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REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2012 Third Quarter



COMMITTED TO POLICING EXCELLENCE

3RD QUARTER REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Chief Knecht asked a number of organizations to consider one simple question: "Is there a better way to support our most vulnerable citizens?"

While many organizations slow down over the summer months, the same cannot be said about the Edmonton Police Service. In addition to dealing with the usual increase in call volumes over the warmer months, the Service and Commission were busy developing and implementing several new organizational initiatives.

At the forefront was Chief Knecht's plan to identify better ways to support the homeless or vulnerable citizens. Chief Knecht asked a number of organizations to consider one simple question: "Is there a better way to support our most vulnerable citizens?"

One possible solution being discussed is the Assessment, Sobering and Care Centre; a 24/7 facility capable of housing all community services under one roof. It would be a safe place for people with substance abuse or mental health issues, and for those who just need a place to sleep or sober up.

EPS receives around 35,000 calls every year related to mental health, homelessness, and addiction. The long-term goal is to lower the calls for service so police resources can focus on other important community concerns.

Finally, both the Service and the Commission clarified their individual mission, vision, and values to set the path for 2013 and beyond. Chief Knecht also crafted his annual Directional Statement, with a continuing focus on leadership at all levels and a heightened focus on the front line. Going forward, the emphasis for both organizations will be the provision of exceptional policing services for the citizens of Edmonton.

REDUCING CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

NEW TRAFFIC TEAM ROLLS OUT

“Citizens told us in a recent survey that traffic is the number one concern that police should focus on. We want people to feel safe on their roads and in their city.” – Chief Rod Knecht

On July 17, the Edmonton Police Service rolled out its new Specialized Traffic Apprehension Teams (STAT). Since its inception, STAT has been involved in a number of high-profile or high-risk incidents. Immediately following the introductory media event, with a television camera rolling, the team pulled over a vehicle travelling 40 kilometres per hour over the posted speed limit. Despite an attempt to flee on foot, the team identified and apprehended the passenger who had a number of outstanding warrants.

Between January 1 and September 30, 2012, more than 22,600 collisions have been reported to police. Although this is a decrease of nearly 19 per cent over the same period last year, the number of fatalities has risen from 16 to 25 in 2012.

The traffic teams increase police presence on Edmonton’s streets, complementing existing police patrols and traffic campaigns. STAT patrols areas with traffic enforcement concerns and targets vehicles and occupants involved in illegal activities.

In their first month of operation, STAT officers were responsible for criminal arrests relating to drugs, impaired driving, stolen property, and outstanding warrants, as well as 1,290 traffic enforcement summonses.

STAT also provides support and intelligence to divisions and specialized investigative units to better focus police resources in support of the EPS Violence Reduction Strategy.

Three more specialized teams will enter service in the coming months.



Staff Sergeant Barry Maron of the EPS Traffic Section speaks to a reporter at the launch of the first Specialized Traffic Apprehension Team.

For more information on the EPS Violence Reduction Strategy, please visit www.edmontonpolice.ca/vrs.

N.E.T. WORKS WITH COMMUNITY TO CLEAN UP DERELICT PROPERTY

Broken windows, excessive weeds, overgrown shrubs, and garbage are what one Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (N.E.T.) officer faced when he attended a derelict house in a downtown neighbourhood.

Over the summer, N.E.T. received several complaints from community members concerning a vacant house frequented by homeless people. A shed in the backyard was in such disrepair that when the officer tried to access it the door came off, revealing a homeless man who had wrapped himself in some old flooring.

N.E.T. connected the homeless people with resources and agencies to address their individual needs. The property owner was contacted and N.E.T. worked with Derelict Housing, City Bylaw Enforcement, and Alberta Health Services toward a solution. N.E.T. then educated area business owners and residents about how to respond to these types of concerns.

Since N.E.T.'s intervention, the empty house has been boarded up, broken windows replaced with plexiglass, garbage cleaned up, the shed torn down and trees trimmed. Calls for EPS service are significantly lower and community members report fewer people loitering on the property and causing disorder.



Through N.E.T.'s diligent work with various community stakeholders, there are fewer problems around a vacant house in a downtown neighbourhood. Shown above are the before and after pictures of the property.

