

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC ORDER EMERGENCY COMMISSION

INSTITUTIONAL REPORT OF
WINDSOR POLICE SERVICE

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Introduction

1. This is the Institutional Report of the Windsor Police Service (“WPS”) as a party to the Public Order Emergency Commission. It concerns the blockade of the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Ontario that commenced February 7, 2022 and concluded February 13, 2022 (the “Ambassador Bridge Blockade”). It also addresses events that led up to and followed the Ambassador Bridge Blockade.

2. Consistent with subparagraph paragraph (a)(vi) Order-in-Council PC. 2022-392 establishing this Commission, this Institutional Report endeavours to avoid comment on ongoing criminal investigations or proceedings or any other investigation or proceeding.

The Windsor Police Service

3. The WPS provides policing services for the City of Windsor, Ontario. By contract it also provides policing services to the nearby Town of Amherstburg.

4. The WPS is governed by the [*Police Services Act*](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. P.15, which establishes that the WPS is the day-to-day responsibility of the Windsor Chief of Police and his or her designated representatives. The WPS operates independently from the Windsor Police Services

Board and from the City of Windsor. A history of policing in Windsor is found [here](#).¹ The WPS's Organizational Chart Level I is found [here](#).² The WPS's 2021 Annual Report is found [here](#).³

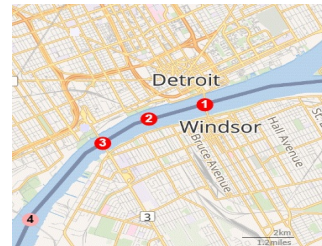
5. It is important to note that even during the Ambassador Bridge Blockade the WPS remained responsible to protect the public, uphold the law, keep the peace and continue to provide policing services in all parts of the City of Windsor and the Town of Amherstburg.

The City of Windsor

6. The City of Windsor is a city in southwestern Ontario, immediately south of Detroit, Michigan. It has a population of [229,660 as of the 2021 census, and a land area of 146.02 km](#). The City of Windsor is also a party to the Public Order Emergency Commission.

7. Important for the purposes of this report is that there are three fixed international border crossings between Windsor and Detroit, across the Detroit River. They are from east to west:

- (1) the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel,
- (2) the Michigan Central Railway Tunnel, and
- (3) the Ambassador Bridge.



¹ <https://www.police.windsor.on.ca/about/wps/Pages/Our-History.aspx>

² <https://windsorpolice.ca/about/wps/Pages/Our-Organizational-Chart-Level-I.aspx>

³ <https://www.police.windsor.on.ca/about/publications/Documents/2021%20WPS-Annual-Report%20FINAL.pdf>

The Canadian side of all three current fixed international border crossings fall within the jurisdiction of the Windsor Police Service. This report focuses on the Ambassador Bridge Blockade but, as is addressed below, it was not the only crossing that the WPS had to be concerned about during this time.⁴

8. For completeness, there is a fourth fixed crossing — the Gordie Howe International Bridge — under construction. In addition, there are truck ferries between the Windsor and Detroit areas that can accommodate trucks carrying hazardous materials.

The Ambassador Bridge

9. The Ambassador Bridge is a steel suspension bridge that crosses the Detroit River between Windsor and Detroit. It was completed in 1929. Today the Ambassador Bridge is the most important crossing point for Canada's merchandise trade. Statistics Canada data show that in 2021 the Ambassador Bridge was associated with almost 24% of Canada's merchandise trade activity by road. \$141 million dollars' worth of auto parts and vehicles cross the Ambassador Bridge per day. 70% of all greenhouse produce is exported to the US via the Ambassador Bridge. 6,500 Windsor/Essex residents work in the US and cross at Windsor everyday.⁵

10. This is a link to a Google Map of the vicinity of the Ambassador Bridge Blockade:

⁴ Image from [Wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org) and subject to [ODbL](https://www.odbl.org/).

