

St. Albert Detachment



July 1st, 2017, to September 30th, 2017

Second Quarter - Quarterly Report

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Report

The RCMP Quarterly Policing Report has been prepared to provide City Council and the Community with an update on the status of policing in the City of St. Albert and efforts in support of the policing strategic priorities and community safety matters.

Detachment Overview

The Policing Services Department has a mandate to; preserve the peace, protect life and property, prevent crime and offences, and apprehend criminals, offenders and others who may be lawfully taken into custody. This is done through a contract with Public Safety Canada (RCMP Municipal Policing Agreement) as well as other services provided by Municipal Employees including Municipal (Bylaw) Enforcement and the operation of the Primary 911 call answer and policing dispatch centre.

CORE Services

Policing Services provides the following services to residents and/or internal stakeholders including, City Departments and Council:

- Prevention and Education Services – This is a proactive approach to reduce crime and increase community.
- Protective Services – This service is generally described as one designed to reduce victimization through proactive approaches such as park patrols and reactive approaches such as 911 responses.
- Intelligence Services – The gathering, compiling and disseminating information about crimes, offences, trends and social issues.
- Investigation Services – The gathering of information to determine the facts surrounding a particular crime or offence.
- Enforcement Services – The proactive approach to address violations and criminal acts.
- Other Police Services – services that cannot be rendered by another department or are best to be provided through policing such as police information/criminal record checks and fingerprint services.
- Support Services – Numerous services that are essential to the department's daily operations such as 911/Dispatch, police records management, and property and exhibit control.

ANNUAL POLICING PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In consultation with various community stakeholders, partners, the public at large and Mayor and Council, the Officer in Charge (OIC) develops an Annual Policing Plan (APP) which establishes a number of strategic priorities that are important to the public and consistent with policing priorities established by the Province of Alberta and Government of Canada. Three areas emerged strongly as being the policing priorities for this year's APP cycle which runs from April, 2017 until March 2018.

1. Traffic Safety.
2. Community Policing – Family/Youth/Partnerships/Visibility.
3. Property Crime Reduction.

Several initiatives and measures were developed to support the priorities. This report provides an update on the second quarter progress for 2017/18.

Priority: Traffic Safety

Objective: Enhance Road Safety

Goals:

- 1: 5% Decrease in Overall Collisions
- 2: 5% Increase in Impaired Driver Detection - (Charges and suspensions)

Initiatives:

1: Proactive Traffic Enforcement Strategy - Traffic Unit will provide ongoing Intel on collision hot spots, traffic complaint locations, and traffic violation priorities to strategically focus traffic enforcement efforts. Initiative goal is 600 traffic interactions (tickets/warnings) each month using this strategic focus.

2: Distracted /Impaired Driving Initiatives and Education Campaign - 12 dedicated distracted driving operations, 15 dedicated Impaired Checkstop Operations, and continuing a weekly media messaging campaign focussed on educating and providing awareness to the public on traffic safety priorities.

3: Educate members on indicators of Impaired Driving by Drugs – education to be provided to general duty members by subject matter experts from our Traffic and Drug unit in preparation for legalization of marihuana and the potential increase in impaired driving by drugs.

Status:

Collisions continue to be fewer than last year. Quarter two statistics in 2017 compared to the same period in 2016 show a 4.4% decrease in the overall number of collisions (332 in Q2 2016 vs. 318 in Q2 2017). Impaired driver detection for the first 6 months of this year was 71 vs. 72

over the same period last year, despite ongoing targeted efforts. This may be an indicator of fewer persons drinking and driving as is the desired outcome from this initiative. Pro-active enforcement efforts will continue in the coming quarters utilizing with a focus on traffic “hot spots” for enforcement action. The St. Albert Traffic Services unit has been conducting a minimum of one distracted driving initiative per week which is approximately 13 at minimum, to date. A detachment total of 1565 tickets/warnings were issued in the second quarter. Weekly traffic safety advertisements have been designed, altered and posted in the local newspaper and city website highlighting and educating the public on traffic safety priorities. Member training sessions are been planned for general duty members regarding the detection of cannabis marihuana and the potential increase in impaired driving cases for driving while impaired by drug.

