



Policy PoP-05

Policing Designated Major Events

Approved 22 May 2025

Purpose

1. Members of the public have the right to gather and the right to protest lawfully, including but not limited to labour disputes and aboriginal protests/occupations. Members of the public also have the right to be and feel safe when gathering or protesting lawfully, or when others are gathering or protesting. Meanwhile, high-profile, potentially volatile public gatherings increase the risk of criminal behaviour by some persons involved, which can significantly affect other individuals and property.
2. Accordingly, the Board is committed to ensuring that:
 - 2.1 where warranted, organizationally–significant public gatherings in Halton Region are deemed **Designated Major Events**;
 - 2.2 elevated risks to persons, property and/or political interference are identified and associated mitigation plans are developed;
 - 2.3 policing Designated Major Events is intelligence-led, rights-aware, and proportionate; and
 - 2.4 continuity of police operations throughout the Region is sustained during any Designated Major Event.

Requirements

3. **Designation.** The Chief of Police shall recommend, in a Board report, any upcoming or ongoing event that the Board should determine to be a Designated Major Event. The recommendation shall be based upon an assessment of the following criteria:
 - 3.1 the event may negatively affect the adequacy and effectiveness of police services throughout the Region and/or continuity of regular policing service may be at risk of disruption;
 - 3.2 the event is sponsored or hosted by the federal or provincial government, or another external entity;



- 3.3 the event requires extraordinary funding or other resources, and/or reimbursement agreements with external agencies;
 - 3.4 operational and/or planning decisions regarding policing are subject to the approval of any other entity;
 - 3.5 event command-and-control may involve police agencies from other jurisdictions;
 - 3.6 the event features extraordinary operational requirements;
 - 3.7 requests for legislative change to accommodate the policing of the event may be required;
 - 3.8 the event will be of medium or greater risk; and
 - 3.9 any other relevant criteria.
4. In the absence of a recommendation, the Board may designate a Major Event on its own accord, for instance in response to an emerging Event of Strategic Significance (refer to policy G-11).
5. **Risk Assessment.** Prior to the Designated Major Event, the Chief of Police shall brief the Board on the Service Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan regarding policing a Designated Major Event in Halton Region, and the concurrent continuity of policing throughout the Region. The Chief of Police shall update the Board as/if that Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan evolves through the course of the Designated Major Event, as time permits.
6. **Contribution Agreements.** The Chief of Police shall consult with the Board prior to committing to any contribution agreements with government entities regarding policing a Designated Major Event in Halton Region, beyond the scope of normal shared services.



7. **Planning.** With regard to planning to police Designated Major Events, the Chief of Police shall ensure that:
 - 7.1 advance legal advice and assistance is engaged for, among other purposes, making applications for court orders such as those required to compel assistance from tow truck operators;
 - 7.2 arrangements are made for audio-video records of the Designated Major Event including police presence, activity and interactions with the public; and
 - 7.3 the Board is briefed on the operational plan and afforded an opportunity to ask questions, prior to the Designated Major Event.
8. **Operations.** The Chief of Police shall ensure, with regard to policing a Designated Major Event in Halton Region, that:
 - 8.1 public order is maintained, persons are safeguarded from injury, and property is safeguarded from damage – without unduly infringing on rights and freedoms; and
 - 8.2 should the threat of riotous and/or violent behavior pose elevated risk of personal injury or property damage, that police response is graduated and clearly communicated in advance to the public present at the Designated Major Event; and subsequent police actions result in:
 - a. an expeditious restoration of public order,
 - b. a minimum of personal injuries,
 - c. a minimum, temporary imposition on individual rights such as the right to gather, the right to free speech, and the right to protest,
 - d. detainment of those, and only those, clearly engaged in criminal offenses/actions or other arrestable activities,
 - e. a minimum of property damage, and
 - f. the re-establishment of conditions necessary for the continued peaceful gathering of those not detained.
9. **Public Communications.** The Chief of Police shall inform the Board of significant communications to the broader community and media regarding and during Designated Major Events, in advance of such communications being made public, to the extent practicable.



Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

10. In addition to the aforementioned reporting requirements regarding Designation, Risk Assessment, Contribution Agreements and Public Communications, the Chief of Police shall report:
 - 10.1 the sequence of events, decisions, and consequences of police actions and inactions leading up and during the Designated Major Event;
 - 10.2 injuries and damage incurred by members of the public and police alike during the Designated Major Event;
 - 10.3 the un-forecasted cost of the Designated Major Event;
 - 10.4 any civil actions resulting from the Designated Major Event;
 - 10.5 any deviations from this or any other Board policy; and
 - 10.6 lessons learned from the Designated Major Event.
11. The Chief of Police shall also report on the planned participation of the Service in support of major events in other jurisdictions beyond the scope of normal shared services, in advance of any such deployment or commitment to participate.

References:

Independent Civilian Review into Matters Related to the G20 Summit, Justice Morden,
<https://tpsb.ca/g20/ICRG20Mordenreport.pdf>

Convoy Occupations in Ottawa and other jurisdictions in January-February 2022

HPB Policy G11 Communications (TBA)