⁵ www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220308/dq220308a-eng.htm; WPS 000000002, p. 10

<https://goo.gl/maps/xpA48kz9KiKRmnpWA>

Chronology

11. This is WPS’s chronology of events from January to March, 2022.

January 2022

12. On Friday, January 14, 2022 Tamara Lich of Alberta launched a fundraiser on GoFundMe for “Freedom Convoy 2022”. Just under two weeks later – on Thursday January 27, 2022 — a convoy of trucks rolled east through London, Ontario on Highway 401 on their way to Ottawa, resulting in traffic congestion. Thousands of pedestrians lined overpass bridges in support of the convoy. Around this time the Ottawa Police Service requested support from the Public Order Unit (“POU”) from other police services. The WPS does not have a POU.⁶

13. On Friday, January 28, 2022 hundreds of trucks arrived in downtown Ottawa as the first wave of their protest. By the next day — Saturday, January 29, 2022 — approximately 3,000 big rigs and other trucks converge in downtown Ottawa, together with more than 15,000 protesters. Protesters were seen dancing on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial. Others draped flags and anti-vaccine signs on the Terry Fox statute. Some openly

⁶ WPS000000002, p. 5

displayed racist symbols such as swastikas and Confederate flags.⁷

February 1 to February 6, 2022

14. On Thursday, February 3, 2022 the WPS received information that a ‘slow roll’ was planned for the area of the Ambassador Bridge in the coming days. In order to be prepared for any possible protests in the Windsor area, on February 4, 2022 the WPS cancelled all Special Time Off for all sworn personnel until further notice.⁸

15. GoFundMe pulled the plug on the Freedom Convoy 2022 campaign on Friday, February 4, 2022. At that time the campaign had collected more than C\$10 million; 86% of the donors were Canadian. Contributors then turned to GiveSendGo, and ultimately another US\$9.5 million would be raised. In Ottawa, on Sunday February 6, 2022 Mayor Jim Watson declared a state of emergency in the city over the ongoing protesters. In a news release, the City of Ottawa said that this decision “reflects the serious danger and threat to the safety and security of residents posed by the ongoing demonstrations”.⁹

16. In Windsor on Sunday February 6, 2022, the ‘slow roll’ had gathered at Mic Mac Park in Windsor, with over 100 vehicles. Mic Mac Park is located at Windsor’s far west side. It is a

⁷ WPS000000002, p. 5

⁸ WPS 000000002, p. 6; WPS 000000034

⁹ WPS 000000002, p. 6

multi-use facility with two full-sized baseball stadiums, six adult softball fields, four soccer fields, etc., and it is less than four kilometers from the Ambassador Bridge. The WPS commenced liaising with the RCMP, OPP, Canadian Border Services Agency and others; however, due to the demand for officers in Ottawa, there was little support available to Windsor. The organizers of the ‘slow roll’ were generally cooperative with the WPS. Separately, however, the WPS received information that if changes were not made in respect of vaccine and mask mandates that they would block the Ambassador Bridge on Monday, February 7, 2022, the next day.¹⁰

17. At this time the WPS had the following concerns:
- a. the WPS had very limited confirmed information on likely protests and tactics;
 - b. there were limited resources available to the WPS to police effectively a large scale protest considering, for instance, public/officer safety and possible counter-protests;
 - c. the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel may also be or become a possible target; and
 - d. the WPS continued to receive information from Ottawa and Toronto that convoys were on their way to Windsor.

February 7, 2022

18. On February 7, 2022 the Ambassador Bridge Blockade began. A tiered command and control structure was applied. This meant that Deputy Chief (as he was then) Jason Bellaire was responsible for implementing the response to any incident involving the Ambassador Bridge, but

¹⁰ WPS 000000002, p. 6

ultimate operational authority on the ground was given to the WPS's Critical Incident Commander(s).¹¹ Superintendent (as he was then) Jason Crowley was appointed as Critical Incident Commander ("CIC"). The rest of the command team identified today are:

- Inspector Karel DeGraff - CIC/Intelligence Inspector
- Inspectors Crosby and Murphy - Logistics
- Sergeant McMahon - Intel
- Scribes: Cipolla and McLeod¹²

19. Also on February 7, 2022, local OPP officers engaged a group at the Comber Rest Stop on Highway 401 east of Windsor, while WPS officers attended a group gathering at Mic Mac Park. Both groups were smaller than expected. Efforts were made to come to some sort of resolution or agreement with the group at Mic Mac Park, however no leader emerged and the crowd sought confrontation. Plans were put into place to have additional police personnel from other services attend to deal with the situation as it evolved and additional protesters joined.¹³

20. During this day the WPS identified certain strategic traffic intersections, with a view to controlling movement. The strategy worked well for some time, frustrating protesters. By mid-afternoon, however, southbound traffic on Huron Church Road became stopped just south of College Avenue, blocking traffic. Thereafter all Canada-bound traffic halted. Subsequently traffic into the

¹¹ WPS 000000049, ¶ 2

¹² WPS 000000002, pp 23, 32

¹³ WPS 000000002, p. 17

United States was severely limited through this primary route. Then a street party began.

