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Submitted by: Insp. Jamie Pearce

Date: Nov. 10, 1009

2008-2010 Strategic Plan Goal 1 – Reduce Street Disorder

Focused Enforcement Team - 2009 Summer Action Plan

The mandate of the Focused Enforcement Team (FET) is to:

- maintain high visible police presence and enforcement in the downtown Core, as well as identified problem areas; and
- assist the Uniformed Services Division (USD) with reducing police call load.

The Summer Action Plan was created to further identify specific issues and strategies to address these concerns, using a high visible police presence in the downtown Core, as well as parks and beaches that see an increase in problems during the summer months.

In an effort to reduce police overtime (OT) costs, there was a shift in this year's Summer Action Plan from the past "Project Landscape" model in which a larger number of FET members were deployed on specific key weekends. The Focused Enforcement Team, which saw an increase of 4 members this year, was restructured from two sections (consisting of the Bikes/ Beat officers and Traffic members), to three sections (consisting of Bike, Beat and Traffic members, respectfully). The restructuring resulted in reduced OT, as police members were not required to backfill members required to meet Patrol minimums.

The three sections in FET now work overlapping shifts to provide "high profile focused enforcement" and backfill for USD/Patrol. (Currently, USD shifts require additional resources to augment resource minimums for Wednesday to Saturday nightshift). Each week one of our three teams is focuses on targeted enforcement. This high profile enforcement is based on the identified issues in areas within the core or other areas of the community.

In addition, FET has a Community Resource Officer who assists with downtown and neighbourhood issues, and coordinates with several City and Social Services agencies. As well, two Crash Team members are assigned to FET and are responsible for investigating all serious motor vehicle incidents, as well as all hit and runs that are reported to the VicPD.

FET members work a 10-hour shift, which usually consist of two days and two afternoon, or evening shifts. Their shifts can be adjusted in advance to accommodate scheduling of planned protests, police escorts or other special events that require greater police resources. This rescheduling balances the needs of the individual members in the division as well as the Collective Agreement.

Focused Enforcement Projects

- FET initiated several projects to address problem areas and issues identified by intelligence or citizen complaints. A drug enforcement project was conducted in Reason Park, which is located in the 1300 blk of Wharf St. The Beat section effected 9 arrests: 3 for possession of a controlled substance, 3 for trafficking in controlled substances, 2 for possession for the purpose of trafficking, and 1 for Breach of Recognizance. The drugs seized were marihuana, cocaine, MDMA, and ketamine.
- To respond to the increasing number of daytime prostitution complaints in the 1600-2000 blk Government and Rock Bay area, and undercover "John Project" was also initiated. Several roadblocks were also organized in areas of 900 blk Pandora, 1600 blk Store (Streetlink) and in Esquimalt.

- FET officers, assisted by USD, continued throughout the summer to enforce the Liquor Control Act on our beaches and parks. By the end of summer, concerns at Gonzales beach, the Skate Park, and specific parks in Esquimalt were greatly reduced.
- “Bait Bike” projects were also undertaken in the downtown core in attempt to target and arrest bicycle thieves.
- A proof of concept study was undertaken for body worn video and in-vehicle cameras. This testing is now complete and results are very positive for their continued use. This project is also receiving Provincial and National attention for its evidence documenting abilities.
- The Conair Program also continues to be successful with the 17th candidate to date being flown back to the province of origin to face outstanding warrants.
- Over the summer, two undercover drug projects were conducted in conjunction with Strike Force members to identify and arrest our most problematic street level drug traffickers. These are known habitual offenders who often reoffend to support their own drug habits. It should also be mentioned that when their resources are at minimum, Strike Force routinely requests assistance from FET members who are surveillance trained.
- In an effort to deal with two separate prolific offenders in the Core, “Long Form Warrants” were applied for to the courts. The first individual was a chronic alcoholic who continued to drink in public in the 500 blk Pandora. The second individual collected excessive amounts of loaded shopping carts in the 900 blk of Pandora. After repeated warnings and ticketing by officers failed to have any effect, “Conditions” were then requested from the court to address both of these chronic problematic behaviours. The purpose of the “conditions” is to change their behaviour and to ultimately reduce call loads to police. One of the “conditions” for one offender was to become a client of Victoria Integrated Community Outreach Team (VICOT).
- In an effort to increase their presence and mobility throughout the summer, Traffic officers were deployed almost exclusively on motorcycles when able. This provided a high degree of visibility and presence in some of the most problematic areas in Victoria, especially in Esquimalt parks where intoxicated youths were a considerable on-going problem. During afternoon/evening shifts, Traffic members were able to ride the trails and beachfronts throughout Victoria and Esquimalt where complaints from citizens were reported. This included routine rounds of the Galloping Goose, Songhees Walkway, McCauley Point and Sax Point in Esquimalt, and all other parks where MC’s could navigate, but cars could not. This proactive enforcement prevented many problems, and was especially effective in Esquimalt in areas where intoxicated youths continue to gather.
- The Traffic Section was able to initiate a successful Noisy Muffler campaign throughout the summer. The VicPD received great press coverage and the response from the public was overwhelming. We also received several calls and emails of support from the community on this initiative. Approximately 60 excessive noisy mufflers were dealt with some form of enforcement action over the 4 months, by either “Violation Ticket”, or “Notice and Order”, which required the operator to have his motorcycle inspected to ensure it complied with the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.
- Over the summer, the Traffic Section also worked several specific projects with our Police Volunteers. A massive multi-jurisdictional enforcement event we called “Two Strikes” was undertaken where our volunteers utilized the speed-reader boards to warn motorists of their speed. Traffic members then set up further away for enforcement of motorists who did not slow down. This type of enforcement also legitimized the valuable work done by our volunteers. In an effort to send this message, seven simultaneous locations were set up in on one day throughout Victoria and Esquimalt with the help of IRSU and West Shore RCMP.

