



Resolution 2010-05

Ontario Police Officer Access to Ontario Ministry of Transportation Drivers License Photographs

Approved at the 59th Annual General Meeting June 2010

Preamble: The Highway Traffic Act (Ontario) requires that persons making application for the privilege of obtaining an Ontario drivers license submit to having a photographic image taken. The purpose of that photograph is to aid with the identification of persons operating motor vehicles upon public access highway, and thereby ensure that only persons who have demonstrated the necessary skills, knowledge and ability to operate a motor vehicle safely do so. It is the responsibility of police officers to enforce the Highway Traffic Act and its regulations by charging violators and submitting motor vehicle collision reports to the Registrar. In order to be effective and to protect the public, it is necessary for the police to positively identify drivers. An Ontario Provincial Police pilot project has proven that officer access to drivers license photos: (1) can be a useful tool to support operations and investigations; (2) has led to more timely and accurate roadside identification of persons, including identification of victims involved in fatal and serious traffic accidents; and (3) that providing officer access to drivers license photos can ultimately increase both public and officer safety.

WHEREAS Ontario police services do not have timely access to Ontario Ministry of Transportation drivers license photos for operational purposes, and

WHEREAS real-time access to driver license photographs would be a valuable tool for Ontario Police Services that would improve enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act and contribute to the safety of the public and law enforcement personnel, and

WHEREAS real-time availability of driver license photographs would also reduce the amount of time, effort and resources spent by law enforcement agencies in positively identifying individuals operating motor vehicles and reduce the number of persons wrongly charged as a result of persons falsely identifying themselves as another person, and

WHEREAS technological advances allow the efficient distribution of photographic images to police officers in the field, and

WHEREAS Ontario police services seek to have real-time access to Ontario driver license photographs, and

WHEREAS The Ministry of Transportation Ontario have recently communicated a strategy that will provide limited access to Municipal Police Services in 2010, and a

second strategy that will permit broad access to this solution for front line police personnel beginning in 2012 at the latest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the Government of Ontario to immediately prioritize and assign sufficient direct and indirect fiscal, technical, support and hosting resources, enabling timely delivery of these short and long term strategies to enhance access to Ontario Ministry of Transportation drivers license photos electronically by and for Ontario police officers, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OACP appoints the Common Police Environment Group (CPEG) Committee as the authoritative committee representing its interests in this matter.