

Classification: **PUBLIC**

Meeting: **April 20th , 2021**

Agenda Item: **Monitoring Report: Community Policing**



Author: **A/Superintendent Glenn Courneyea #983**

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Board finds that all provisions of the Community Policing Ends Policy have been complied with.

Community Policing

I hereby submit my monitoring report on your Ends Policy "Community Policing" according to the schedule set out. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

I report compliance to all provisions of this policy.

Signed: _____

Chief of Police

Date: _____

April 6/21

Board Policy Statement:

The mission, philosophy and values of the Durham Regional Police Service emphasize the importance of working in partnership with citizens / communities. Working in collaboration with community partners fosters trust and confidence in the police.

It is the policy of the Durham Regional Police Services Board that police services in Durham Region shall be delivered in partnership with communities and citizens to proactively address and resolve community problems. These partnerships will focus on the root causes of crime, aim to reduce fear of crime, and maintain and enhance high levels of community safety.

Reporting

An assessment of community policing in Durham Region shall rely upon quantitative and qualitative analyses of relevant data, information and public input.

Interpretation of the Chief of Police:

It is my interpretation that the Board End of Community Policing relates to Section 1, principle 3 of the *Police Services Act, 1990* – Principle #3 identifies "The need for co-operation between the providers of police services and the communities they serve".

Community policing and its basic principles of a shared responsibility for safe and healthy communities, through an informed and engaged citizenry, is at the core of everything we do at the Durham Regional

Police Service (DRPS). This philosophy is based on the legislative requirements of the Police Services Act, the adoption of the OACP's Community Engagement and Mobilization Model¹ and reinforced in the Police Service Board's Business Plan which directs the DRPS to *Deliver Community Safety through Collaboration*.

As a police service, we recognize that the benefits of a community policing approach helps us prevent and investigate crime, but in increasing the sense of ownership and pride that our residents have in their neighborhoods and communities and thereby reducing their levels of fear while enhancing their sense of safety and inclusion. To that end, we have instilled this approach through our training and leadership development practices and supported through the adoption of Problem Based Learning (PBL) and Problem Oriented Policing (POP) tools service-wide.

This report will highlight a handful of examples that demonstrate how a community policing approach and its emphasis on cooperative, collaborative and trusting relationships is threaded through the work that we do every day, in every Unit and across the communities we serve.

