



Beltline Protest SAFETY PLAN



WEARECPS

Overview

Strategic Goal & Background – Mission/Objective, protest background, March 12 event

Planning & Coordination– partnerships

Response & Operational Tactics – incident command team, operational tactics and communications strategy

Evaluate & Debrief – sustainable staffing planning, ongoing engagement and review of after-action reporting

Strategic Goal

Mission:

The Calgary Police Service (CPS) will employ community engagement tactics and negotiation with an aim to safely facilitate a peaceful static protest event. The CPS recognizes the Charter Rights to peaceful assembly. These rights are not absolute and cannot be exercised in a manner that infringes on the constitutional rights of others, and their safety. The Service will respond to any unlawful and/or unsafe activity in a necessary, reasonable and proportionate manner.

Objectives:

- Maintain the peace and protect public safety.
- Minimize community and traffic disruptions through early intervention and enforcement.
- Assist and support businesses and residents of private dwellings by preventing trespassing and harassment. This will be accomplished by aiming to limit movement of large protest groups to static locations and prevent interaction between opposing protest groups.
- Enforce on-view Criminal Code and provincial statutes with immediate action, or post-event by dedicated investigative resources.
- Provide support to Calgary Community Standards, who will enforce municipal bylaws and licensing.

Background

- “Freedom Rally” protests began during the pandemic - changing locations, demands, organizers, levels of cooperation
 - Crowd sizes over the past few months:
 - Beginning of 2022 – approx. 300
 - February – in the range of 2,000 – 5,000
 - End of February/early March – 1,300
 - World-wide rally every six weeks (including Saturday, March 19, 2022)
- Crowds diminished as we approached the lifting of restrictions
- Beginning of March, protests continued despite lifting of restrictions, which caused more frustration for the Beltline community
- Demonstrators were relatively cooperative, although disruptive, until Saturday, March 12

Background – March 5

- Group A – approx. 800 people, staged at Central Memorial Park
- Group B – approx. 50 people, staged at Tompkins Park
- Group A was continuing on their typical route, Group B formed a block of 17 Avenue at 7 Street.
- Police were able to divert Group A north onto a new route prior to any major confrontation. Group A was compliant with police direction and a flashpoint was avoided.

Background – March 12 event

- Group A – approx. 1,000 people staged at Central Memorial Park
- Group B – approx. 200 people staged at Tompkins Park
- As Group A departed on their march, Group B took over 14 Ave, to block Group A from initiating march. Police were able to negotiate Group B to leave the roadway.
- Group A departs on march, Group B forms a block on 17 Ave., and 5 Street, impeding the march for approx. an hour.
- Police attempted to divert the march, Group A refused to comply. Negotiations with both groups unsuccessful, increasing hostility and concern for imminent flashpoint.
- Group A attempted to flank and surround Group B
- Officers made numerous requests to Group B to move for their own safety, they refused.
- Public Safety Unit Bike Team members intervened to create path

Why now? What has changed?

- The protests have evolved despite the removal of restrictions. We've seen a dramatic shift in the demeanor and behaviour and have identified significant public safety risks.
- The community has become increasingly frustrated, with the ongoing disruption and community safety concerns.
- Until now Group A has been relatively cooperative and have worked with police regarding the route and following police direction.
- Last weekend was a turning point where that changed and now the groups have indicated they will not follow police direction which will lead to a confrontation that is unavoidable.
- When mobile, public safety is an issue due to the potential for confrontations and lack of compliance.
- Based on the totality of the circumstances, this has become a Major Policing Event as defined by CPC policy.