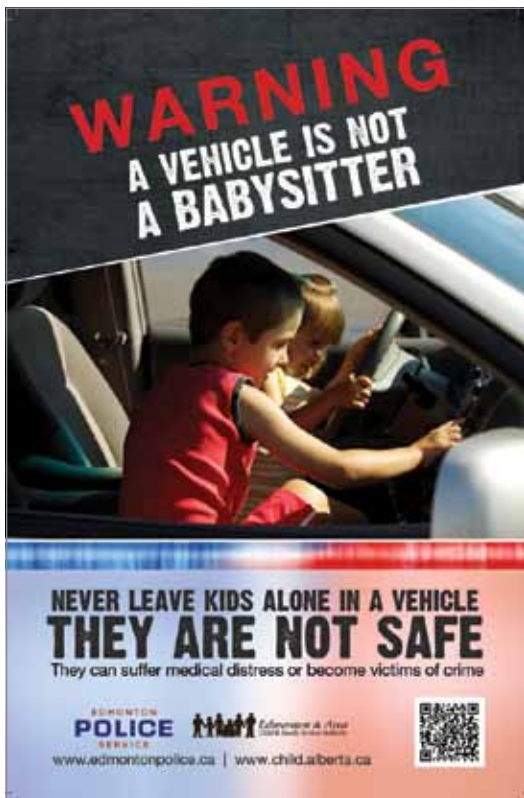
“A VEHICLE IS NOT A BABYSITTER” POLICE AND CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES LAUNCH LOCAL CHILD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The EPS and Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) are working together to educate parents and guardians about the dangers of leaving children alone in a vehicle.

“Everyday, guardians run errands while small children are left alone in a vehicle – a vehicle that provides a false sense of security,” says Sgt. Gary Willits of the EPS Child at Risk Response Team.

“A vehicle is not a babysitter – it cannot protect a child from predators and crimes against children, it cannot provide medical assistance or call 9-1-1 if a child suffers medical distress, and it cannot prevent a child from playing with the gear shift and putting the vehicle in motion, or prevent children from exiting the vehicle and wandering off.”

Tom Sutton of CFSA says the goal of the campaign is to educate guardians, raise awareness in the community and change behaviour. “There is no benefit for a child to be left alone. Once the public is aware of this, our hope is that parents and guardians will take children along whenever they exit the vehicle.”



COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM PATROLS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The EPS Community Action Team (CAT) deployment was held along public transportation routes in the downtown area from August 8-11, with a focus on the Edmonton Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains, stations, and surrounding areas.

This project was designed to target crime and disorder. The EPS partnered with Edmonton Transit peace officers to ride the rails, walk the platforms, and monitor the surrounding areas such as parks and parking lots. In addition to police and transit officers, several other agencies were involved in this deployment including Alberta Sheriffs, EPS cadets, Homeward Trust, Youth Emergency Shelter, iHuman, and Pohna.



“By running CAT on the LRT line, the Service and our many community partners assist Transit security in achieving a safer mode of transportation,” says Acting Sgt. Ryan Lawley of Downtown Division. “It demonstrates a commitment to the citizens of Edmonton and achieves greater results than we ever could individually.”

Officers speak to children while patrolling the area surrounding the downtown Churchill LRT station during the latest CAT deployment.

The LRT project resulted in 51 arrests, 23 criminal charges, 105 warrants executed, and more than 3,000 interactions with the public.

CITIZEN-CENTRED POLICE SERVICE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Although the Mill Woods Town Centre (MWTC) neighbourhood is small geographically, it is one of the busiest areas in Edmonton. The area is home to 125 businesses, an ETS transit centre that serves over 10,000 daily passengers, Edmonton's busiest McDonald's restaurant (second only in Alberta to a Fort McMurray franchise), and over 1,200 residents living in multi-family dwellings.

This neighbourhood is no stranger to crime and disorder. There are over 150 transients, 90 per cent of whom are youth that spend up to 12 hours a day in the MWTC area. From May to August of last year, the EPS opened over 300 investigative files in the area.

Const. Jeff Westman, a Community Liaison Constable in Southeast Division, led a project where two beat officers were assigned to MWTC from May to August 2012. "This targeted enforcement helped us identify youth so we can help them connect with the social agencies they need to address their issues," said Westman.