21. Information was received that big rigs were hidden off of the main highway routes, but were ready to join the Ambassador Bridge Blockade. Protesters began targeting towing companies and their lots, requiring a police presence there. Canada-bound traffic was re-routed to the Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia. And, as darkness fell, the protest numbers grew and the partying continued.

February 8, 2022

22. On Tuesday February 8, 2022, the Provincial Liaison Team (“PLT”) of the OPP arrived in Windsor. While protesters continued to cooperate and appear peaceful during daytime hours, at night their activities ramped up, and they became more aggressive and agitated. The protesters blocked Tecumseh Road West, which created a further demand on police resources. The Blue Water Bridge in Sarnia was being targeted by protesters, and there was talk of protests at the Niagara crossings, as well. The WPS was required to deploy personnel from non-uniformed units, in addition to the uniformed units already deployed.¹⁴

February 9, 2022

23. The Public Order Units of the OPP and of the Waterloo Police Service started to

¹⁴ WPS 000000002, p. 29

arrive in Windsor. Jersey barriers — tapered concrete barriers commonly seen on highway medians — began to be deployed in an attempt to contain the areas of protest. Negotiations with the protesters was slow, and the protesters became very non-compliant in respect of emergency lanes to and from the site of the Ambassador Bridge blockade. The secondary access to the Ambassador Bridge, from Wyandotte Street West, was at first intermittently blocked and later continuously blocked. Police from WPS as well as from the OPP and other police services were deployed all night and through the day.

24. More particularly, as of approximately 1930 hrs on February 9, 2022 there were approximately 125 stationary vehicles and approximately 300 pedestrians - including some children - in the vicinity of the Ambassador Bridge.¹⁵

25. Later during the evening of February 9, 2022, as of approximately 2226 hrs, the blockade group commenced shutting down the Freshco parking lot using shopping carts. Also at this time vehicles were blocking traffic on Huron Church Road to Tecumseh. Approximately 20 minutes later, the blockade moved from Huron Church and Tecumseh and commenced stopping traffic at Patricia Road and Wyandotte Street.¹⁶

26. At 2309 hrs on February 9, 2022 the blockade was given permission to use two lanes southbound on Huron Church Road, but only if they left an emergency lane open between College

¹⁵ WPS 000000911; WPS 000000912

¹⁶ WPS 000000911; WPS 000000912

Avenue and Girardot Street.¹⁷

February 10, 2022

27. Early in the morning of February 10, 2022, travel over the Ambassador Bridge from the United States to Canada was completely blocked. While there was some access to the bridge for travel to the United States, the blockade shut down access to the Ambassador Bridge by the entrance at Wyandotte and Patricia. Some lanes of Tecumseh Road West and Huron Church road were occupied by protesters, others were open.¹⁸

28. On Thursday, February 10, 2022 a shared command was established between the OPS and the OPP in respect of the Ambassador Bridge Blockade. Hundreds of officers from across the province began to arrive and to be deployed in a variety of capacities. These bolstered resources for the development of a robust operational plan to remove protesters, including traffic plans, arrest plans, prisoner plans and a media strategy. Sergeants continued to maintain operational, on-ground command. Sergeants are also given a new role: in charge of Quick Response Teams and Interdiction Teams. These teams will be essential in the success of the operational plan.

