

# BUREAU OF COMMUNITY POLICING |

## BRIEFING NOTE



### Issue | High intensity transit-related crime

### Issue Background |

During the Calgary Police Commission meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, the Commission voted to direct the Service to bring back a briefing to the February meeting with respect to high intensity transit-related crime.

Questions arose in relation to several drug and firearms investigations that were presented. The questions sought clarity on the involvement of the individuals who were arrested, the likelihood of the revolving system and how do we know the system of care is working.

### Investigation-specific questions |

In relation to an [investigation involving gun and drug seizures from a downtown encampment](#):

- *Of the individuals who were arrested, how many were living rough?*  
We believe all of them were living rough.
- *What was the quantity and street value of the drugs seized?*
  - 290 grams of methamphetamine, with an estimated street value of \$23,208
  - 333.5 grams of fentanyl, with an estimated street value of \$50,025
  - 20.7 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, with an estimated street value of \$225
  - one loaded, sawed-off .22-calibre rifle
  - three loaded 9-mm handguns with 3D-printed receivers and restricted extended capacity magazines
  - one prohibited switchblade-style knife
- *What happens to individuals in encampments?*
  - The Calgary Police Service, The City of Calgary Community Standards (Bylaw) and Alpha House community partners have adopted a compassion-led partnership response to manage encampments in Calgary. This balanced approach endeavors to support the needs of the unhoused living rough, while addressing community complaints by responding to disorder, public safety or criminal behaviour that may be occurring in relation to encampments.
  - Those who are arrested and taken to Arrest Processing have the ability to voluntarily connect with **SMART - the Social, Mental Health & Addiction Referral Team**. The goal of SMART is to connect detainees in our custody with appropriate social supports when they are released back into the community to reduce the engagement of frontline emergency services.

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- *Encampments are not just a police issue, but a city issue. How do we ask this question of the city as a whole? How do we respond to encampments?*
  - We are fortunate to work with many community and government partners who provide resources and services to help those who truly need it and we continue to be committed to connecting those who need assistance with those who can provide it.
  - We work with our partners at the [Joint Encampment Team](#) to connect those residing in them with services and issue notices of removal, allowing for alternative living arrangements to be established prior to removal of debris by city crews.
  - For each encampment complaint that is received, an assessment of public safety aspects, criminality and previous CPS/bylaw involvement is undertaken prior to action occurring. A ladder approach has been supported by the Crown:
    - 1) **Assessment** – based on criteria for public safety and criminal behaviour. Resources are offered and support partner agencies engaged. Enforcement – verbal warning.
    - 2) **No criminal behaviour or safety concerns** – CPS supports Bylaw in affecting their encampment SOP which includes risk evaluation, removal of debris to discourage others, verbal notice for formal eviction documentation.
    - 3) **Confirmed criminal behaviour and/or public safety risks** –
      - a. First visit
        - i. Conduct investigative steps and liaise with Calgary Community Standards Partner Agency Liaison (PAL) team.
        - ii. Multi-agency visit with PAL leading eviction process. Alpha House HELP encampment team brought in for assistance to gain voluntary compliance.
        - iii. Begin arranging resources for clean up through Bylaw.
        - iv. PAL engages occupants on next steps for removal of the encampment and connection to social agencies and resources.
      - b. Second visit
        - i. Gain voluntary compliance and connect to resources.
        - ii. Issue a summons with a fine option, utilizing appropriate bylaw.
        - iii. Explain next steps for removal to the occupants utilizing assistance of PAL and HELP.

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### c. Third visit

- i. Visit is pre-planned with HELP and PAL teams, as well as cleaning crews.
  - ii. Provide occupants reasonable time to pack and leave an encampment.
  - iii. Issue appropriate bylaw enforcement with mandatory court attendance.
  - iv. Seizure of structures and evidence according to appropriate bylaw or legislation for the repetition of an offence.
  - v. Provide support to cleaning crews for encampment clean up and maintenance.
- *How do we track encampments?*
    - We currently track CPS attended encampments in District 1 in three primary locations (DBW, Riverfront and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Flyover)
    - Part 2 and Part 3 Summons are issued to individuals according to SOPs utilized by the Joint Encampment Team
    - Individuals whom have been identified to be high system users (encountered on multiple occasions) are connected with support partners, flagged and monitored under the Urban Crime Initiative with CPS, Transit, AB Prosecutions and Probation.
    - Two dedicated CPS encampment officers will deploy Q2 2024. We anticipate this will improve the data collection of CPS attended encampments throughout the City.

In relation to an investigation [targeting drug trafficking on Transit](#):

- *What were the demographics of those who were arrested? Are they vulnerable individuals?*
  - All were arrested for drug trafficking
  - 20 males, seven females
  - One youth, two teens, seven people in their 20s, 11 people in their 30s, two in their 40s, four in their 50s
  - 14 were identified as having no fixed address, 13 had an address
  - One was identified as a vulnerable teen who had been reported missing. The teen was in the company of a man who was charged in 2015 with possession of child pornography and had conditions not to be with children.
  - One had seven outstanding warrants for robbery.
  - One was found to be a serial sex offender that had not registered for the sex offender registry and was subsequently charged with failure to report.
  - One was a person of interest in a homicide investigation.
- *Who were the community partners that we worked with?*
  - Transit Public Safety Community Outreach Team (which includes the Alpha House HELP team)
  - AHS Police and Crisis Team

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- Safe Communities Opportunities and Resource Centre (SORCe)
- Drug Treatment Court
- Calgary Indigenous Court

In general to these situations:

- *Where are the individuals going? Are we tracking where they end up (treatment programs etc.)? Which partners and programs are involved?*
  - We can track CPS interactions with individuals via criminal occurrences, warrants executed, repeat calls for service, bylaw violation tickets and through the courts.
  - This is part of the work of the **Urban Crime Initiative** to track high-system users affecting downtown and transit-related safety through the legal system. We have been working with the Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor to create a process where police and Transit Peace Officers, create detailed show causes for the high-system users. When a HSU commits a crime, the show cause creates an opportunity to engage probation for meaningful conditions, provide social agency assistance, or consider incarceration.
  - Once individuals leave police custody, it is very difficult to track this information. Due to privacy limitations, we are not privy nor have direct access to programming, treatment information or health related matters.

