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VicPD 2008-2010 Strategic Plan

Goal 2– Suppress Violent Crime

Sponsor – Inspector Bob Gehl

Introduction:

This report will detail the activities and statistics for the Victoria Police Department's Strategic Plan 2008-2010 – Goal #2 Suppress Violent Crime.

There are four performance measures associated to gauging the success for the year 2009:

- 1) A further 2% decrease in violent youth crime rate.
- 2) A further 2% decrease in the serious crime rate. Serious crime is defined as consisting of assaults (all three levels of assault and sexual assault), robbery and homicide.
- 3) An increase in enforcement aimed at the profit oriented drug trafficker – these are projects in which undercover officers target drug dealers by buying drugs from them while under surveillance and then making en-mass arrests once charges are approved and warrants are issued.
- 4) Develop initiatives to decrease the amount of domestic and family violence.

Performance Measures			
Measurement	2008	2009	2010
Reported crime rate: Youth Violence	Decrease by 2%	Decrease by further 2%	Decrease by further 2%
Reported crime rate: Serious Crime	Decrease by 2%	Decrease by further 2%	Decrease by further 2%
Number of profit-oriented drug enforcement projects	Increase	Increase	Increase

1. Decrease youth violence by 4%ⁱ:

Goal # 2: Decrease Youth Violence by 2%	2009	2008	2007	Total % increase Decrease YTD
# of Reports Involving Youth Violence:	53	97	124	-45.4

Youth violence continues to trend downwards from 124 in 2007 to the present low of 53 in 2009, while this is a trend occurring across Canada, the continued focus of West Division on combating youth issues is clearly contributing to the significant reduction in youth violence.

West Division ran their successful summer action plan again from July to August. Members were deployed from Wednesday to Saturday in the evening throughout the summer months. The members focused their efforts in the skateboard park, 1100-1200 blocks of Esquimalt, Rockheights/Cairn Park, MacCaulay Point Park, Gorge Kinsman Park, West Bay Walkway, Songhees Walkway, Saxe Point Park and 100 block of Wilson Street ⁱⁱ.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CEPTED) assessments were conducted at Victor Brodeur School (noise and mischief), Esquimalt Recreation Centre & Esquimalt Teen Centre (Staff and patron safety) and the Leonardo da Vinci Centre (graffiti).

2. Decrease violent crime by 4%:

Goal #2: Decrease Violent Crime by 2%	2009	2008	2007	Total % increase Decrease
Number of Reports Involving Violent Crime²:	1767	1670	1583	5.8
Assault Level 1	1187	1106	960	7.3
Assault CBH or W/Weapon	224	227	262	-1.3
Aggravated Assault	18	20	16	-10.0
Assault PO	47	36	54	30.6
Assault - Sexual	74	100	87	-26.0
Other Sexual Offences	18	16	11	12.5
Robbery - Weapon/Other Off Weapon	49	64	62	-23.4
Robbery - Other	149	97	131	53.6
Homicide	1	4	0	-75.0
Total	1767	1670	1583	5.8

While there was an overall increase in 2009 of 5.8% in violent crimes, especially in the category of robbery-other (53.6%) and assault on police officer (30.6%) there were also reductions in reported sexual assaults (-26%), and robberies with weapon or other offensive weapons (23.4%).

There was an increase by two files in the "other sexual offence category." The Special Victim Unit conducted several complex investigations during 2009 involving child luring and pornography.

Notably:

Investigation initiated by a person residing in the United Arab Emirates who reported ACC was speaking about sexually molesting the 5 year old who resides above him. Victoria Police investigators arrested the subject prior to any incident occurring.

Investigation initiated by an undercover Vancouver Police officer who identified ACC as a sexual predator residing in Victoria and trying to meet a 14 year old for sex. Victoria officers, with the assistance from Vancouver Police and the VicPD Strike Force arrested ACC as he was trying to meet the 14 year old near the University of Victoria.

Investigation initiated by the daughter who was sexually abused last year and filmed by her father. Victoria Officers recovered a large amount of evidence and the subject pled guilty to Production of Child Pornography and Sexual Interference.

3. Increase the number of profit oriented drug enforcement projects:

In 2009, VicPD conducted 4 drug enforcement projects. Although this number was three less than the 7 in 2008, the operations themselves were significantly more complex and yielded outstanding results due to the abilities of our investigators. Three of the projects resulted in some of the largest drug seizures ever in the history of the Department; Over 25 kilos of cocaine along with quantities of marihuana, ecstasy, heroin and crystal meth with a street value of about \$2,800,000 as well as \$457,000 in cash, 4 firearms, body armour, stun-guns and bear spray were seized during these investigations.

A second lengthy combined forces operation dating back to 2005 concluded in 2009. It resulted in the successful conviction for murder of Daniel Aitken for the deaths of Adan Merino (1st degree) and Alexander McLean (2nd degree).

4. Develop initiatives to decrease the amount of domestic and family violence:

Miscellaneous Call Tracking	2009 Total	2008 Total	2007 Total	Total % Over Under Year to Date 2008-2009
	1311	1299	1160	0.9
Criminal Harassment	51	46	33	10.9
Domestic Disputes - No Assault	925	926	770	-0.1
Utter Threats (person only)	335	327	357	2.4
Total	1311	1299	1160	0.9

While the number of overall domestic calls decreased from 2008 (1634) to 2009 (1569) domestic violence is still an area of significant concern. In 2008 approximately 216 domestic assault related charges were forwarded to the courts. In 2009 this number rose to 295. This does not include related offences such as breaches of court orders.

While there was a one-call decrease in the number of Domestic Dispute – No Assault calls for service in 2009, there was a 10% increase in criminal harassment complaints, and complaints of uttering threats were up by 2.4%

Numerous studies have shown that the number of domestic violence incidents reported to police is an extremely small proportion of the actual incidents occurring in our communities.

Upon the completion of the Lee inquest in December 2009, the Victoria Police Department Domestic Violence Unit was given the go-ahead by the Chief Constable. Sgt Jason Laidman was the successful candidate and is now the NCO i/c of the unit. He is currently establishing the mandate, training, staffing and has hit the ground running with significant successes already.

With the implementation of the Domestic Violence Unit in this Department, it is more than likely that the number of reported domestic assaults will increase due to more accurate tracking of this call type.

In January of 2010 the Ministry of the Solicitor General mandated the formation of a Domestic Violence Unit for the Greater Victoria area and discussions are currently ongoing between the municipal police agencies. Victoria Police are committed to this initiative and a tentative timeline has been established for start-up at the beginning in June 2010. The unit will be handling and managing the high risk files throughout the CRD.

TRAINING

The VicPD Domestic Violence eLearning initiative sponsored by Police Services is now complete and training for all members (mandatory) will take place in 2010. A second part to this training is being created through Police Services and deals with risk assessments and safety planning. In both training packages members of VicPD played an integral part in the creation of the training.

Specialized domestic violence training is being arranged for May of 2010 and in addition to being offered to other Police Agencies in the CRD members of the VicPD will be provided with an opportunity to take part in this very important training.

Inspector Bob Gehl
OIC Investigative Services

ⁱ All of the statistics provided in this report are unofficial and may vary during scoring and validation. They are provided as a guideline only.

ⁱⁱ Information regarding the Summer Action Plan and CEPTED assessments were taken from the 2009 West Division Annual Report, submitted by Inspector Darrell McLean.