29. By 0900 hrs on February 10, 2022 members of the OPP's PLT team were at the site of the Ambassador Bridge Blockade. Their instructions were to focus on negotiating the movement

¹⁷ WPS 000000911; WPS 000000912

¹⁸ WPS 000000911; WPS 000000912; WPS 000000913; WPS 000000916; WPS 000000917

of protesters from blocking the Wyandotte Street entrance to the Ambassador Bridge and to go into the southbound lanes of Huron Church Road south of College. At the same time other OPP officers were being deployed at the protest site, and Public Order Units from the OPP, London, Hamilton and Waterloo would be attending.¹⁹

30. On February 10, 2022 Juliette Kayyem - a former undersecretary of US Homeland Security, calling the Ambassador Bridge Blockade an “economic and security issue” - tweeted “Slash the tires, empty gas tanks, arrest the drivers, and move the trucks”.²⁰ The WPS received complaints that this was a foreign actor calling for violent action.²¹

31. Also on February 10, 2022 WPS received information that there was a possible planned walkout of Holy Names High School and other schools, which walkouts would be supported by the presence of non-student protesters walking onto the school properties.²² Students seemed determined to proceed with the walk-out even when the school closed and classes went on-line, but this ultimately did not happen.²³ WPS also received information that a counter-protest was being planned for Saturday, February 12 at noon.²⁴ The Windsor-Essex Childrens’ Aid Society (“CAS”)

¹⁹ WPS 000000958

²⁰ WPS 000000953; WPS 000000972

²¹ WPS 000000971

²² WPS 000000970

²³ WPS 000001038

²⁴ WPS 000000976

reported that it had received an substantial increase in calls and inquiries asking the CAS to “do something” about the children present at the Ambassador Bridge Blockade.²⁵

32. Around 1530 hrs on February 10, 2022 General Motors advised that it had made a decision to move auto parts across the Detroit River by ferry, and sought support for the project from WPS.²⁶

33. There were threats to block WPS headquarters, the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel and the Windsor airport, but these threats did not materialize.

34. By 1730 hrs on February 10, 2022, there was no travel to or from Canada on the Ambassador Bridge. There were approximately 200 protesters with 100 vehicles. The OPP had become embedded with the WPS in the Critical Incident Command. Public Order Units from Waterloo and the RCMP were engaged.²⁷

35. As of about 1700 hrs on February 10, 2022, there was no change in traffic status. Negotiations had not been fruitful because of the protesters’ splintered leadership. However, there were no significant issues with managing the protest, and numbers had remained consistent over the past three days. Plans continued to be developed for arrests, for the removal of vehicles and for

²⁵ WPS 000001006

²⁶ WPS 000001121

²⁷ WPS 000001056

coordinating with the Children's Aid Society. It was expected that the removal of protesters would commence on Saturday, February 12. Jersey barriers were already in place at some locations. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmore had offered help (although the extent of the available help was later unclear: WPS 000001089). At this time, in addition to WPS officers, there were 100 front-line officers from the OPP, two groups from the OPP Public Order Unit totalling 16 officers, 35 officers from the Waterloo Public Order unit. 50 Public Order officers from the RCMP were expected to arrive during the evening of February 10, 2022.²⁸ At the same time police support was being sought by the Ottawa Police Service.²⁹

36. In the early evening of February 10, 2022, Chief Justice Morawetz of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice issued an endorsement adjourning the motion for an injunction by the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association to be heard the next day, February 11, 2022, and directing the City issue a press release giving the public notice of that hearing.³⁰

37. By 2000 hrs on February 10, 2022 there were approximately 350 pedestrians within the College Street intersection. A jumpy castle and trampoline had been added in the southwest corner. Loud music was playing, food was being served from tents north of College Avenue and shirts were being sold. There were approximately 30 children present. There was a smaller gathering at Wyandotte, which had decreased from about 120 people to about 70 people. There were

²⁸ WPS 000001056

²⁹ WPS 000001072

³⁰ WPS 000000002, p. 46; WPS 000001067; and WPS 000001069

approximately 8 children present at this smaller gathering.³¹

February 11, 2022

38. At 0600 hrs on February 11, 2022, travel to Canada over the Ambassador Bridge was completely closed. There were approximately 200 protesters with 100 vehicles. Overnight Jersey barriers had been deployed on Mill Street, Indian and Huron Church.³² It had been a very quiet night. By 0900 hours, members of the WPS were working on planning for arrests, tows and to restore the flow of traffic to the Ambassador Bridge. Extra patrols had been added to the tunnel and to the Windsor Barge Terminal as precautions.³³

