

# 'BOTTOM LINE IS WE DON'T DO CARDING'

## INFORMATION GATHERING TACTIC IS CONTROVERSIAL

ROLAND CILLIERS  
rcilliers@metroland.com

Local police have their own take on a controversial information-gathering tactic.

Mostly known as carding in Canada, and officially the Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances, it's the practice of being stopped by police and requested to supply identifying information generally with no charges laid.

The practice has been labeled as racist with a 2010 report revealing young black men were far more likely to be targeted. A similar practice in the

USA is known as stop-and-frisk.

In 2017, Ontario passed a new provincial rule that banned carding outside of specific situations. Under the new rules police are still able to collect identifying information if they were looking into suspicious activities, which critics argue means police can still card at any time as long as they can say they are investigating a particular crime.

Rob Burton, chair of the Halton Police Board, made an emphatic statement about the practice during the June meeting.

"For the public's benefit, bottom line is we don't do carding," said Burton.

Discussion of the practice and how it's conducted in the region came forward as a result of a mandatory report that shows the number of times officer's



Roland Cilliers / Torstar

Deputy Chief Nishan Duraiappah of the Halton Regional Police said they had a policy in place that meant new regulations around carding had very little effect.

engaged in the new way carding is done. The report showed only one instance of carding occurred in 2018 by Halton police that fell under the act.

Deputy Chief of District Operation Nishan Duraiappah said the police

had an information gathering system in place that does not fall into the acts reporting requirements that they feel works effectively and predates the new rules.

"We had always had the spirit in mind to mitigate

risk for liability for the organization well in advance in lieu of that, we created systems that were already efficient for sure," said Duraiappah.

Officers in the region make use of reporting focused on occurrence reports and suspicious people and vehicle which are subject to oversight of supervisors.

Derek Davis, a superintendent with the Halton Regional Police Service said in 2015 the took a different approach to information gathering.

"We anticipated this so we actually changed the structure of how Halton police collects information that would be the equivalent of what would be referred to as a street check type proactive information gathering. We switched from the model that was problematic, which is unverified interaction with a member of the public. We switched to a validated report-based

system where it goes through supervisor review or it feeds in. We created a mechanism for our officers to gather the information, have oversight in place on it and still be able to bring it into the system for investigative purposes," said Davis.

Police Chief Stephen Tanner said it doesn't mean the Halton police aren't collecting intelligence.

"The street gangs are not just in Toronto they're not just in Jane and Finch. We need to have creative ways to find the people involved in those. There's a lot more work a lot more targeted work through the Criminal intelligence service of Ontario and Canada and a group now called CIROC which we can speak more to in camera at some point, which is operational intelligence around street gangs and organized criminals so we have to have a way to get to those people," said Tanner.

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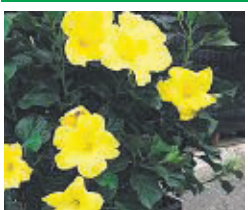
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