



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Pandemic Update on Crime and Social Disorder

Date

2022.06.22

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

As part of the Chief's Report at the monthly Calgary Police Commission meeting, the pandemic update on crime and disorder is intended to provide the members of the CPC with insights related to the impacts that have been identified as a result of Covid-19 that could be shared publicly. A focus will be made on issues that can be attributed (partial or fully) to the pandemic.

Key Messages

The CPS continues to respond to crime and social disorder trends that have emerged and/or influenced by the global pandemic. Some of the most relevant items that the CPS have responded to since the last update include:

- Monitoring of crime and social disorder has revealed similar trendlines with a continued gradual return to pre-pandemic rates. Some trends pertaining to violent crime and vehicle crime have continued.
- Demonstrations and protests pertaining to the Public Health Orders and restrictions continue although recently on a reduced scale, however planning for events including larger scale events have increased.
- All mandatory health restrictions in the Province of Alberta were lifted on June 15, 2022, and the federal vaccination requirement for air and rail travel has been lifted.

Summary of Issues and Trends

The CPS continues to monitor and respond to the impacts of the pandemic from an operational perspective. Some highlights of the report will cover the following:

- In May there was a slight decrease in citywide disorder activity compared to the 5-year average (-446 calls). Year-to-date disorder activity is about the same as the five-year average (+642 calls). Social disorder and crime pertaining to the LRT has continued to be an area of concern and focus. Efforts are being made to address this in partnership with Calgary Transit.
- Significant increases continued to be observed in Mental Health Concerns in May (543, AVG=361). Year-to-date Mental Health Concerns have increased 41% compared to the five-year average (2496, AVG=1775).
- Some of the crime trends have been moving closer to pre-pandemic levels with a return to the 5-year average zones. This includes both residential and commercial break and enter.
- Vehicle related crime (theft of and theft from vehicle) has trended up as of late. To the end of May 2022, vehicle crime is currently 8% above the 5-year average, with 558 additional incidents recorded.
- Citywide reported domestic violence incidents have been seeing significant and notable decreases since May of 2021 and this month continues to be below the five-year range of average for May. May continued to see an increase in domestic reporting (non-violent) as compared to the 5-year average.
- One of the key findings from the patterns of the past several months is that the violent incidents in recent months have continued to be highly correlated with both temperature and the amount of economic activity resulting from the public health order. Commercial robberies and common assaults have continued to be drivers in the violent crime incidents.
- The CPS continues to monitor demonstration and protest activities related to the pandemic although there continues to be assessments regarding the resourcing of these events in addition to other public events which have increased since the lifting of most of the public health restrictions.
- The Court of Queen's Bench Injunction that was obtained by the City of Calgary with support from the CPS was lifted prior to the start of the NHL Playoffs. The CPS continued efforts of working with protest organizers to prevent conflicts with other community groups. Through the Calgary Flames Playoff Run which included the Red Mile and Red Lot venues, the events were managed effectively through the execution of a well-defined Operational Plan.
- The CPS is continuing to experience a return to pre-pandemic planning regarding citywide events inclusive of large-scale events. The organization is currently planning and preparing for the Calgary Stampede which is anticipated to return to typical (if not larger) attendance levels.

- All mandatory public health restrictions within Alberta were lifted on June 15, 2022, as the Omicron BA.2 wave continued to subside, and COVID-19 hospitalizations continued to decline. While no longer legally required, isolation remains recommended for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive. This recommendation has been communicated out to CPS employees.
- The federal government has announced a suspension of vaccine mandates for federal employees and for passengers wishing to board a plane or train in Canada. It is anticipated that this will impact volumes of travelers, especially through airports which we will be monitoring through our Airport Police Unit.
- The Calgary Police Commission and Calgary Police Service may wish to revisit the need to continue with the regular Pandemic updates and instead move to them being initiated as needed based upon any future significant impacts.

Attachments (if any)

Nil

Approval signatures

AUTHOR/EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

signature:

2022.06.22

Chad Tawfik, Deputy Chief

Date

Bureau of Community Policing

CHIEF OF POLICE signature:

2022.06.22

Mark Neufeld, Chief of Police

Date

Office of the Chief