



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



2024: Community Safety Dashboard

Date

2024-10-30

Commission Role

- Information only Approval

Type of Meeting

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

Purpose

- Obligation under the Police Act
 Update on progress
 Other:

Updating the CPC on the PowerBI initiative for community safety data in line with the 2024 Annual Policing Plan outcomes and goals pertaining to efficient and accessible data (for decision-making and transparency)

Recommendations

1. That this report and a demonstration of the PowerBI Community Safety Dashboard be accepted for information and awareness.

Background / Issue

Calgarians have asked the CPS to provide accessible, timely, crime and disorder data. While the CPS has previously provided open crime/call data in an Excel format on our website and on the City's open data portal, this approach has not met the community's evolving needs. Many police agencies have developed a platform that provides a suite of interactive tools, including geographic drill down options for their citizens to access crime and call-related data.

Corporate Data and Analytics has created an external-facing dashboard that provides an interactive format for the public to explore crime and disorder data at the community, city, district, and ward levels (<https://data.calgarypolice.ca/>) The dashboard does not report all crime; rather, key crime indicators have been included reflecting the larger crime categories – violence, property, and disorder. The Calgary Police Commission has previously emphasized and requested more

visibility/reporting on domestics and domestic violence, and this data has been incorporated into the dashboard.

The level of count used for the data and visualization is “Most Serious Violation” – in other words, if an assault and a break and enter take place, the more serious crime (“assault”) is shown on the dashboard – this aligns with how Statistics Canada reports crime. Rates have also been calculated to normalize the data for comparisons; however, community population data is not available for every year as The City no longer conducts the annual census.¹ A data note has been added to ensure users are aware of the limitations of the rate as it does not reflect the recent growth in Calgary’s population.

The CPS was working with the University of Calgary to garner community insight into what makes people feel unsafe, to identify calls that should comprise the disorder index. Unfortunately, that project is not possible at this time; instead, sessions will be held at the annual Crime Summit to solicit community insights on disorder. This work will inform the next iteration of the CPS’ disorder index and provide insight for our community partners.

The dashboard communication plan has included Service-wide awareness and feedback, meetings with Diversity Superboard as well as meetings with City partners. The next steps include media briefings, City Councilors’ awareness sessions and public release at the October public meeting of the Calgary Police Commission.

Discussion / Analysis

We know that the Calgary Police Commission, media, and community groups will use the website link and that the CPS will receive questions relating to the data in the dashboard. We have included a link to a “how-to” document and recorded a video to assist in navigation.

We anticipate that the Community Safety Dashboard will have implications for information sharing and reporting with the Calgary Police Commission. Regular reporting may be replaced by reviews of the dashboard and discussions focusing more on the “why.” We anticipate engaging the Commission in the future on reporting this type of data.

Conclusion

The release of this dashboard will bring CPS in line with other agencies and allows for more timely and comprehensive understanding of crime and calls for service. We are now planning for what other topics can also be shared externally (e.g., shootings). This initiative is critical to building trust and confidence with the public.

Attachments (if any)

Nil


¹ The City will resurrect the census in 2027.

Approval signatures

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