Priority: Community Policing - Family/Youth/Partnerships/Visibility

Objective – Meaningful Community Engagement and Social Master Plan Contribution:

Initiatives and Goals/Measures:

1: Summer bike/cart patrol program - High visibility community based patrols and attendance at block parties, events, and high pedestrian traffic locations during peak hours. Efforts will be reported quarterly.

2: Jr. High and Elementary School Visit Program - Goal of 300 visits including walk through visits, traffic safety patrols, evening security patrols, presentations, and assembly attendances.

3: Domestic Violence High Risk Victim Support Program - goal - 1 active program. Part time DV coordinator developing program to ensure contacts with all high risk victims, partnerships with SAIF/DV Committee, and media/public awareness campaigns throughout year. Quarterly updates to be provided.

4: Bullying prevention program - goal 100% of Jr. High Schools offered bullying presentations, tracking of the number of presentations, ongoing DARE program which includes sessions on bullying, and ongoing participation and cooperation in the forming Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) program.

Status: It’s recognized that the long term impact of our community policing efforts are difficult to measure through short term statistical impacts on crime. Based on the 2017 Community Satisfaction survey finding that 89% of citizens reported that St. Albert is a safe community to live in, and the high satisfaction with policing services, we are confident that these priority community efforts are having a meaningful impact for our community.

During Q2 89 bike/cart patrol shifts were completed. St. Albert hosted 164 block parties and Cart/Bike Patrol attended approximately 90.

With school restarting this quarter, 276 school visits were made to educate and enforce safe pedestrian crossing, legal street parking and proper stopping/drop off of students.

A full time member now fulfils the Domestic Violence Coordinator role. This member is involved in all high risk Domestic Violence files to ensure appropriate resources are engaged and an assessment of continued intervention (ie: breaches) is done. New policy and procedures were created for Domestic Violence protocol at St. Albert detachment. The Domestic Violence coordinator is engaged with Crown Prosecutor, SAIF (Stop Abuse in Families Society) and the Domestic Violence Inter-agency committee.

September marks the beginning of a new school year in St. Albert. Our school resource officers have contacted their school administrators at the Junior High level to remind them of a bullying/cyber bullying presentation available for their schools. The Drug Abuse Resistance education program began on September 11th, 2017. All the fall classes have begun and will be completed by the end of November. The grade 8 drug awareness program will starting in the next quarter. A VTRA(Violent Threat Risk Assessment) meeting was held in September and another VTRA training session will be offer the first week of December

Priority - Property Crime Reduction:

Objective: Reduce Property Crime

Measure/Goal:

- 1: 10% reduction in thefts of/from vehicles, break and enter, and mischief
- 2: 10% increase in drug trafficking/possession charges/seizures

Initiatives:

1: CRU/Crime Analyst Crime Reduction Strategy - Hot spot mapping of property crimes and weekly updated intelligence sharing for strategically directed patrols by all units. A summer bike patrol program focused on Hot Spot policing. Victimization prevention education/messaging program.

2: Licenced Premises Checks Program – High visibility deterrence – 200 licenced premises visits per month.

3: Habitual/Prolific Offender Condition Checks Program – Analyst/Probation to identify offenders on conditions, units will complete zero tolerance conditions checks to ensure compliance - 10% increase in efforts goal to 220 checks this year.

4: Drug Unit Strategy – continued focus on drugs impact on property crime through source recruitment, strategic Intel gathering, and project based operations focussed on disrupting drug traffickers and users.

Status: Overall St. Albert had a 1.7% decreased in reports of property related offences. Theft from motor vehicles has increased 20 % from 155 in Q2 2016 to 196 in Q2 2017. The reported theft of vehicles increased 16% from 37 in Q2 2016 to 44 in Q2 2017. Mischief related occurrences decreased 47% with 264 occurrences reported in Q2 2016 and 180 reported in Q2 2017. Break and Enter offences increased 30% with 63 incidents reported in Q2 2016 and 90

reported in Q2 2017. An increase in crime is consistent with seasonal trends provincially and St. Albert is one of the only detachments in Alberta showing a decrease in property related offences during this quarter. Better weather during the warmer month's means more people are out and about for longer periods of time. People tend to spend more time away from their homes as they enjoy outdoor activities, providing greater opportunity for criminals to commit break and enter, theft, mischief.