Westman also created community partnerships that included the Mill Woods Town Centre mall, transit centre, and McDonald's. Southeast Division officers increased their visibility and strengthened their relationships with businesses in the area, resulting in 30 per cent fewer robberies and a 50 per cent reduction in vehicle thefts.



Const. Jeff Westman, Southeast Division and community partners truly made a difference in their community.

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS PREPARED FOR THE WORST

On August 26, the EPS, Edmonton Fire Rescue, and Alberta Health Services responded to a staged event that involved mass casualties and decontamination of approximately 80 civilians after a criminal release of a chemical agent on the LRT.

This year's exercise was the fourth annual training event as part of the city's emergency preparedness program specific to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) related events.

The tri-service approach has been used with great success in Edmonton on a number of 'real-life' situations in the past, including an industrial fire involving highly toxic chemicals in southeast Edmonton last summer. Due to EPS's commitment to CBRNE training, police worked seamlessly with Fire and EMS partners to bring a safe resolution to this event for both the public and the EPS members who attended the scene.

The EPS was the first agency in Canada to provide every sworn member with a properly fitted and tested gas mask. Every sworn member has also received basic CBRNE training online. EPS bomb technicians and crime scene investigators receive more in depth CBRNE training while wearing the appropriate protective equipment.



If a mass disaster were to occur in the city, the EPS is prepared, thanks to tri-services CBRNE training and proper gear for responding police officers.

Const. Nicholas Leachman and Ruger. Police Service Puppies Titan, Ruger, Lexi and Piper began training in September. They'll go through rigorous training with their handlers for up to two years, learning skills required to succeed in the policing world. If a puppy doesn't seem suited for policing at any time throughout their training, they will find a new puppy for the officer, and a new home for the puppy.



MODEL OF EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

NEW SOFTWARE IDENTIFIES CHRONIC OFFENDERS

Police have a new tool that helps them identify drivers who have little regard for public safety while on the road - many of whom are also involved in other criminal activities.

The Criminal Mobility Interdiction Matrix (CMIM) software was developed to provide an enhanced level of public safety on the roads by identifying drivers who pose the highest risk to the community through traffic violations and criminal activities. Using data from the City of Edmonton Office of Traffic Safety and combining it with information from police data systems, officers can now link chronic traffic offenders to their criminal activities such as drug trafficking, property or violent crimes, or outstanding warrants.

In July, the EPS announced the '100 Worst Drivers' initiative, led by the new EPS Specialized Traffic Enforcement Teams (STAT). Using a ranking system, the EPS used CMIM to create a list of 100 people who had high scores due to unusually high numbers of criminal and traffic offences.

Several arrests were made in the first two months of the initiative. Among them was the successful arrest of one of the top offenders, which resulted in the execution of 27 warrants and three new criminal charges.

A review of the 100 Worst Drivers initiative will take place in six months.



Hundreds of officers and citizens attended the 2012 Alberta Police and Peace Officers Memorial on September 30.

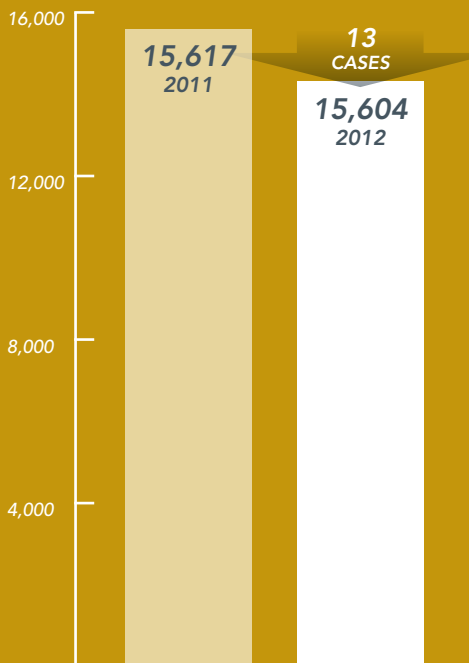
PSCT LEADS THE WAY FOR RCMP

The RCMP in Spruce Grove recently initiated a Public Safety Compliance Team (PSCT) modeled after the City of Edmonton’s innovative structure. EPS officers Sgt. Nicole Chapdelaine and Acting Sgt. Jacob Montgomery, members of Edmonton’s PSCT, met with RCMP regularly to share their experience and help them create their own PSCT in Spruce Grove.