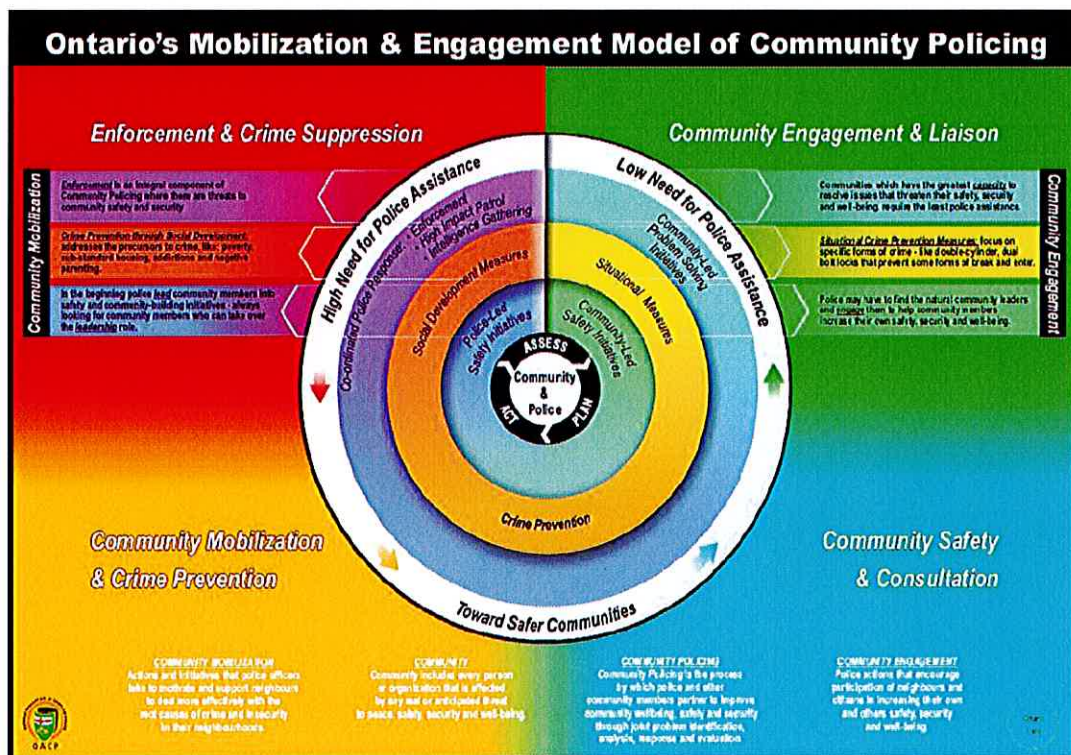


Figure: 1

EQUITY & INCLUSION UNIT

Understanding the importance of working with and meeting the needs of *all* communities we serve, DRPS maintains a centralized Equity and Inclusion (EI) Unit. The EI team drives the priority commitments within the 2020-2022 Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan to help foster a community where everyone participates in making the community safer together.

¹ Figure 1.

The plan was launched in May 2020 and builds upon the foundation of the 2017 -2019 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan. The plan adopts the five strategic commitments: Totally Engaged Community, Workforce Reflects the Region Demographically, Leadership Reflects the Region Demographically, Diversity Competent Members and Secure and Supportive Workplace.

To support the aforementioned commitments, Strategic Commitment (SC) Teams were created through the engagement of our membership. A total of 90 DRPS both civilian/sworn, and from all levels/sectors of the Service, volunteered to create 5 SC Teams. Each team has 17-18 members, a Sponsor, Champion and Team Leader. To date, all 5 SC Teams meet monthly and have created SC Team action plans which guide the teams' advancement towards a more equitable, inclusive and effective policing service.

Below are highlights from 2020 on some of the equity and inclusion initiatives and engagement efforts the EI Unit lead;

Over 25 learning opportunities to enhance diversity competency for over 100 civilian/sworn members in various positions/ranks; utilizing different virtual platforms:

- a. Highlight: The EI Unit in partnership with Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services (DBCFS) and Durham Children's Aid Society (DCAS), hosted a Newly Revised Joint Operation Protocol and Partnership - Collaborative Virtual Education Session on November 10, 2020 via MS Teams. The learning opportunity brought DRPS members and staff from DBCFS and DCAS together to learn about the DRPS/DBCFS/DRPS Memorandum of Understanding Child Abuse Protocol. 25+ DRPS members from various units such as Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Unit, Human Trafficking Unit and Domestic Violence Unit joined the presentation. A total of 90 attendees joined between the three organizations. Some highlights from the joint education session, include;
 - i. A Traditional Land Acknowledgement, drumming and storytelling which brought everyone together.
 - ii. Indigenous cultural teachings throughout the presentation which allowed attendees the opportunity to expand intercultural competence.
 - iii. The presentation was recorded for future training and the educational presentation collected and stored on the EI Unit Knowledge Repository for members to access

Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC)

The EI Unit finalized selections for a renewed DAC, which includes 11 Durham citizens from as far west as Pickering, as far north as Beaverton and as far east as Oshawa. DAC members met for an orientation on August 11, 2020 with the EI Unit and Deputy Chief Bertrim. Five additional meetings have occurred since that time. The DRPS external website was updated to highlight the DAC member's profiles. DRPS social media platforms were also used to launch the introduction of DAC to the community and all socials accounts are being utilized to highlight DAC updates. Additionally, DAC members are involved in a variety of initiative that include; being the first citizens of Durham Region to get involved in the Chief's Four (4) Initializes to Address Systemic Barriers and all DAC members have been trained in the recruit selection process with a focus on the Local Focus Interview. Members are also participating on the DRPS Policy Review Team and are part of the Citizen Advisory Board for Race Based Data Collection. D/Chief Joe Maiorano has been selected as Co-Chair with Dave Mitchell.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Community Engagement celebrations looked a little different over the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, DRPS still participated in over 40 community engagement events such as: Pink Shirt Day, Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser, International Women's Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

Youth in Policing (YIP)

The Youth in Policing (YIP) Program was founded in 2006 in partnership with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and DRPS still delivers two programs annually. Created as an employment and personal development opportunity for youth ages 15-18, the program aims to empower students to make positive changes within their communities, personal lives, and the lives of others. It helps youth develop and enhance professional skills in preparation for future employment and student advancement. The EI unit took leverage of running this program in 2020 and the program has successfully transitioned from in-person to 100% virtual this past year due to the pandemic; the first time the YIP program was conducted completely online since 2006. Currently DRPS employees 79 Durham Youth.