Proactive efforts are focused on hot spot mapping for high crime areas and the sharing of intelligence regarding persons and locations of interest and notable crime trends within the detachment. 89 bike/cart patrol shifts have been completed this quarter, noting a lot of positive encounters with youth and adults along with enforcement violations issued regarding By-Laws & Provincial Statutes. I believe that the presence of the RCMP in the remote areas of St. Albert through bike and cart patrol directly attributed to the significant 47% decrease in mischief related offences. St. Alberta Crime Reduction Unit and Community Policing Unit has worked closely with media and the city of St. Albert strategic communications to promote safe practices and educate the public in potential vulnerabilities and how to safeguard their property.

The detachment completed 557 Bar walks were documented in the second quarter to proactively curb criminal behavior. 122 Habitual Offender Condition Checks in the management of high risk offenders were completed yielding a cumulative total of 233 this year, exceeding the annual goal of 200. St. Albert has continued to build a relationship with the Edmonton Police Service and Central Alberta District to share intelligence and participate in collective strategies to identify crime trends at a regional level and provide a collective response in policing.

During the 2nd quarter from 2017-07-01 to 2017-09-30 there were a total of 62 CDSA investigations resulting in 25 CDSA charges and 26 no case seizures. The Drug Unit continues its effort to work with all units at the detachment. Daily they mentor and coach investigators in developing their skill set in regard to drug investigations and criminal intelligence.

Unit Updates:

General Duties

During the last quarter our General Duty members continued using their proactive time contributing to our community's APP priorities. Efforts continued with our bar walk, street check, school visits, curfew check, and traffic enforcement initiatives. During the last quarter General Duty members responded to and investigated 5316 reported incidents in addition to their proactive efforts.

Drug Unit

The drug strategy for the 2017/18 APP remains unchanged and drug unit is continuing to aim for a 10% increase in drug enforcement over last year. The drug unit has obtained and executed 5 CDSA Search Warrants in the first two quarters seizing high risk drugs such as; cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and methamphetamine. The drug unit is working hard to keep up productivity despite facing staffing challenges through the first two quarters with two members being promoted and transferred. Two new members have been identified as replacements from other detachments however, both are in the transfer process with houses to sell and arrival dates are undetermined. There has been a significant push to gather intelligence regarding the current drug scene in St. Albert.

Community Policing/Victim Services Unit

The summer Bike/Cart program is wrapping up this quarter. In the second quarter 89 Bike/Cart patrol shifts have been completed, with a lot of positive encounters with youth and adults along with enforcement violations issued regarding By-Laws & Provincial Statutes. This quarter the Communities of St. Albert hosted 164 block parties and Cart/Bike Patrol attended approximately 90%, interacting and building strong relationships with neighbours and youth of St. Albert.

With school starting this quarter, CPVS has started conducting school visits, traffic enforcement and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. The CPVS Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) model will complement the existing St. Albert School/ RCMP School Resource Officer model well. VTRA is based on the principle of working with the student and their family to ensure their success. Other jurisdictions using this model find that it provides an effective method of dealing with violent behavior while connecting the youth with resources to prevent the problems from reoccurring. Moving forward, the Domestic Violence position continues to be staffed, and all Jr. High schools have been advised of bullying prevention presentation options, which are also included in annual DARE training.

In the month of September CPVS attend elementary & Jr high schools, 86 times enforcing safe pedestrian crossing, legal street parking and proper stopping/drop off of students.

CPVS is assisting multi housing complexes obtain Crime Free Multi Housing (CFMH) certification. Another complex recently achieved this certification bringing our total to five so far this year. The City of St. Albert has approximately 108 multi-housing complexes, consisting of apartments, condos, four-plexes, and townhouses. Our trained officers have the knowledge, skills and ability to inspect and mentor properties to align themselves with CFMH. Through review of calls for service CP/VS officers are engaging property managers and owners in CFHM.