39. As at 1044 hrs on February 11, 2022, all lanes were open for northbound traffic on Huron Church Road, and one lane southbound was open all the way to Highway 401. In the estimation of WPS, however, the road was not yet safe or secured, and roadways were being evaluated. Efforts were being made to ascertain why some protesters had moved from their blockade of Huron Church Road, and efforts were made to encourage further movement. It was considered whether - because it was an international event - protesters were concerned about significant jail time.³⁴ At the return of the injunction motion, however, the lawyer for the protesters argued that the

³¹ WPS 000001086

³² WPS 000001124

³³ WPS 000001144

³⁴ WPS 000001171

injunction should not be imposed due to the changes on the ground.³⁵

40. As a result of the interference with transportation routes and critical infrastructure in locations across the province which prevents the movement of people and the delivery of essential goods and services (including the Ambassador Bridge), the Premier of Ontario declared a province-wide emergency pursuant to s. 7.0.1 of the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9 (“*EMCPA*”).³⁶ Ontario’s declaration of a state of emergency had a negative impact on the protesters.³⁷

41. At 1635 hrs on February 11, 2022, the WPS posted a news release to its online public news room advising that the protesters may be committing a criminal offence and that they may be subject to arrest for blocking city streets.³⁸

42. Effective at 1900 hrs on February 11, 2022, Chief Justice Morawetz of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice granted an injunction prohibiting any blockade of the Ambassador Bridge. The injunction would expire in ten days unless renewed. About this time police negotiators distributed paper flyers to individual protesters explaining that officers were able to arrest individuals for the crime of mischief if they continued to block access to the Ambassador Bridge. The WPS

³⁵ WPS 000001184

³⁶ WPS 000000002, p. 7

³⁷ WPS 000001183

³⁸ WPS 000000049, ¶ 3

advised the public that their goal was to ensure public safety and to keep the peace, and that negotiations remained ongoing with the goal of a peaceful resolution. The situation was fluid on the evening of February 11, 2022. While some vehicles and people left the area overnight, many protesters and vehicles remained, despite this.³⁹

43. On February 11, 2022, social media was busy with talk about the injunction. Many comments on Facebook and Zello indicated that the protesters were not very concerned with any fall-out from the injunction. Protesters were encouraging each other, claiming that as long as they remained peaceful that the police had no arrest authorities. Individuals on social media advised protesters to remain in their illegally-parked vehicles as they would not be towed while occupied. Protesters requested, through social media, that local residents attend the Ambassador Bridge Blockade to support them, and asked people throughout the province to bring vehicles, trucks and food also to support them. There were also social media posts suggesting that additional vehicles and individuals would join the protesters in the Ambassador Bridge Blockade.⁴⁰

44. On February 11, 2022, protesters advised that they would leave if they received a meeting with the Minister of Health. The same advice was being given in Ottawa. By 2008 hrs there were approximately 500 protesters in the Ambassador Bridge Blockade. More particularly, at approximately 2200 hrs police observed the following at or around the intersection of Huron Church Rd. and Tecumseh Rd. W.:

³⁹ WPS 000000002, p. 8; WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 4-6 and Exhibit C

⁴⁰ WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 45-47

- a. over 200 protesters present,
- b. 50-60 vehicles,
- c. a tent and food tables,
- d. a camper trailer blocking two northbound lanes,
- e. children on scene who appeared to be under 14 years old, and
- f. excessive honking.⁴¹

45. In addition, during the evening of February 11, 2022 officers observed at the intersection of Huron Church Road at College Ave:

- a. over 300 protesters present;
- b. as a result of negotiations with protesters, one southbound lane opened for emergency vehicles to travel;
- c. numerous vehicles north of College Ave. (near the train tracks) including tractor trailers and large trucks, travel trailers, passenger vehicles and enclosed trailers;
- d. numerous vehicles south of College Ave. including tractor trailers and large trucks, pick-up trucks and other passenger vehicles;
- e. children on the scene;
- f. several tents with food tables;
- g. generators, gas cans, barbecues, and
- h. flags.

