



EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: 2024 07 10

SUBJECT: Response to Commissioner Query | Name Tag Policy

RECOMMENDATION(S):

This is a response to Commissioner Chaudry's Two Part Query

INTRODUCTION:

Query Part A: Request detailed information on EPS' policy regarding name tags and if regimental numbers are an appropriate alternative to nametags. Additionally, what are the guidelines for displaying a name tag/reg number when wearing a chest guard.

RESPONSE / CONCLUSION:

Part A: Name tag policy:

At the June 20, 2024, meeting, the Edmonton Police Policy is being updated to allow for a Register Tag as approved EPS-issued identification. This is not a new policy direction as up until 1996, register numbers were standard identification. Post 1996, the new standard became a register number along with a surname. Senior officers do and will continue to use their full names. Under the revised policy, members will begin transitioning back to register numbers alone with full implementation expected by the end of 2024.

This policy change is designed to provide better protection to sworn officers who are finding their personal information, and that of their family, often are the subject of doxing efforts. Most recently, this occurred during the shutdown of the university encampment in May 2024. There were 11 officers who were directly targeted and had their families targeted because of these efforts. Removal of personal names from uniforms is one part of an overall strategy to ensure officers and their families are protected from harassment, bullying and threats.

Here is some information about the policy:

- Every sworn officer of the Edmonton Police Service is assigned a register number at the beginning of their service and that number stays with them throughout their career. No number is ever reissued to any officer – as such they are unique, permanent identifiers of the members.
- The Service has never had an issue with identifying a member involved in any incident.
- Every officer will continue to build relationships with community members at every event they attend. This includes sharing names or incident reports and business cards provided at the scene of any incident when appropriate.

Identification Register Tags Guidelines:

EPS policy requires that all uniformed members must wear an EPS-issued identification register tag. Register tags shall be worn on the right side of the shirt, patrol jacket or liner pocket with specific positioning guidelines.

In addition:

- Tags will be sewn on all shirts, jackets and liners above the pocket on the right side of the chest.
- On external carriers, tags will be Velcro-backed and placed on the right side of the carrier – stickers are backups for any tags that become dislodged.
- On some items, such as ball caps and helmets, upgraded equipment will have identifiers fixed permanently on them.

In some cases, stickers were used on some external carriers that are used temporarily and some of these were not suitably durable and would fall off during a shift. Upgrades to the material have been made to ensure better durability.

All members are required to comply with the name tag policy and adherence is regularly monitored by direct supervisors and their chain of command who are required to hold their teams accountable. All members are corrected immediately if seen without a name tag.

Written By: Patricia Misutka, Executive Director, Corporate Communications

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Chief of Police: _____

Date: July 11, 24