The PSCT is a multi-agency team designed to coordinate the efforts of municipal and provincial agencies involved in licensing, regulation and enforcement of licensed premises, after-hours clubs and events. The PSCT is comprised of members from the EPS, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, City of Edmonton Community Standards Branch and the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission.

“Since 2007, the PSCT in Edmonton has worked hard to gain credibility, not only among the four agencies that comprise the team, but also with the industry that PSCT monitors,” says Sgt. Nicole Chapdelaine. “The expectations are known, as are the consequences for non-compliant and unsafe premises. We have reached a point where most of the work is focused on maintenance and enforcement.”

The PSCT established connections across North America to learn from and share with other cities. Their discussions have regularly validated and confirmed that the work of the PSCT is progressive and effective. The PSCT has set the benchmark for other cities to emulate.



Overall Crime in the Eight Crime Indicators, January 1 – September 30, 2012

The eight crime indicators are:

- homicide
- assault
- sexual assault
- robbery
- break and enter
- theft from vehicle
- theft of vehicle
- theft over \$5,000.

The eight crime indicators are measured daily and the data is used to focus on criminal activity and identify trends, patterns, and ‘hot spots’ in Edmonton. Police resources are then deployed to address emerging and enduring crime and disorder issues.

Appendices

EPS Staff Complement

SWORN, NON-SWORN AND RECRUITS

STAFF	2012 AUTHORIZED FTEs	2012 FTEs AS OF SEPT. 30, 2012	VACANCIES (OVER STRENGTH)
SWORN	1635.0	1580.3	54.7
RECRUITS	0.0	38.0	(38.0)
NON-SWORN	619.5	606.9	12.6
FULL COMPLEMENT	2254.5	2225.2	29.3

The authorized FTEs represent 2,254.5 authorized positions in 2012

Financials

BUDGET VARIANCE by Major Category of Revenues & Expenditures For the Period Ending August 31, 2012

	2012 YEAR TO DATE				YEAR END FORECAST			
	Budget	Actual	Var	%	Budget	Actual	Var	%
REVENUE								
Traffic Safety Act	\$8,648	\$8,648	\$-	0.0%	\$13,658	\$13,658	\$-	0.0%
Provincial Grants	23,492	23,019	(473)	-2.0%	23,492	23,019	(473)	-2.0%
Other	17,483	17,927	444	2.5%	26,123	26,363	240	0.9%
Total Revenue	49,623	49,594	(29)	-0.1%	63,273	63,040	(233)	-0.4%
EXPENDITURES								
PERSONNEL								
Salary and benefits	168,349	166,722	1,627	1.0%	253,977	253,880	97	0.0%
EPS Overtime	6,086	5,922	164	2.7%	9,301	9,539	(238)	-2.6%
External Overtime	288	293	(5)	-1.7%	432	432	-	0.0%
	174,723	172,937	1,786	1.0%	263,710	263,851	(141)	-0.1%
NON-PERSONNEL								
Furniture, equipment, IT, materials and supplies	8,876	8,454	422	4.8%	12,349	13,143	(794)	-6.4%
Contracts and services	12,925	11,359	1,566	12.1%	21,090	19,054	2,036	9.7%
Vehicles	5,086	5,235	(149)	-2.9%	7,625	7,625	-	0.0%
Facilities	9,136	8,726	410	4.5%	14,026	13,700	326	2.3%
Other	2,427	2,144	283	11.7%	2,846	2,757	89	3.1%
	38,450	35,918	2,532	6.6%	57,936	56,279	1,657	2.9%
Total Expenditures	213,173	208,855	4,318	2.0%	321,646	320,130	1,516	0.5%
Position before Adjustments	163,550	159,261	4,289	2.6%	258,373	257,090	1,283	0.5%
Tangible Capital Assets Budget adjustment					6,216	6,216	-	0.0%
Net Position	\$163,550	\$159,261	\$4,289	2.6%	\$264,589	\$263,306	\$1,283	0.5%