



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Crime Update – Bureau of Community Policing – February 2023

Date

2023.02.15

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 Crime Update is intended to provide the members of the CPC with insights related to the ongoing crime trending as well as some of the efforts being made that could be shared publicly. This is not intended to replace the quarterly crime reporting and update as received through regularly scheduled reporting to the CPC as required.

Key Messages

- CPS continues to focus on the impact of violent crime, especially shootings, guns, and drug-related crime.
- In January, there were continued notable decreases in Domestic Violence, Residential and Commercial Break and Enters, Vehicle Thefts and Car-prowling's.
- Social disorder experienced a slight reduction as compared to the five-year average.
- The CPS participated in the provincial auto theft prevention program that originated with CPS – Operation Cold Start.
- Calgary experienced 1 traffic fatality in January and education and enforcement efforts were focused on intersection safety in line with the provincial traffic safety calendar. Impaired driving intervention also has continued to be emphasized with Immediate Roadside Sanctions and Criminal Code charges. Traffic Service Requests submitted by the public increased by 71% from December and a 108% as compared to January 2022.

Summary of Issues and Trends

The CPS focus on addressing crime is a critical part of our overall strategy and falls in line with the strategic goal of increased community safety and wellbeing. Several key strategic initiatives were identified as part of the 2023 Annual Policing Plan including:

- Establish city-wide and district specific priorities through the monthly Crime Reduction Strategy
- Reducing violent crime through investigation, enforcement, and offender management
- Reducing crime and disorder in the downtown with partners and support agencies
- Improve traffic safety through education, partnership, and enforcement efforts
- Decreasing property crime by targeting break and enters and auto theft
- Support vulnerable persons and improve call diversion (this includes Downtown safety)
- Prepare safety plans for events, protests, and parades and support the WPC safety plan

The CPS will be responsive to these priorities as well as new and ongoing crime trends that emerge. Some of the highlights since our last crime update include:

Crime trending for January 2023 based on the 5-year average (Citywide)

Month of December 2022 only:

Citywide	Dec 2022	Non-Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Domestic Reporting	Residential B&E	Commercial B&E	Vehicle Theft	Carprowl	Disorder
	DIFF AVG (%)	-10%	-35%	10%	-44%	-22%	-16%	-32%	-10%
	Significance	↓	↓	↔	↓	↔	↔	↓	↓
	DIFF AVG (N)	-54	-146	151	-145	-84	-71	-329	-728

Month of January 2023 only:

Citywide	YTD	Non-Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Domestic Reporting	Residential B&E	Commercial B&E	Vehicle Theft	Carprowl	Disorder
	DIFF AVG (%)	-11%	-26%	-1%	-35%	-27%	-22%	-42%	-2%
	Significance	↔	↔	→	↓	↔	↔	↓	↔
	DIFF AVG (N)	-62	-96	-17	-113	-110	-112	-441	-148

Note: Moving forward the report will include the monthly results with the YTD trending. Given that it is the first month of full data, for this report the month of December 2022 has been provided for comparison.

Legend:

- Non-domestic violence:** All levels of assaults, robberies (personal and commercial), extortion, etc.
- Domestic violence:** Family violence and violence involving domestic partners.
- Domestic reporting:** Reported occurrences in domestic situations that did not escalate to the point of violence
- Residential B&E:** Break and enters to residential properties and outbuildings.
- Commercial B&E:** Break and enters to commercial properties including premises, storage facilities, yards, etc.
- Vehicle Theft:** Theft of automobile
- Car prowling:** Entering of vehicles which may include theft of property from within
- Disorder:** A variety of occurrence types that impact on people's perceptions of safety including unwanted guests, suspicious persons, disturbances, etc.

Summary of selected highlights and insights:

