WPAB WORK SESSION

Nov. 5, 2009

Topic: WPS Use of Force Policy

Presenters: Patrol Sgt. Jason Anderson

Police Cst. Barney Bergen

On October 8th the WPAB requested the Board be provided with the WPS use of force policy.

The Executive Director was subsequently advised:

a) The Use of Force policy as currently written was unavailable to the Board as it currently contains both tactical and non-tactical information

b) WPS is currently working on a new version of the policy that would exclude the tactical subject matter and be suitable for public release.

In lieu of the written policy an offer was made to have WPS staff provide the board with an overview of the WPS use of force policy. This session was conducted as a Board work session on November 5.

Board members received an overview of the use of force continuum to which all WPS officers are trained, and examples/demonstrations on when and how the use of force would escalate or diminish. Per current training, the level of force police use is mostly determined by the level of resistance encountered. Other information, such as size and age disparity, or history of a suspect that is known to police, may be considerations for the individual officer in determining the appropriate (greater or lesser) level of response for their specific situation.

Police officers are ultimately responsible to the courts for instances of excessive use of force.

R.A. MacIntyre

Executive Director

WPAB