



Chatham-Kent Police Service

24 Third Street • P.O. Box 366 • Chatham, Ontario • N7M 5K5

Tel: 519 436-6600 www.ckpolice.com Fax: 519 436-6643

Gary Conn • Chief of Police

January 30, 2023

Director Stephen Leach
Office of the Independent Police Review Director
655 Bay Street 10th Floor
Toronto, Ontario – M7A 2T4

Re: Ontario Police Services “Knock and Announce” Rule (Dynamic Entries)

Dear Sir,

In response to the OIPRD memo dated November 18, 2022, and at your request, I have reviewed the Chatham-Kent Police Service (CKPS) procedure *LE 01 004 - Search Warrants and Search of Premise* to address issues raised by the OIPRD relating to dynamic entries. Specifically, the OIPRD raised the following concerns:

- Some police services do not have a clear approval process for departing from knock and announce rule, or make it clear that doing so should be exceptional rather than the norm.
- Many police services do not provide clear guidelines for record keeping or documenting the process.
- Often police officers are often unable to articulate their reasons for departing from the knock and announce rule.

The OIPRD provided a list of recommendations:

- Develop procedures that address the following:
 - The departure from the knock and announce rule only occurs in exigent circumstances.
 - Clear supervisory approval process for departing from the knock and announce rule.
 - The need for a documented plan and risk assessment created prior to the execution of all search warrants.
 - Reporting requirement after the execution of a search warrant (who authorized the departure from the knock and announce rule, and the justification).



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- Tracking how frequent police services depart from the knock and announce rule.

Our amended procedure satisfies the recommendations. We have now established the following:

- A clear process for requesting and approving dynamic entries.
- Language that makes it clear that the standard is to knock and announce, and to deviate from that requires exceptional circumstances and proper articulation.
- A documented plan and risk assessment created prior to the execution of all search warrants.
- Duty Senior Officer (DSO) requirement for appropriate notetaking, articulating the reasons for departing from the knock and announce rule.
- Recordkeeping on the type of warrants executed on an annual basis.

Respectfully,

Gary Conn
Chief of Police
Chatham-Kent Police Service