- Violent incidents (non-domestic) in Calgary saw a notable decrease at 12% lower than January 2022. Like December, violence registered a sizeable departure from the benchmark average. Assaults were at an average level and other violence saw a significant decrease. This applies to all districts across the city.
- In January, there was a notable decrease in the citywide number of reported domestic violence incidents compared to the average (277 vs. 373). Citywide reported domestic violence incidents have continued along similar trendlines as 2022. This is the sixth month in a row with the volume well below the 5-year average. Domestic reporting on the other hand, was neutral when compared to the five-year average (1,451 vs. 1,468) which is important in assessing what we see with reported domestic violence. If the domestic reporting was significantly lower, that could be cause for increased concern however that is not what our trends have shown. Domestic reporting has been continuing a similar trendline since January of 2021.
- Shootings and gun violence continue to be a priority for prevention and investigative efforts. The Bureau of Investigative Support provides the totals in their crime update. Regardless, efforts continue across bureaus to respond to and address gun related violence accordingly.
- For the month of January, Commercial Robberies were down 10 occurrences or 31.7% from the five-year average and street/personal robberies were down 7 occurrences or 14.4% below the five-year average.
- There were 513 break and enter occurrences recorded for January which was down 35% from the five-year average of 736, and down 33% from January 2021.
- Residential break and enter activity dropped significantly again this month with 211 residential B&E's which is the lowest volume recorded in January for the past six years (Average of 324). The numbers could partially be impacted by the timeline in processing online reporting for "other" category break and enters. The 302 incidents of reported commercial break and enters was lower than both the 5-year average for January and January of 2022 (Average of 412 and 416 in January 2022).
- There were 987 reported incidents of vehicle crime recorded in January, a significant decrease of 36% from the 5-year average (553 fewer incidents). Compared against the same month last year, there were 562 fewer incidents representing a 36% decrease from January 2021. Again, it should be noted that some of these numbers are subject to change (likely to increase) due to timelines in online reporting through Cop Logic. Of the 987 reported incidents, 598 involved car-prowling and 389 involved vehicle thefts. Vehicle thefts were 22% lower than average (389 vs. 481) and 19% below January of 2021.
- January 2023 saw a slight reduction of disorder activity (148 fewer calls), mostly driven by a significant reduction of physical disorder. Unwanted guests, disturbances, and mental health concern calls saw above average volumes (a similar trend noted throughout 2022).

Drug & Gun-related Investigations:

As part of the strategy to address crime and harm in the community, the districts continued to focus on drug and gun related investigations. A few examples of significance since the last report include:

District 2 Operation

Early January an individual residing in the Bowness was identified to be engaging in drug trafficking activities. As a result of observations and evidence gathering, a search warrant was executed at a residence where a stolen 9mm handgun with two loaded magazines, ammunition, quantities of cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine, oxycontin worth a total street value of \$311,00 were seized. In addition, equipment for the production of crack cocaine and \$24,000 in cash were seized along with items of stolen property. One individual has been charged with six counts of Possession for the purpose of trafficking, one CDSA for production, five counts of firearms related charges and proceeds of crime. The investigation continues and further charges are anticipated.

District 4 Operation

In January a residence in Dover was identified due to an increase in calls for service and complaints from community members. An operation was initiated as this residence had been subject of multiple complaints a few years earlier. Investigative efforts led to the identification of two offenders engaged in drug activity and a search warrant was executed at the residence at the end of January. The search revealed an SKS rifle with magazines, ammunition, methamphetamine, body armour, a sword, and various home-made weapons. Six persons were located inside the residence one of which has outstanding warrants. Charges are pending. Many community members stopped by to speak with officers after the search warrant to express gratitude for tackling a problem address in their neighborhood.

District 6 General Investigative Unit

On February 5, 2023, units were dispatched to a male passed out in a vehicle with open liquor. While the driver was being taken into custody for impaired driving, a loaded handgun fell from his lap. Search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of a 40 calibre semi-automatic handgun, \$29,000 worth of assorted drugs (cocaine, oxycodone, fentanyl, meth, psilocybin, hydromorphone, and Xanax, approximately \$8400 in cash, packing, scales and cell phones. The driver was subsequently charged with nine weapons related charges and nine CDSA charges.

District 5 Operation

During the early morning hours on Christmas Eve, four victims were targeted in a home invasion at an Airbnb in District 5. Multiple offenders held the four victims at knife and gunpoint while cash and belonging were stolen along with several thousand dollars of electronic devices. District 6 GIU detectives took over the investigation. On January 11, 2023, the primary suspect was identified leaving a residence in a vehicle that was stopped by police. One individual was taken into custody for robbery, breach offences, and forcible confinement. A search revealed a cellphone and jacket belonging to one of the victims that was assaulted on Christmas Eve. One suspect has been charged with four counts of robbery, four counts of confinement, possession of a weapon, intimidation and two breaches of recognizance. Investigation continues and further charges are anticipated.

Property Crime Operations and Initiatives

Operation Cold Start – launched across Alberta

In line with previous years, the Calgary Police Service is partnering with law enforcement agencies across Alberta with the Operation Cold Start initiative. This crime prevention initiative is aimed at addressing the high number of vehicle thefts that occur during the colder weather months due to leaving vehicles running with the keys in them.