At that time, vehicles and protesters were also observed at the Wyandotte Street West entrance to

⁴¹ WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no.s 581, 584 and 594; WPS 000000049, ¶ 8

the Ambassador Bridge.⁴²

46. Provincial Offences Officers issued 10 tickets for by-law infractions on February 11, 2022. These were for various parking infractions.⁴³

February 12, 2022

47. At approximately 0600 hrs on Saturday, February 12, 2022, WPS observed the following:

- a. at the intersection of Huron Church Road at Tecumseh Rd. W.
 - i. no person was observed outside the vehicles or in the area,
 - ii. a tent on the roadway from the previous night had been removed,
 - iii. there were 25-30 support vehicles in nearby parking lots with people sleeping inside them, and
 - iv. numerous vehicles remained in the northbound lanes blocking traffic including passengers vehicles and pick-up trucks, one camper and one semi-tractor trailer; while
- b. at the intersection of Huron Church Road at College Avenue
 - i. there was a crowd of approximately 75 people,
 - ii. some vehicles had left the scene or had moved to a nearby parking lot after

⁴² WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 9-10

⁴³ WPS 000000049, ¶ 11

being warned by police of potential fines,

- iii. there were large tents at or around the roadway and surrounding parking lots,
- iv. people were sleeping in vehicles on side streets, and
- v. vehicles continued to block all bridge traffic except an emergency lane, with people believed to be sleeping inside some of the vehicles.⁴⁴

48. On February 12, 2022 an Order-in-Council is made confirming the Premier's declaration of an emergency. Then, pursuant to authority granted under the [EMCPA](#), O.Reg. 71:22 - [Critical Infrastructure and Highways](#) was made. Amongst other things, this regulation prohibited anyone from impeding access to or egress from any international and interprovincial bridges and crossings.

49. At approximately 818 hrs, using its social media accounts WPS advised the public that it and its partners had commenced enforcement at the Ambassador Bridge, urged all protesters to act lawfully and peacefully and asked commuters to avoid the area. The WPS posted similar messages throughout the day.⁴⁵

50. At approximately 0820 hrs, police moved into the area of Huron Church Rd. at College Ave. Police advised protesters that they needed to move their vehicles and leave the area. Trucks blocking the southbound lanes were seen leaving and protesters began to take down their

⁴⁴ WPS 000000049, ¶ 12

⁴⁵ WPS 000000049, ¶ 13 and Exhibit C

food tent. However, approximately 50 protesters remained on the scene.⁴⁶

51. The PLT team convinced people to move back from the Ambassador Bridge, but it was a slow process moving inches at a time. Police on the ground observed that the numbers of protesters continued to increase and, after reaching a point on Huron Church Rd. Between College Ave. And Tecumseh Rd. W., police set up Jersey barriers and paused their advance.⁴⁷ WPS units were assigned to the home of the mayor of Windsor, due to earlier threats against him.⁴⁸ The Public Order Units began their enforcement actions, clearing areas pursuant to their plan. Below is a surveillance image of the police barricade in this area⁴⁹:



⁴⁶ WPS 000000049, ¶ 14

⁴⁷ WPS 000000049, ¶ 15; WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no.s 635 and 793

⁴⁸ WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no.s 747, 755 and 782

⁴⁹ WPS 000000140

52. At 1000 hrs on Saturday, February 12, 2022, Windsor Police observed the following:

- a. at the intersection of Huron Church Road at Tecumseh Rd W:
 - i. 50 people seen in the area,
 - ii. several people supporting protesters in the nearby plaza,
 - iii. an influx of people as the situation evolved, and
 - iv. in the northbound lanes, approximately 25 passenger vehicles remaining and one tractor trailer; while

- b. at the intersection of Huron Church Rd at College Ave.:
 - i. police on scene were trying to peacefully disperse protesters,
 - ii. vehicles were voluntarily leaving the intersection - no one was towed from this part of the blockade,
 - iii. there was one vehicle in the parking lot at McDonald's - a camper and pick-up truck, and
 - iv. as the vehicles left, police guided the crowd southbound on Huron Church Rd.⁵⁰

