

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**25 April 2022 / 25 avril 2022**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:  
Board Solicitor / L'avocat de la Commission**

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**SUBJECT: LEGAL SERVICES STATUS REPORT – 2022 FIRST QUARTER**

**OBJET: RAPPORT D'ÉTAPE DES SERVICES JURIDIQUES – PREMIER  
TRIMESTRE DE 2022**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du  
présent rapport.**

**BACKGROUND**

Legal Services within the Innovative Client Services Department is a full-service, in-house law practice that provides a broad range of services to the Police Services Board in the areas of civil litigation, labour and employment law, procedural and general legal advice, and corporate/commercial/development and environmental law. Legal Services' objective is to achieve this through the most cost-effective and efficient combination of both in-house and external lawyers. With respect to external lawyers, Legal Services has a strategic standing offer with multiple law firms for the provision of external legal services. The new standing offer was negotiated for the period 2019-2022 and provides favourable, hourly rates set for the duration of the four-year term.

Pursuant to Section 6.1 of Board Policy #GA-8 – Legal Services, the Board Solicitor shall submit a report to the Board on a quarterly basis that includes statistical information and concise analysis of trends on:

1. Positive and negative variances against the approved budget
2. All claims or actions filed against the Board including how many have been filed, how many are outstanding, how many have been settled, the nature of them (categorized by type), and the cost of settlements
3. The number, cost and outcome of all appeals and applications for judicial review
4. Any issues of significance the Board should be advised of

In compliance with Section 6.1, this report provides the requested information with respect to the first quarter of 2022.

In according to the direction of the Board at its April 23, 2018 meeting, the report has been revised to include a year-over-year comparison of data, at each quarter, with respect to the budgetary spending and various categories of claims managed.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **2022 Budget**

The Police Services Board has allocated \$328,100 for the provision of legal services in 2022. At the completion of the first quarter \$45,497 or approximately 14 percent of the budget was spent, compared with \$76,739 or approximately 23 percent at the same point in time in the previous year. The following chart sets out expenditures for the entire year to date. The costs reflect the significant staff time devoted to representing the Board, both at trial as well as at mediations, discoveries, and settlement conferences.

**Table 1 - Ottawa Police Service - Costs of Legal Services, Q1 2021 vs. Q1 2022**

Item	Q1	
	2021	2022
Internal Costs	\$15,820	\$13,285
External Costs	\$60,919	\$32,212
Total, Quarter	\$76,739	\$45,497
<b>Total, YTD</b>	<b>\$76,739</b>	<b>\$45,497</b>

The table, above, reflects the cost of the provision of internal and external legal services against the approved budget, including the HST municipal rebate.

### **2022 Litigation Claims**

Five Statement of Claims were received on behalf of the Police Services Board in the first quarter of 2022, compared with three Statement of Claims received during the same period, the previous year. There are currently 67 outstanding claims/notices of claim against the Board, compared with 48 outstanding claims/notices at the same point in the previous year. Due to a number of reasons including direction by the Board's insurer, the requirement for specialized legal expertise, or capacity constraints, 43 of those claims are with external legal counsel. The remaining 24 claims are assigned to various in-house legal counsel. The following list sets out the number of current litigated claims by category or type.

Beginning in the first quarter of 2013, Legal Services started including motor vehicle accident claims involving police vehicles within its quarterly report to the Police Services Board. Though the City of Ottawa, as the registered owner of those vehicles, is frequently named or included as a party in those claims, in keeping with the accident insurance scheme in Ontario, the inclusion of motor vehicle accident claims within the quarterly reports will provide a more accurate summary of all outstanding litigation affecting the Board.

**Table 2 - All Open Litigated Claims - Police Services – Q1 2021 vs. Q1 2022**

Type of Claim	Number of Claims	
	Q1, 2021	Q1, 2022
Breach of Charter Rights	3	6
Breach of Contract	1	1
Excessive Force/Assault	8	11
Error and Omission	0	1
False Arrest	5	8
Malicious Prosecution	0	2
Motor Vehicle Accident	9	12
Negligence/Negligent Investigation	14	17
Personal Injury	8	7
Application	0	1
Property Damage	0	1
<b>Total Number of Open Litigated Claims – Police Services</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>67</b>