CPVS organized a four week citizen's academy program focused on crime associated to the Perron Business District. This provided an opportunity to work with our community partners to create awareness about crime prevention through environmental design/graffiti deterrence, municipal bylaws and crime reduction through an intelligence lead approach to policing and to provide an opportunity for community and social development.

St. Albert Victim Services has continued their excellent service delivery in providing free emotional support and referrals to St. Albert clients of crime and tragedy.

Traffic Unit

For this period of the St. Albert Traffic Unit remained proactive in conducting numerous check stops to identify various traffic and criminal code offences. The unit conducted multiple covert operations with a focus on distracted driving and education of the public on safe driving practices. With September marking the beginning of a school year, the traffic unit was focused on policing and educating the public and students on traffic related offences associated to school zones. The St. Albert Traffic services has built a relationship with the City of St. Albert strategic communications and collectively delivers consistent messaging to educate the public through media ads focused on distracted driving, impaired driving and the safe journeys to school. St. Albert traffic services unit attended monthly traffic safety, strategic planning and the traffic safety steering committee meetings with the city of St. Albert providing input on traffic safety concerns and participating in the development of safety plans. The unit is responsible for overall detachment traffic enforcement based on general public feedback, complaints, and traffic service member input.

Crime Reduction Unit

The St Albert Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) continues to identify hot spots and provide intelligence to all detachment members to concentrate policing activities in efforts to reduce property crime. This last quarter CRU was actively working with CPVS doing bike patrol and assisted General Duty members in numerous investigations, including response, guidance and subject matter expertise, investigative follow up, and proactive surveillance and monitoring. Repeat offenders continue to remain a focus for CRU. Recognizing a 16% regional increase in vehicle theft occurrences a CRU member partnered with Edmonton Police Service to investigate crimes associated to vehicle thefts. This action identified new RCMP standards of practice, intelligence sharing and relationship building. CRU continues to work with probation and their clients in efforts to deter prolific offenders from breaching their conditions.

General Investigation Section

St. Albert General Investigation Section (GIS) is responsible for conducting complex investigations relating to serious crimes. In the last quarter GIS assisted the general duty membership with approximately 25 investigations. The assistance was provided in the form of immediate response, general guidance, interview assistance, specific legal advice, or investigative direction. GIS members also drafted or assisted in drafting four judicial authorizations, and assisted in the execution of three search warrants. Execution of these warrants led to the securing of evidence, drugs and firearms.

General Detachment Updates:

Detachment resources fluctuate on an almost daily basis due to transfers, secondments, promotions, illness, training, and parental leave. At the time of this report the detachment had 62 positions actively serving the community.

Report Submitted by

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OIC St. Albert Detachment

St Albert Municipal Detachment
Statistical Comparison
Q2: 2013 - 2017 (July-Sept)

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

October-03-17

CATEGORY	Trend	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Homicides & Offences Related to Death		0	0	0	0	2
Robbery		0	0	5	4	4
Sexual Assaults		4	2	7	10	13
Other Sexual Offences		2	1	0	13	1
Assault		84	92	77	109	88
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		5	1	3	1	3
Extortion		1	0	0	0	0
Criminal Harassment		18	9	17	20	24
Uttering Threats		28	15	28	31	38
Other Persons		1	0	1	0	2
TOTAL PERSONS		143	120	138	188	175
Break & Enter		54	49	59	63	90
Theft of Motor Vehicle		31	23	37	37	36
Theft Over \$5,000		4	4	9	5	11
Theft Under \$5,000		290	210	440	324	416
Possn Stn Goods		13	9	23	22	21
Fraud		29	41	45	77	84
Arson		4	4	1	2	0
Mischief To Property		361	289	396	264	178
TOTAL PROPERTY		786	629	1,010	794	836
Offensive Weapons		9	11	13	6	17
Public Order		0	0	0	0	0
Disturbing the peace		0	115	86	55	44
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		224	90	111	141	132
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		233	216	210	202	193
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		1,162	965	1,358	1,184	1,204

