



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



2021 CRIME HIGHLIGHTS

Date

2021-03-01

Commission Role

- Information only Approval

Type of Meeting

- Full Commission meeting
 Governance and Personnel (G&P) Sub-Committee
 Finance and Audit (F&A) Sub-Committee
 Complaint Oversight (COC) Sub-Committee
 Anti-Racism Committee

Purpose

Select the appropriate category (below) to explain “why” the Commission is receiving this report and (if applicable) insert a narrative here identifying the report’s alignment to the 2019-2022 CPS Service Action Plans (Strategic Priority/Objective/Action Plan).

- Obligation under the Police Act
 Update on progress
 Other: (x)

Follow-Up from January CPC

A Crime Update was provided in the public session of Full Commission in January 2021 where it was noted that the number of crime gun seizures was 442. Since that meeting a report has been completed by the Firearms Investigative Team (FIT) and 2020 final numbers for guns seized is 507. The following definition was established by Statistics Canada in 2020:

A crime gun is any of the following: a firearm used or suspected to be used in the commission of a criminal offence and/or possessed as a result of the commission of a criminal offence regardless of whether or not it was discharged, regardless of whether or not it was possessed legally, and includes replicas, toy guns, or other imitation guns used or threatened to be used in a criminal manner; a firearm that is intentionally smuggled (e.g. seized at the border); or a firearm that has an obliterated serial number. Police will determine whether or not a firearm should be classified as a crime gun as a result of the investigation.

As the definition of crime gun has recently been established comparative numbers for previous years are not available.

Background / Issue

This document provides crime and statistical information and highlights CPS operational response and community impact.

Discussion / Analysis

Sex Assault Groping Series Update

Numerous sexual assaults which involved buttocks groping assaults occurred between the Fall 2020 and February 2021. Based on the case facts, many were believed to be committed by the same offender predominantly in Districts 1 & 3. Fantastic collaborative efforts by multiple areas of the Service led to the arrest of a suspect, Bogban BOTEZATU 34, who at this point has been charged with three offences in District. Follow-up continues regarding similar fact evidence with the possibility of additional charges in the future.

Citywide Pharmacy Robbery Series

There have been 42 pharmacy robberies throughout the city since September 2020. Suspects are primarily targeting liquid Cotridin and readily accessible items from the safe and shelves behind the counter. An umbrella operation is underway supported by Service-wide resources; with both covert and overt deployed. Prevention: Crime Prevention is actively engaged with the Alberta College of Pharmacies on security and prevention measures that can be implemented in the short and longer term. Currently, a crime prevention officer is deployed to each pharmacy targeted to work on strengthening their security protocols in the aftermath and is in the process of creating documentation to be forwarded out to all pharmacies province wide. Citywide messaging on the pharmacy social media communication channel has also been shared. They are also working with the Alberta College of Pharmacies to put processes in place to connect offenses when evidence is recovered during an arrest. In the longer term, there is an agreement from the Alberta College of Pharmacies for a mandatory implementation of safe timers, public notices of timers, barricades for pharmacy shelves, and enhanced security barricades/door access points for the pharmacy counter itself. Similar mandatory measures were implemented in BC over a two-year period starting in 2017, resulting in no pharmacy robberies in the province of BC in 2020.

Cannabis Store Robbery Series

There have been nine cannabis store robberies since the beginning of January 2021. Suspects have been identified for some of these incidents and are being actively sought.

Cell Phone Thefts/Robbery of Person – Facebook Market Place Buy Sell Trend Continuing (Citywide)

There have been approximately 128 high-end electronic theft/robbery of persons since June 2020, the majority involved the use of online resale markets (Kijiji/Facebook Marketplace) as a means of facilitating the offence. Prevention: Crime Prevention is actively engaged and have obtained support from Kijiji to post banner ads on their site suggesting customers use

police parking lots for buy /sell meets as an additional measure of security. Other social media for sale sites have yet to respond. Additional signage for District parking lots is being provided to District CRO teams. School Resource Officers (SRO) are actively engaged in the prevention/intervention aspect as students are identified to be involved from their respective schools. Direct contact with the individuals and overt police presence is being provided by SRO's and district patrol as one means to prevent or intervene in the activities of these offenders. Options from MASST and YARRD are being assessed.