Injunction

City of Calgary has been **granted an injunction** to prohibit the following:

- Blocking of traffic on roads and on sidewalks, walking in the middle of the roadways, and preventing vehicles and pedestrians from lawfully passing by or accessing amenities in the area without authorization or a permit
- Conduct or activity in a park which unreasonably disturbs the use or enjoyment of the park for other users of the park, or hosting an event or using an amplification system in a park without a permit
- Commercial activity in a park, including but not limited to the operation of vendor stands within Central Memorial Park or other areas without a permit

Injunction

- The unnecessary sounding of horns or other audible warning devices of motor vehicles or of other noise making devices, including but not limited to hair horns and megaphones

Notice/Service of injunction

- May be given by reading the Order to any person, including but not limited to reading the Order over an amplification system, publishing the Order online, including on social media accounts or distributing copies of the Order to the media

Injunction

Enforcement

- Any member of the CPS, or any Peace Officer, may ensure compliance with this order, including arresting or detaining persons Law Enforcement has reasonable ground to believe is contravening or has contravened the Order.
- A member of Law Enforcement may use reasonable force in order to ensure compliance with this Order.
- Persons shall remain at liberty to engage in peaceful, lawful and safe protest, subject to the provisions of the Order.
- This Interlocutory Order shall remain in force until the hearing of the application for a permanent injunction.

Planning & Coordination

- CPS in partnership with stakeholders are working together to ensure The City of Calgary, and in particular the downtown areas of 17 Avenue and Beltline, are a safe and welcoming place.
- Stakeholders involved in planning:
 - Calgary Community Standards (Bylaw)
 - Calgary Transit
 - Calgary Roads
 - Calgary Parking Authority
 - City Licensing
 - Calgary 9-1-1 & 3-1-1
 - CEMA
 - Alberta Sheriffs
 - AHS

Response

- Ongoing engagement with affected community residents and business owners to inform operational planning.
- Leading up to the protest, CPS has been engaging with various demonstration organizers to set clear direction and expectations to ensure public safety and community well-being.
- In collaboration with all stakeholders and external partners, CPS will provide on-duty and call-out members in a variety of roles to ensure a measured and appropriate response.
- The response to this event will be managed by a CPS Incident Command Team (ICT) with support from multiple partner agencies.

Response

- The engagement and dialogue strategy to gain voluntarily compliance initially employed are no longer effective as a result of little-to-no cooperation from organizers in the protests on March 12, 2022.
- Groups are no longer following police direction and pre-event negotiations with organizers to amend their plans have been met with resistance. Intelligence indicates there may be an imminent public safety risk at future demonstrations.
- Operations will begin with CPS request for voluntary compliance, de-escalation when we can, and use enforcement when necessary.
- Frequent briefings with all levels of command will occur to adjust strategies based on the risk assessment and after-action reporting.

Planned Operational Tactics

- Supporting our partners at bylaw and city licensing with proactive engagement and enforcement of events and participants
- High visibility presence of Public Safety Unit and supporting units
- Complex traffic safety plan with multiple phases to help safely manage pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the downtown area, with a focus on the Beltline and 17 Avenue. Enforcement is expected to occur before, during and after the event.
- Planned road closures to minimize disruption to community and businesses – advanced/as-needed

Planned Operational Tactics

- Direct dialogue with organizers, the public and the community to request voluntary compliance.
- Additional social media and communication to request compliance with refraining from attending the area for the purpose of protesting.
- Our intention is to focus resources on mitigating risk and changing the behaviour of those causing community disruption, and negatively impacting public safety.

Operational Tactics

- Communications strategy
 - Tactical use of social media - began this week, live updates as events unfold on Saturday
 - PA/MRU in TOC and on scene
 - Press conferences as required (will not be held on scene)
 - Internal communications for staff
 - Safety information bulletin shared with businesses
 - Ongoing engagement with BIAs, Community Associations and business owners pre-and-post event via the Community Resource Officer and town halls

How you can help

- De-escalation and community well being is everyone's responsibility
- Share official messaging coming from @CalgaryPolice
- Be mindful of your own safety and your own jeopardy
- Should a flashpoint or other situation occur, we will provide you with an update upon the conclusion of the event
- We are all in this together and consistent messaging will aid in bringing calm to the situation and build trust with our community
- If you have questions or concerns, reach out to the CPC Executive Director. Event updates will be provided through CPC Executive Director to Commission members and on to City Council

QUESTIONS?



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