## 2022 Non-Litigated Claims

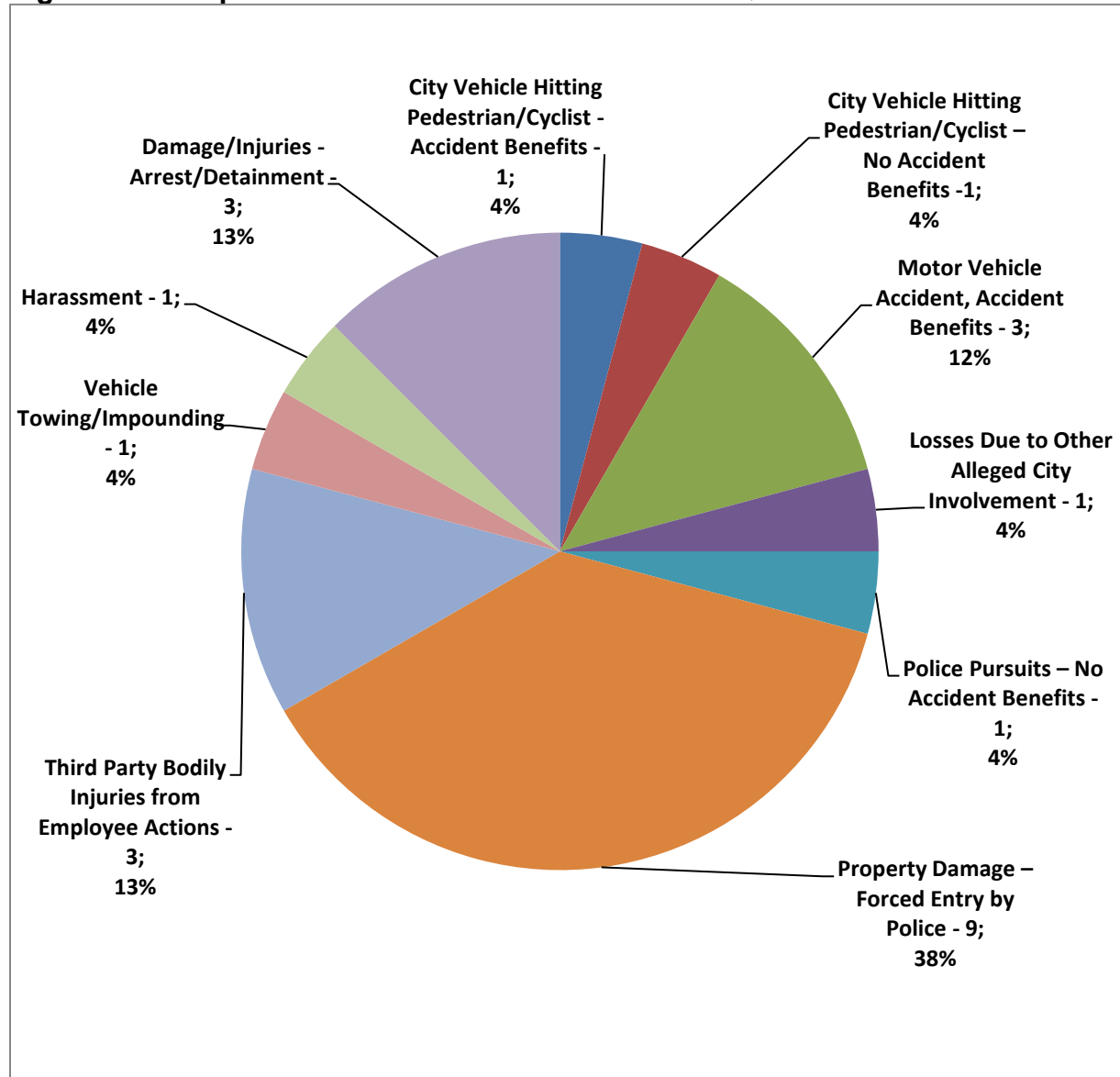
During the first quarter of 2022, 21 new claims were received by the Claims Unit, as compared with the 10 received in the same period, the previous year. Of these claims, two were denied and closed, 13 remain open as the evaluation of these matters is ongoing and six are open being litigated.

The following chart reflects the total number of claims currently open involving the Ottawa Police Services Board, as of the end of the first quarter 2022. As of the end of the first quarter, 2022, there were 24 open claims not being litigated, as compared with nine at the end of the same period in the previous year.

