waight

Prepared by: Sgt. Brendan Hicks #30441
Supervisor
Firearms and Property Unit

Date of report: Sept 23, 2020

Reporting period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

All property coming into the Property Control Unit is accurately tracked and monitored. Every item of property is monitored until its final disposition, which may include, returned to owner, sold at auction, destroyed or transferred to the London Police Service.

The current London Police Service procedure deals with property coming into the possession of the Service and conforms to Part IX Section 132 of the Police Services Act.

Proceeds to the London Police Services Board

AUCTION

Unclaimed property is disposed by way of auction. The proceeds are submitted to the Police Services Board. Prior to an auction being held, the public is notified of the date, time and location at least 10 days in advance. Notification of an auction is primarily advertised through McKenzie's Auctioneers and by way of the London Police website and social media. Additional advertising has included a visual display in the lobby of police headquarters.

The April 2020 auction was not held due to the shutdown and limits placed on businesses in relation to the COVID 19 outbreak.

The results of the one auctions held in the past reporting period.

Date	Location	Proceeds to the LPSB - Auction
October 2, 2019	1881 Scanlan Street	\$8060.49
Total:		\$8060.49

MONEY

Money coming into the possession of the Police Service is accounted for as prescribed in Part IX, Section 133 of the Police Services Act.

The following represents monies given to the Police Services Board in the identified reporting period.

Date	Proceeds to the LPSB – Unclaimed Money
-------------	-----------------------------------------------

Jan 21, 20	\$15 322.69 CDN + \$93 U.S. Currency
------------	--------------------------------------

Total:	\$15 322.69 + \$93 U.S. Currency
---------------	-----------------------------------------

OTHER

In addition, beer bottles/kegs and scrap metals are recycled and the proceeds received are remitted to the London Police Services Board. The following transactions represent these amounts:

Date	Proceeds to the LPSB - Other
-------------	-------------------------------------

Sept 18, 2019	\$328.27 (scrap metal)
Jan 10, 20	\$34.10 (liquor bottle returns)
June 4, 2020	\$517.78 (scrap metals)

Total:	\$880.15
---------------	-----------------

TOTAL PROCEEDS TO LPS BOARD \$24 263.33 CDN + \$93 U.S. Currency
(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

FIREARMS

Firearms that are found, turned in or seized by the London Police Service are securely stored within the Property Control facility. A register documenting the final disposition of each firearm including; returned to owner, destroyed, transferred to the Director of the Centre of Forensic or transferred to the London Police inventory, is kept of all firearms coming into possession of the Police Service.

Firearms seized during reported period – 519

Firearms found during reporting period - 31

Firearms returned to owner during reporting period – 118

Firearms transferred to LPS inventory during reporting period (use of force training) -0

In accordance with Part IX, Section 134 of the Police Services Act, the London Police Service sends, on or before the 31st day of January each year, a report to the Solicitor

General which lists each firearm that has come into the possession of the Service in the previous year. The report includes the disposition of each firearm received.

The following is the final disposition of firearms in the past year:

Date	Disposition
Oct 4, 2019	269 firearms destroyed at Dofasco in Hamilton, Ontario
Total	269 firearms destroyed

EXHIBITS

The following includes all found and seized exhibits during this reporting period. Exhibits are classified by type as follows: articles, securities, firearms, jewelry, bicycles, drugs and liquor.

Current Inventory of Exhibits as of June 30, 2020

Articles:	25638
Securities:	1707
Firearms:	996
Jewelry:	108
Bicycles:	200
Drugs:	5028
Liquor:	112

Total Exhibits **33,789**

These **33,789** exhibits are currently stored by the Firearms and Property Unit, London Police Service. Any bicycles are stored by McKenzie's Auctioneers 1881 Scanlon St or at the St. Julien Street City owned storage facility.

Overall there was an ***increase of 3617*** exhibits during the reporting period in comparison to the previous reporting period.

Acquired	16,165
Disposed	13,443

***** the large difference in disposals from previous years can be partially attributed to a temporary shutdown of the public counter due to COVID 19 restrictions as well as the shutdown of the processing locations for both drug and gun destructions. During this time only matters that were urgent in nature were returned to owners by LPS.**

Acquired and disposed exhibits for the same reporting period from previous years:

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019	Acquired 17,957 Disposed 18,349
July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018	Acquired 19,616 Disposed 18,392
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017	Acquired 18,097 Disposed 15,416
July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016	Acquired 17,277 Disposed 15,643
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	Acquired 17,346 Disposed 20,959
July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014	Acquired 18,217 Disposed 18,264
July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013	Acquired 18,602 Disposed 18,064
July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012	Acquired 17,368 Disposed 14,400
July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011	Acquired 15,958 Disposed 15,859

Respectfully Submitted,



Sgt. Brendan Hicks#30441
Supervisor
Firearms and Property Unit

Sept 28, 2020

Reviewed. Approved
P. Wright
Sept