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October 27, 2020

Our Reference #: M-2020-12369

Mr. Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair
Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
Brampton ON L6T 4B9

RECEIVED
October 27, 2020

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Email: Nando.Iannicca@peelregion.ca

Dear Mr. Iannicca:

I am writing to you today to provide you with an update regarding changes to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), which is the civilian law enforcement body responsible for investigating incidents involving police officers where there has been death, serious injury, or allegations of sexual assault.

As you may be aware, the *Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019* (SIU Act) was passed in Spring 2019 as part of our government's *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act*. Once in force, the SIU Act will focus the SIU's investigative resources where they are needed, on potential criminal conduct.

As such, I would like to advise that an Order in Council to proclaim this legislation into force was recently approved, and the government will be bringing the SIU Act into effect on December 1, 2020.

Once in force, the SIU Act will:

- establish the SIU as a fully independent provincial agency;
- require the SIU to investigate any discharge of a firearm at a person by an official, regardless of whether serious injury or death occurred;
- clarify the ability of the SIU to investigate potential criminal conduct within its mandate;
- permit the SIU to investigate special constables employed by the Niagara Parks Commission and peace officers in the Legislative Protective Service, in addition to police officers; and,
- require the SIU to report publicly on investigations that take more than 120 days to complete and release further updates every 30 days thereafter.

REFERRAL TO _____

RECOMMENDED

.../2

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Effective, fair, and independent police oversight is a top priority for our government, and we are confident the balanced and fair actions included in the SIU Act will help ensure accountability and trust in our police oversight system. We also recognize there is a need to strengthen public trust in our policing oversight systems, particularly for racialized and Indigenous communities.

As a government, we are committed to ensuring our communities are safe, while respecting the integrity and professionalism of our province's frontline police officers as well as the essential and dangerous work they undertake each day to protect our communities.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Ms. Mariela Orellana, Director of my ministry's Agency and Tribunal Relations Branch. You can contact her by email at mariela.orellana@ontario.ca, or by telephone at 647-680-5420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Downey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" and last name "Downey" clearly distinguishable.

Doug Downey
Attorney General

c: The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General