**Table 3 - All Open Non-Litigated Claims - Police Services – Q1 2021 vs Q1 2022**

Type of Claim	Number of Claims	
	Q1, 2021	Q1, 2022
City Vehicle Hitting Pedestrian/Cyclist - Accident Benefits	0	1
City Vehicle Hitting Pedestrian/Cyclist – No Accident Benefits	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accident, Accident Benefits	2	3
Losses Due to Other Alleged City Involvement	1	1
Police Pursuits – No Accident Benefits	0	1
Property Damage – Forced Entry by Police	5	9
Third Party Bodily Injuries from Employee Actions	0	3
Vehicle Towing/Impounding	0	1
Harassment	0	1
Damage/Injuries - Arrest/Detainment	1	3
<b>Total Number of Open Non-Litigated Claims – Police Services</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>

**Figure 1 - All Open Claims - Police Services – As of Q1 2022**

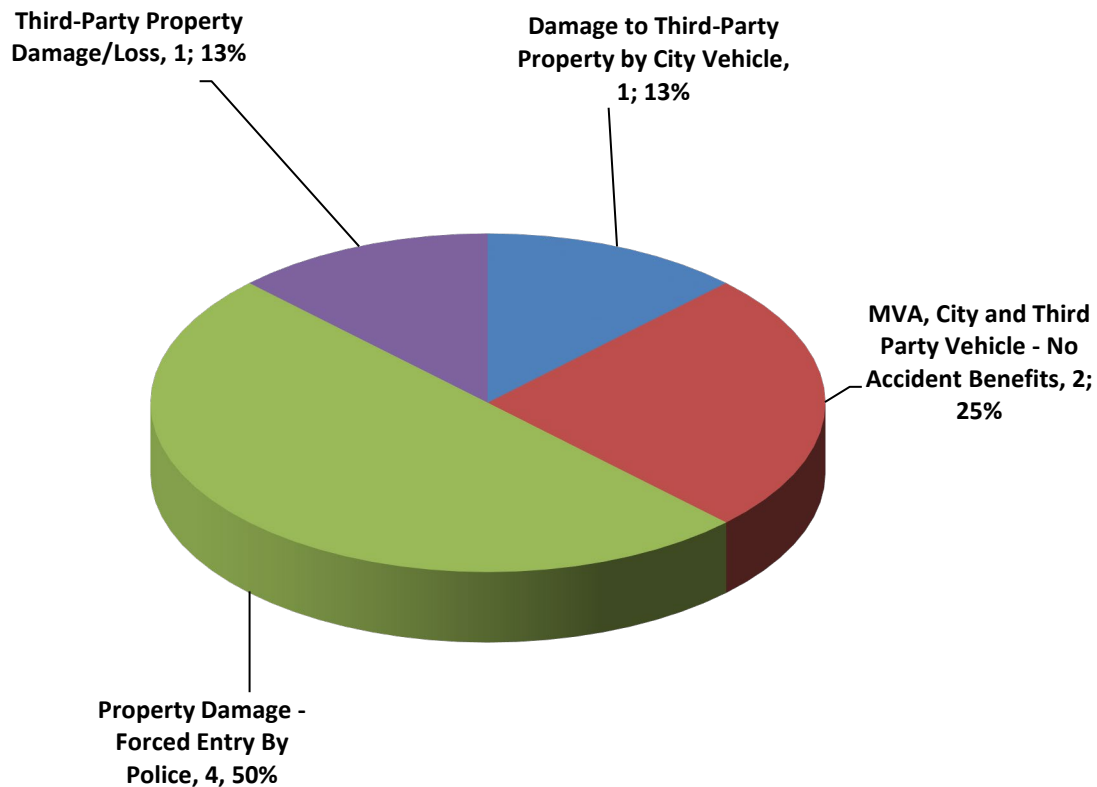


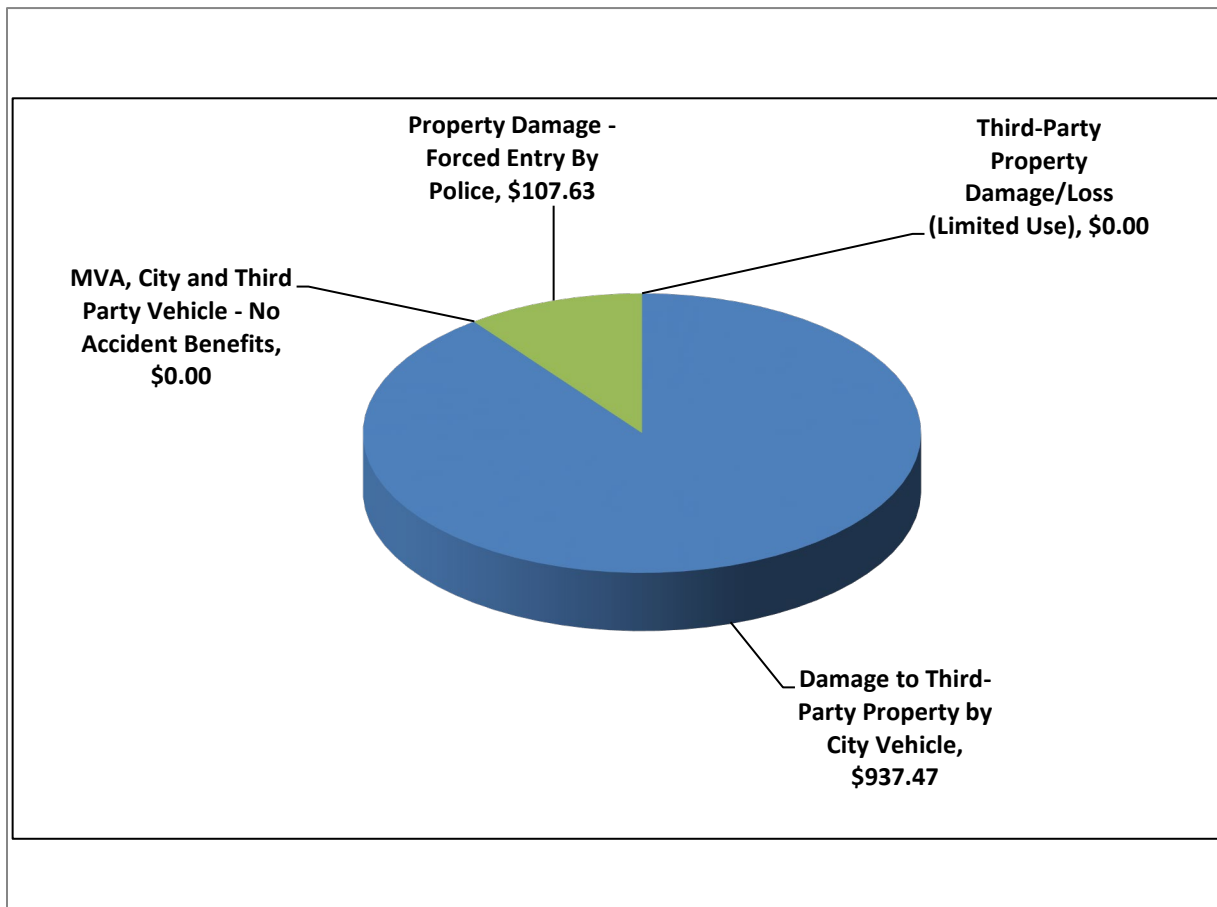
During the first quarter of 2022, seven claims were closed by the Claims Unit. As compared with the 10 closed in the same period, the previous year. Of these claims, five were denied and two were paid.

To date, the Claims Unit has paid out \$1,045.10 in compensation for non-litigated claims. As compared with the \$1,590,881.84 paid at the same point, the previous year. Below is the summary for number of claims and amount paid for each claim type.

**Table 4 - Closed Police Services Claims, Year to Date – Q1 2021 vs. Q1 2022**

Type of Claim	Number of Claims	Paid Sum
Motor Vehicle Accident, City and Third-Party Vehicle – No Accident Benefits	2	\$0.00
Damage to Third Party Property by City Vehicle	1	\$937.47
Property Damage - Forced Entry by Police	4	\$107.63
Third-Party Property Damage/Loss (Limited Use)	1	\$0.00
<b>Total – Closed Police Services Claims 2022, YTD</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$1,045.10</b>
Compared to Closed Police Services Claims 2021, Q1 – YTD	10	\$1,590,881.84

**Figure 1 - Number of Closed Police Services Claims, Q1 2022**

**Figure 3 - Value of Closed Police Services Claims, Q1 2022**

### **2022 Labour, Employment and Human Rights Matters**

In addition to the above civil litigation claims, Legal Services is currently managing 64 active labour and employment law matters on behalf of the Police Services Board, as compared to the 47 files which were active at the end of the first quarter in the previous year), with one new file opened in the first quarter of 2022. For the year to date, no Police Services files for labour and employment law matters were closed. One new labour and employment law matter was outsourced in the first quarter of 2022.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

There were no significant issues to report in the first quarter of 2022.

### **CONSULTATION**

As this report is administrative in nature, consultation was not required.



**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial implications are as presented in this report.

**CONCLUSION**

It is anticipated that the 2022 second quarter report will be presented to the Board at its July 2022 meeting.