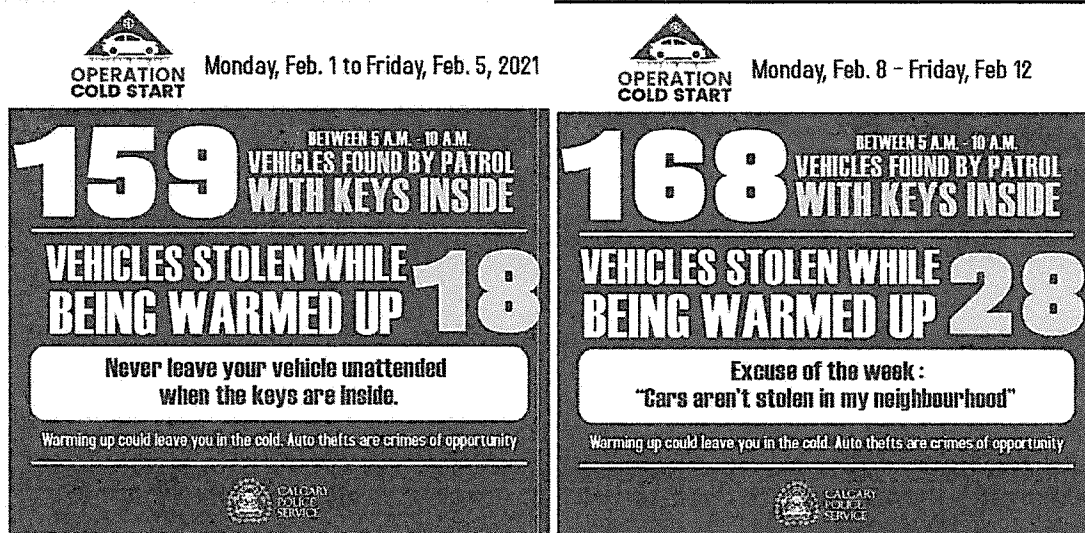
Community Problem address in Applewood (District 4)

Between January 2019 to present, 109 calls for service (public and CPS generated) were attributed to an address in Applewood, including a home invasion, vehicle arson, "drug party" and stolen vehicle activity. The address had been identified as a long-term crime reduction priority in District 4 due to continual disorder and crime issues in the community in close relation to the address. In December 2020, intelligence was obtained indicating illegal drug trafficking at the residence and a police operation was initiated. Surveillance confirmed activity consistent with drug trafficking. In early February search warrants on a vehicle and the residence were executed resulting in the seizure of a quantity of mixed drugs, and a loaded sawed -off shotgun. Nine people were located inside the residence and a total of twenty Criminal Code charges were laid and thirty warrants executed. This information has now been passed on to the D4-5CRO and SCAN for further follow-up, and SCAN has issued a letter to the homeowner. In the aftermath of these arrests, a number of community members approached the uniformed members to thank them for shutting down a chronic community problem house in their neighborhood.

Cold Start Initiative February 1st to 12th 2021

This year's Cold Start initiative ran from February 1st -12th, 2021 from 0500 – 0900 hours each day. During this timeframe, 327 vehicles were recorded as running with keys inside and over the two-week period during the time frames identified, 46 vehicles were stolen "while being warmed up". Outside of the initiative hours, an additional 63 vehicles were reported as stolen during that same timeframe. Our Strategic Communications Weekly updates are shown below

- 2020 for the two-week period we had 55 vehicles stolen
- 2021 for the two-week period we had 37 vehicles stolen
- This represents a decrease of 32% over last year.



Traffic Efforts

Traffic is also doing monthly social media campaigns in support of the Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar. February has been Distracted Driving, March is Seatbelts. The annual Slow Down, Move Over campaign happens around March 7th and is a tri-services partner campaign with City Wide towing in memory of a tow truck driver that was killed in Saskatchewan in 2017.

