



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Police Action in Respect of Protests, Demonstrations and Occupations
Policy Number:	PO - 003
Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Reviewed:	April 22, 2026
Authorized:	Police Services Board

AUTHORITY/LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

- *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*
- *Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing*
- Criminal Code of Canada
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Services Board is committed to ensuring that police responses to protests, demonstrations and occupations are conducted in a manner that protects public safety, respects individual rights and freedoms, and safeguards persons and property.

The Board recognizes that individuals and groups have lawful rights to protest and demonstrate. The St. Thomas Police Service shall ensure that policing responses balance the protection of these rights with the responsibility to preserve the peace and enforce the law.

POLICY APPLICATION

It is the policy of the Board with respect to police action at protests, demonstrations and occupations that the Chief of Police shall:

1. establish written procedures governing police responses to protests, demonstrations and occupations;
2. ensure that procedures comply with the Community Safety and Policing Act, applicable regulations and relevant legal standards;
3. ensure that procedures support the protection of public safety, individual rights and property; and
4. ensure that procedures are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect legislative changes and operational requirements.