- To respond to ongoing complaints from the James Bay Community Association associated with the cruise ship industry relating to speeding taxis and vehicles, Traffic Section members also developed some smaller projects with our Police volunteers.

Serious Motor Vehicle Accident Investigations

Between June and September, Traffic members investigated 10 very serious crashes, two of which were fatalities. The remainder involved very serious injuries resulting in our Crash Team members being called out after-shift or on weekends 12 times in a 4 month period. These investigations are very labour intensive, requiring meticulous documentation for Crown, civil trails and ICBC. For all serious injury and fatal crashes, Traffic members are assigned as primary investigators which take them away from day to day enforcement activities, often for up to a week or more.

FET Summer Action Plan Ticket Enforcement Stats

June	Municipal Tickets Issued	54
	Violation Tickets	949
July	Municipal Tickets Issued	31
	Violation Tickets	542
August	Municipal Tickets Issued	6
	Violations Tickets	334

Results of 2008-2010 Strategic Plan - Goal 1- Reduce Street Disorder

Goal: Reduce Street Disorder by 2%

Goal #1 Reduce Street Disorder (Sponsor: Inspector Pearce) ¹	2009 Bi-Weekly Total	2008 Bi-Weekly Total	2007 Bi-Weekly Total	2009 Year to Date Total	2008 Year to Date Total	2007 Year to Date Total	2008 Year Total	2007 Year Total	Total % Over Under Year to Date 2008-2009
GOAL Decrease Public Disorder by 2%	510	667	524	10550	12780	13351	15936	16816	-17.4
Number of Calls for Service (CAD) - Public Disorder:									% over / under for each call within the 2 week period
Assist Mental Health Act (NOT IMCRT)	8	3	3	124	102	55			21.6
Disturbance	97	101	72	1864	1681	1991			10.9
Drugs	36	62	66	878	1248	1168			-29.6
Fight	39	61	49	937	1031	1043			-9.1
Indecent Act	7	8	0	136	103	117			32.0
Man Down	28	23	19	568	374	476			51.9
Mischief	71	87	68	1350	1420	1297			-4.9
Offensive Weapons	11	5	11	204	231	257			-11.7
Overdose	5	1	7	75	112	135			-33.0
Panhandler	4	10	4	82	126	142			-34.9
Prostitution	6	3	12	92	76	223			21.1
Prowler	4	9	8	147	98	110			50.0
Sipp/Dipp	63	88	96	1199	1708	2235			-29.8
Unwanted Person	131	206	269	2894	4470	4102			-35.3
Total	510	667	684	10550	12780	13351			-17.4

- Overall Street Disorder calls have been reduced by 17.4%
- This can be attributed to the more focused police presence in our problem areas or that citizens are reporting less, due to increased visible police presence.
- Homelessness, mental health and addiction issues are still prevalent in the downtown.
- Efforts in and around 900 Pandora have resulted in a 40% decrease in call load in addition to a decrease of 40% in the amount of drug calls we receive. This in part was due to a spearheading effort by FET in conjunction with City, OurPlace and other stakeholders.
- The increase in Street checks to the area has resulted in better intelligence resulting in a more focused effort downtown.
- Panhandling calls have decreased by 46%. This can be attributed to an increase foot presence of our beat officers.
- "Unwanted people" calls have gone from almost 800 (788) to under 500 (460) from last year for a decrease of 42%.
- Violent calls of assault and robberies have unfortunately increased. This however, has been a national trend according to Stats Canada.
- Overdoses have continued to drop over the past three years.

Goal: Increase # of Drug Enforcement Arrests by 3%

Increase # of Drug Enforcement Arrests by 3%	2009 Bi-Weekly Total	2008 Bi-Weekly Total	2007 Bi-Weekly Total	2009 YTD Total	2008 YTD Total	2007 YTD Total	2008 Year Total	2007 Year Total	Total % Over Under Year to Date 2008-2009
All VicPD except FET	7	11	34	204	323	368	382	455	-36.8
Focused Enforcement Team only	8	15	9	199	298	226	340	299	-33.2
Total Drug Enforcement Arrests All Vic PD	15	26	43	403	621	594			-35.1

In general, our drug arrests have decreased this year. There has been a change in drug use from powder cocaine (injection) to crack cocaine (smoking). Drug use is still a big concern in downtown Victoria. Crack cocaine can be difficult for our officers to enforce. Users often inhale the rock quickly, thus leaving only “trace” amounts in the pipe, which is insufficient for analysis for charges. Our Bike and Beat sections also had several members transfer out of the section as their tenure had ended. New members have been assigned and training has been taken undertaken in *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* investigations and enforcement. A philosophic change was also undertaken to reduce the number of “observation point” investigations (where officers covertly observe individuals trafficking drugs, which is resource intensive) to allow more FET members to deploy and provide a high uniform presence for deterrence.

- Drug Charges in general are down from last year by 41%.
- FET responsible for 55% of drug charges in the downtown core.
- There has been a decrease in “overt” street gang activity in the downtown that may be fueling the drug trade. However, drugs being sold in Victoria continue being sold by a network of low to medium level drug dealers organized at a higher level of gang networks.

Goal: Increase of IMCRT call referrals by 5%

Increase by 5% Number of VicPD Referrals to IMCRT	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	2009 Total	2008 Year Total	2007 Year Total	Total % Over Under Year to Date 2008-2009
Number of Calls for Service – IMCRT:	241	149	241	298	289	61.7

The 61% increase in referral to the Integrated Mental Crisis Response Team (IMCRT) was largely due in part to shift training by the Team to the uniform members.