From November 2022 to Jan. 25, 2023, Calgary had 246 vehicles reported stolen while left running. The Operation Cold Start initiative includes social and mainstream media promotion to encourage drivers to explore other options.

Drivers are being reminded to:

- Never leave a running vehicle unattended if the keys are inside the vehicle, or if the vehicle has been started with a keyless ignition or push-button start.
- Use a remote starter whenever possible and keep your vehicle locked.
- If you are warming up your vehicle with the keys in the ignition or with a push-button start, stay with your vehicle.
- Use a steering wheel lock to deter thieves.
- Never leave spare keys or garage door openers in or around your vehicle.
- Never leave children or pets in a running vehicle.
- Not leave valuables, including identity documents and bank cards, in your vehicle.
- Report suspicious activity to police immediately by calling 403-266-1234.
- If you witness a crime in progress, call 9-1-1.



Given that stolen vehicles are often used by criminals to commit other crimes in the city, victimizing other Calgarians. Through this initiative, we are asking for the public's help to keep our city safe and reduce the number of preventable thefts.

District 8 "9PM Routine Awareness Campaign" in 2022

Beginning in May of 2022, the Community Resource Officers in District 8 worked with the analysts to pursue the "9PM Awareness-Check Stop" campaign. This multi-pronged initiative saw the CRO team strategically focus on residential areas that had seen an uptick in B&E's. It included social media and community engagement via face-to-face interactions and ran from May through August. Similar to a traditional Checkstop for impaired driving, vehicles were stopped and provided with "9PM routine checklists" as well as other crime prevention information aimed at safeguarding property and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity. There were approximately 150 community interactions with community residents during each deployment and the feedback was extremely positive. The initiative is believed to have had an impact on nighttime B&E's as the total occurrences between May to December dropped significantly in year over year comparisons (2021: 172, 2022: 85).

Traffic Safety Highlights:

Efforts continued throughout January to address Traffic Safety through prevention and enforcement initiatives. The Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar focus for the month of January was Intersection Safety which was promoted across the organization to ensure focus. A traffic check

sheet was shared organizationally outlining related common offences and specified penalties for ease of reference.

In January of 2023, the City of Calgary experienced 1 fatal collision. The fatal collision count for this month typically registers very low across most years however the 2021 total observed a higher-than-average count with 3 (pedestrian fatal collisions).

Fatal Collision Count	Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Jan 2023
Number of Fatal Collisions	3	0	1
Fatalities	3	0	1

Traffic Service Requests:

The CPS responds to Traffic Service Requests (TSR's) in addressing community concerns for traffic safety with the Traffic Section dealing with most of them. In January, 123 TSR's were requested, registering an increase of 71% from December and a 108% increase from January 2022. The increase in TSR's can be attributed to increased awareness of the TSR program with increased community meetings that have occurred recently following the pandemic. The Residential Traffic Safety Unit has been contacting community associations and reminding them of the TSR system and have been attending meetings in person and scheduling numerous others for 2023. The remaining TSR's were addressed by the patrol districts. This trend has continued throughout the year.

Bill 21 – Immediate Roadside Sanctions (IRS) and Impaired Driving Statistics

The Service continues to focus on addressing impaired driving and in January, issued 178 impaired contraventions registering the highest total for this month since Bill 21 implementation. This month, nine offenders were charged criminally with 16 impaired/refuse to comply charges, marking a 45% increase in charges laid and a 50% increase in number of offenders charged as compared to 2022.

February's Traffic Safety Enforcement Focus is Distracted Driving

Driving is a highly complex task, as it involves operating a vehicle while simultaneously paying attention to traffic signals, other drivers and road users, road conditions, and weather. When a driver becomes distracted, their attention is diverted away from this task, and this can have dangerous consequences. Drivers should always make sure to keep their eyes on the road and their mind on driving.

We are promoting Distracted Driving Safety Facts as provided by our Partners at Alberta Transportation such as:

- Research shows that distracted driving plays a role in 20 to 30 per cent of all collisions, and distracted drivers are three times more likely to be involved in collisions than attentive drivers.
- Some studies have shown that texting impairs driving more than alcohol or drugs.

- Since distracted driving legislation was introduced in September 2011, there have been over 235,000 convictions.
- 97 per cent of these convictions were for using a hand-held communication or electronic device while driving.
- Drivers can stay attentive and alert by following a few tips: putting their phones out of reach; keeping both hands on the wheel; programming GPS units, radio, or audio systems before driving; and pulling over if needed

Attachments (if any)

Nil.

Approval signatures

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