Ransomware

Ransomware – is a type of malware that threatens to publish the victim’s data or perpetually block access to it unless a ransom is paid. Malware is any software intentionally designed to cause damage to a computer, server, client, or computer network, including but not limited to computer viruses, worms, Trojan Horses, ransomware, and spyware.

In 2020 there were more ransomware attacks than in 2019, an upward trend we have experienced over the past six years. As stated, this crime has been steadily rising since 2016 and is not isolated to “foreign threat actors” as this threat exists nationally and locally. Last year, Calgary victims made payments of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Nationally, it is estimated there are 3,200 ransomware attacks each day, with financial victimization and implications reaching into the hundreds of thousand of dollars and in some cases up to millions of dollars not to mention the harm, disruption and significant impact to individual victims, business, institutions and organizations. This crime is under reported and our data indicating an increasing trend is not truly reflective of the extent of victimization within our community

Money Laundering

National media coverage has shown how professional money laundering networks continue to fuel and sustain Organized Crime within our communities. These are time intensive and complex investigations that require strong partnerships with other law enforcement agencies and other federal partners and often cross national and international jurisdictional

boundaries. The Calgary Police Service Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture Team (MLAFT) initiated a file April 2020, that was concluded nine months later in January 2021. This operation focused on the sale of and proceeds from illicit cannabis products online. Warrants were executed in B.C. and Alberta, resulting in the seizure of marijuana plants and the restraining of almost \$9 million worth in properties, cash, and cash equivalents. This operation was well covered by our local media partners and media outlets in British Columbia.

Ongoing efforts and commitments in support of anti-money laundering efforts has seen an exponential increase in civil forfeitures. It is well documented that the greatest impact to Organized Crime is going after the illegal profits and gains. In September 2020, the Canadian Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) released a public report estimating the extent of money laundering in Canada to be in the range of \$45 to \$113 billion Canadian.

Homicide

In 2021, there has been one homicide and this time last year we had six for the same period. The 2020 year-end total of 34 homicides was a 70% increase over 2019 and a 26% increase compared to the five-year average. Our clearance rate for 2020 currently sits at 76%. CPS recognizes the unpredictability of homicides and remain absolutely committed to our proactive intervention and prevention efforts in attempts to reduce this category of crime and victimization.

Child Abuse

In 2020, there were 711 child abuse files assigned to unit Detectives and the average for the previous three years was 629 files. The pace slowed slightly in January 2021, with 59 new files - compared to 80 in January of 2020. This is a slight increase over the five-year average of 56. We remain vigilant with our interdisciplinary partners closely monitoring our reporting and data to quickly respond to any identifiable trends in attempts to reduce victimization, trauma and keeping our children safe.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation

During the pandemic lockdown, law enforcement agencies across the world have identified a concerning upward trend in cases involving kids being exploited online. This trend is associated to more children being online more often, with online school, and not being able to see their friends face-to-face. Public Safety Canada has been holding webinars on this topic, to inform police on ways we can better protect our children from online predators. On February 9th, CPS met with The Honorable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness and Deputy Chief Kevin Brezinski with the Edmonton Police Service in relation to a grant announcement. The announcement committed to Alberta police agencies \$1.2 million over two years to fight online exploitation. Locally this funding will support Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT)' Southern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation (SAICE) Unit by increasing investigative resources, training, equipment and updating and advancing software.

In 2020, ALERT conducted 25 child interventions, identified 976,569 photos and videos depicting child exploitation, seized nearly 1,500 devices, and analyzed 153 Terabytes (TB) of data (1TB = approximately 250,000 photos or 250 movies or 500 hours of HD video or 6.5 million document pages commonly stored as Office files, pdfs or presentations – It also equals to 1,300 physical filing cabinets of paper). In total, 74 suspects were arrested in relation to child exploitation crimes.

Conclusion

In the March Full Commission, a comprehensive presentation of our ten-year crime statistical trends and operational responses will be provided.

Attachments (if any)

List attachments here.

Approval signatures

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