53. By 1000 hrs, no protesters were present at the intersection of Wyandotte St W. entrance to the Ambassador Bridge.⁵¹

54. At 1400 hrs on Saturday, February 12, Windsor Police observed the following:

⁵⁰ WPS 000000049, ¶ 16

⁵¹ WPS 000000049, ¶ 17

- a. at the intersection of Huron Church Road at Tecumseh Rd. W.:
 - i. approximately 600 protesters on scene crowding at the Jersey barriers,
and
 - ii. children present with their families, while
- b. at the intersection of Huron Church Rd at College Av.:
 - i. police were able to control the intersection at Huron Church Rd and
College,
 - ii. traffic was blocked off not allowing the public to travel east and
westbound, and
 - iii. there were no protesters on foot in the area.⁵²

55. Active enforcement in relation to parking in the area of the protest commenced at approximately 1614 hrs.⁵³ At around 1955 hrs a bomb threat was received, and the WPS tactical team and K9 units responded.⁵⁴ At approximately 2040 hrs one person at the Ambassador Bridge Blockade was arrested at Huron Church Rd. And Millen Street and charged with Resisting a Police Officer (contrary to s. 129(a) of the *Criminal Code*) and Breaching an Undertaking (contrary to s. 145(4)(a) of the *Criminal Code*).⁵⁵

⁵² WPS 000000049, ¶ 18

⁵³ WPS 000000049, ¶ 19

⁵⁴ WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no.s 795 and 801

⁵⁵ WPS 000000002, p. 59; WPS 000000049, ¶ 20

56. The crowd of protesters on February 12, 2022 peaked at between 600 and 800 individuals in the evening, with the majority of protesters located at the intersection of Huron Church Rd. and Tecumseh Rd. W. Parking lots in plazas along Tecumseh Rd W. were filled with vehicles. Police monitoring social media noted public discussions regarding the possibility of 200 people arriving from London, Ontario to fortify the Protest's existing blockade.⁵⁶

February 13, 2022

57. February 13, 2022 was the second day of POU action. At approximately 0830 hrs, police observed protesters and vehicles remaining in the area, while the Police line remained on Huron Church Road between College Avenue and Tecumseh Road West. The Jersey barriers separating the officers and the remaining protesters remained. There were an estimated 20 protesters on scene. The majority of the vehicles had been moved off the road to nearby parking lots, with a few vehicles continuing to block the roadway. Also on this day Canadian Tire stores were told to stop selling bear spray.⁵⁷

58. After approximately 0830 hrs, police began to move the protesters from the roadway of Huron Church Rd., forming a line while walking across all north and southbound lanes of traffic. Police moved past the cement barriers to move the crowd southbound on Huron Church Rd towards Tecumseh Rd W. A second group of police officers were also travelling northbound in the

⁵⁶ WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 21 and 23

⁵⁷ WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no. 0759 and 1038; WPS 000000049, ¶ 25

southbound lanes of Huron Church Rd to move the crowd eastbound onto Tecumseh Rd W.⁵⁸

59. While police moved the crowd from the roadway of Huron Church Rd., police also arrested individuals who remained in the street and refused to move. Police also towed at least one vehicle that did not leave the area willingly. Most of the individuals and vehicles remaining in the area moved into a privately-owned parking lot plaza on Huron Church Rd at Tecumseh Rd W.⁵⁹

60. Even as police were clearing the Ambassador Bridge Blockade on February 13, 2022, discussions continued online about blocking the Detroit-Windsor tunnel and blocking Highway 401. There were also online discussions about asking for more trucks to join the Ambassador Bridge Blockade, wanting to reorganize the protest, regrouping at other locations and using barricades against the police.⁶⁰

61. Police again sought to negotiate with protesters, warning them that they were required to leave and that cars would be towed. Police officers communicated that all protesters must be legally on the sidewalks. At 1109 hrs on the 13th, Windsor police posted a link on its social media accounts to the February 11 press release warning protesters that they may be committing a criminal offence and be subject to arrest. Police then commenced to make arrests. After this, approximately 10 to 15 individuals remained on the sidewalk and eventually moved eastward away from Huron

⁵⁸ WPS 000000049, ¶ 26

⁵⁹ WPS 000000049, ¶ 27

⁶⁰ WPS 000000049, ¶ 48

Church Road.⁶¹

62. At 1230 hrs on Sunday February 13, police observed the following at the intersection of Huron Church Rd at Tecumseh Rd W:

- a. 30-40 people in southeast corner - on the road, the sidewalk, and at the Shell Gas Station, and
- b. 10-15 supporters nearby at Dorchester and Huron Church Rd.