### How do we know the system of care is working? |

The system of care within Calgary and the judicial system is currently evolving. This is a complex system that involves partnerships in several sectors municipally and provincially. We can confidently say what we were doing prior to 2019 wasn't working and it is too early to tell if the changes we've made will demonstrate long-term improvement for our community, or the individuals we are in contact with.

What have we done to affect change to improve the system of care?

- Through the Community Safety Investment Framework, the CPS and The City have invested \$16 million per year since 2021 to fund existing services, improve access to services and system transformation. Expected outcomes of this investment includes improved crisis triage, integrated case management, increased availability of 24-7 crisis supports and outreach services, increased capacity of support services and increased access to community and peer support programs.
- In 2023, through CSIF, CPS helped fund these organizations and initiatives:
  - Alpha House (HELP teams (formerly DOAP))
  - Distress Centre Calgary (Calgary 9-1-1/211 Calgary co-location)
  - Alberta Health Services (Mobile Response Team)
  - Police and Crisis Teams (PACT)
  - The Alex (Community Mobile Crisis Response teams)
  - Carya Society of Calgary (Older Adult Crisis Stabilization Outreach Team)
  - Centre for Suicide Prevention (Centre for Suicide Prevention's Respite Centre in Calgary)
  - Immigrant Outreach Society (Immigrant Outreach Crisis Response)
  - Kindred Connections Society (Community Connect YYC, crisis response & outreach)
  - The Children's Cottage Society (Heartstrings)

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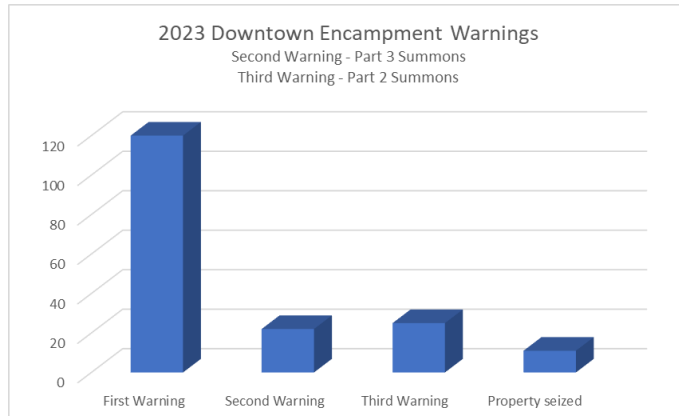
- The CPS acknowledges that a police response isn't always the best response for an individual experiencing crisis. We're continuing our work of providing the right resource, to the right person, at the right time.
- Operationally, we have created the Joint Management Team and the Safe Public Spaces Action Plan to deliver a comprehensive solution to addressing crime and social disorder in our public spaces, including transit.

### 2023 downtown encampments data

The majority of encampments identified, monitored and managed in District 1 have occurred in three downtown locations:

- Dermot Baldwin Way (adjacent to Calgary Drop-In Center)
- Under the Fourth Avenue Flyover
- Riverfront Avenue in District 1

### Results - 2023<sup>1</sup>:



### 192 Warnings to 140 Unique Individuals:

- 120 First Warnings
- 22 Second Warning (Part 3 Summons - fine)
- 23 Third warnings (Part 2 summons issued – mandatory court)

### 2023 Part 2 Summons and Property Seizure:

- 23 unique individuals were issued Part 2 Summons
- Two of those 23 individuals were issued more than one Part 2 Summons
- After engagement, only eight individuals had their property seized
- All eight property seizures were in relation to tent structures in proximity to Dermot Baldwin Way

<sup>1</sup> Data only includes the warnings or summons captured by Calgary Police and may not match metrics provided by Bylaw or Calgary Homeless Foundation

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### Most Common Part 2 offence utilized:

- Not to camp overnight
- Unauthorized Material on Street
- Obstructing a Pathway
- Prohibited Activity without a Permit in a Park

### 2023 Transit-related crime and social disorder data

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- **Calls for service from the public** on transit decreased over 2023 compared to 2022, as well as the three-year average. This may be attributed to matters being addressed on-view by police and peace officers.
- **Officer-generated calls for service** on transit increased substantially, up 91% compared to 2022, and up 175% compared to the three-year average. This indicates a **substantial increase in officer presence** on transit.
  - Officer-generated calls for service peaked in Q2 of 2023 as a result of several city-wide initiatives to address crime and social disorder on transit.
- Calls from the public related to **social disorder on transit** decreased throughout 2023, down 7% compared to 2022.
- Although over all calls for service from the public related to transit declined, including social disorder, the **level of violence increased** in 2023 compared to 2022. Violent crime on transit increased 15% in 2023 compared to 2022.
  - This trend mirrors the city-wide trend of increased violence throughout 2023, noting a six-year high across all violent crime types, apart from commercial robberies.
  - The increase in violent crime on transit was led by an increase in assaults (11%), robberies (27%), and miscellaneous person crime, such as uttering threats and criminal harassment (150%).

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**Distributed To** | Calgary Police Commission

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