At 1600 hrs on Sunday February 13, police observed fewer than 20 individuals on the scene on sidewalks at the intersection of Tecumseh Rd W and Northway Ave.⁶²

63. On 0012 hrs on February 14, 2022 the WPS announced via its twitter account that the Ambassador Bridge was open to traffic.⁶³

64. In the end, the Ambassador Bridge Blockade is dispersed, without injury to any civilian or service member. Approximately 47 people were charged, although four of these later had their charges withdrawn. All of these people are charged with Mischief Over (contrary to s. 430(1) of the *Criminal Code*) Disobey Court Order (contrary to s. 127 of the *Criminal Code*). One of these people was also arrested pursuant to outstanding arrest warrant.⁶⁴

⁶¹ WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 28, 29 and 31, Exhibit C

⁶² WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 32 and 33

⁶³ WPS 000000049, ¶ 35, Exhibit C

⁶⁴ WPS 000000002, p. 64; and WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no. 962

February 14-28, 2022

65. On Monday, February 14, 2022, the Government of Canada invoked the [*Emergencies Act*](#), R.S.C. 1985, c. 22 (4th Supp.) for the first time in Canadian history. Border crossing are designated as critical areas. To prevent protesters from re-entering the area, police established traffic controls along Huron Church Road at a number of key intersections. By 1700 hrs on February 14, 2022, the Ambassador Bridge was open, and traffic flowed freely in both directions.⁶⁵

66. On February 15, 2022 - the day after the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* - police learned of a convoy of several transport trucks from Ottawa with the suspected intention of heading to Windsor. This convoy was successfully intercepted by police at approximately 2030 hrs.⁶⁶

67. There was, however, evidence of a continued threat of a new blockade, arising from social media posts such as “it’s not over,” “regroup,” “we are not done,” “slow roll is next,” and “Civil War time” (see also paragraphs 43 and 60, above, for example). Anti-police comments were also observed. Police accordingly continued to control traffic flow onto Huron Church Rd. to protect access to the Ambassador Bridge.⁶⁷

68. On February 16, 2022 there were approximately 7 protesters engaging in peaceful

⁶⁵ WPS 00000002, p. 8; WPS 000000216, Tab no. 1063; WPS 000000049, ¶ 36

⁶⁶ WPS 000000049, ¶ 50

⁶⁷ WPS 000000049, ¶¶ 49 and 50

protest in the area of Wyandotte Street. However, on that same day police became aware of a post on a public Facebook group page asking for protesters to regroup on Saturday, February 19, 2022, after the initial injunction expired. However the injunction was renewed indefinitely on February 18, 2022, and at 1354 hrs on February 19, 2022 there were about 20 protesters, peacefully protesting.⁶⁸ In addition, that afternoon there were two protesters carrying a flag and calling out the mayor's home address.⁶⁹

69. On Monday, February 21, 2022, the WPS developed a demobilization plan. All rest days were cancelled until February 27, 2022. On Wednesday February 23, 2022 and Thursday February 24, 2022 the OPP moved to Ottawa, and the WPS's minimum deployments began to decrease. On Friday, February 25, 2022 a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between the WPS and the Windsor Police Association. On February 28, 2022, shifts at the WPS are reformed and the Emergency Operations Centre stands down.⁷⁰

70. By March 1, 2022, traffic to and from the United States across the Ambassador Bridge was flowing freely, and plans were in place to reopen intersections along Huron Church Road.⁷¹

⁶⁸ WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no. 1391; WPS 000000049, ¶ 53

⁶⁹ WPS 000000216, Tab 3, no. 1396

⁷⁰ WPS 000000002, pp 37-38

⁷¹ WPS 000001186

Conclusion

71. The Ambassador Bridge Blockade was concluded in about a week, although WPS was required to remain vigilant in the weeks that followed. Throughout these events, WPS sought to keep the peace, enforce legislation, establish and maintain the safe flow of traffic, respect individuals' Charter rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of speech, all with public and officer safety being paramount.⁷² WPS did this admirably. At a high level, however, the costs incurred by the WPS in responding to the Ambassador Bridge Blockade was \$4,728,515 as at July 29, 2022.⁷³

⁷² WPS 000001355

⁷³ WPS 000000036