POLICING OPERATIONS

Every DRPS Division develops a Community Safety Plan in support of our common Business Plan Goals. At the same time, these unique plans provide Divisional Leadership with the ability to address the unique needs and challenges of the communities they serve. Some of the activity represented in these plans are provided below, grouped by themes.

Each Divisional Community Safety Plan is developed to include active participation by Divisional leadership that includes the Divisional Inspector, Patrol Services Leader, Platoon Staff Sergeants, and the Community Response Unit Sergeant.

The Divisional initiatives are championed by Divisional leadership through their Divisional specific action plans that pro-actively address identified strategic initiatives such as Roadway Safety, Greater Community Engagement, Assisting Victims of Crime, Youth Support, Durham Connect and Improved Management of Crime Trends

Weekly and monthly reporting structures were established where evolving trends within this framework could be addressed through enforcement, community engagement or project oriented response. Some of the results for 2020 are contained within this report.

NORTH DIVISION

2020 Community Safety Plan Highlights

Community Engagement

North division conducts monthly meetings with the members of the Community Safety Advisory Council. The community members collaborate with North Division to find community based solutions for community concerns. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt as the council can only meet virtually.

Collaborative Relationships with 4 Different Communities

The Divisional leadership team has quarterly meetings with the Mayors and maintains open communication with Chief LaRocca of the Mississauga's of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) community. North Division also has dedicated Community Liaison Officers that maintain frequent informal meetings with the MSIFN.

Roadway Safety

North Division has made a conscious effort to conduct enforcement on the snowmobile trails during the winter months. The increased frequency of officers on the snowmobile trails has afforded officers the opportunity to interact with the community members who use the snowmobile trails. Officers have had more than 550 interactions with the community on the snowmobile trails to date.

North Division set a goal of reducing the rate of motor vehicle collisions throughout the Division over a 5-year average in identified high collision locations. The 2019-2020 statistics are below.

NORTH DIVISION			
	2019	2020	% change
Fatal	5	6	20%
Injury	122	105	-14%
Property Damage	615	497	-19%
Total	752	618	-18%

Project Ambassador

In response to an increase in drug activity and overdoses in North Division a proactive investigative project was initiated to address the rising drug problem in the summer and fall of 2020. The overall goal was to ensure a safe environment for the members of the community and to reduce the drug activity. The investigation was very successful and resulted in the following:

- 19 arrests
- Seized drugs street valued at over \$200,000.00
- \$12,000.00 in Canadian currency
- Sawed off shotgun and ammunition.

EAST DIVISION

2020 Community Safety Plan Highlights

Community Constable Program - In 2020 East Division established a Community Constable Program. The focus of the Community program is to engage a specific community in active crime prevention/reduction activities, and build positive relationships with the Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS). Community Constables enhance (not replace) the work of general duty DRPS constables; they also have the capacity to provide tactical, enforcement and investigational support to other DRPS officers

if required. The program addresses community issues that regular members may not be able to address immediately due to competing operational duties.

Roadway Safety

The Region of Durham in cooperation with DRPS has developed a Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (SRSAP) which incorporates VISION ZERO, to reduce the number and severity of collisions in the Region. In 2020 East Division implemented monthly roadway safety initiatives which resulted in a 31% increase in tickets issued and a 13% increase in the number of traffic stops in comparison to the divisional enforcement results achieved in 2019. In 2020 Motor Vehicle Collisions were down 27.1% when compared to the 5-year average. The decrease is attributed to the impact of the global pandemic rather than the increase in overall road safety enforcement.

Migrant Worker Support Program

East Division continues to support the seasonal migrant workers in our region. In 2020, East Division collected several boxes worth of food and clothing to assist in showing our support to these seasonal residents. The 2020 agricultural season was impacted by the global pandemic and added another dimension to the challenges faced by migrant workers. The Migrant Worker Program was developed in an effort to engage with this under-represented group of residents in East Division. As a continuing aspect of this project East Division connected with employers, government agencies and the migrant worker association to provide the appropriate support in relation to worker issues.

Community Safety in Open Areas

East Division developed a community engagement and enforcement plan that included a regular deployment of officers to areas of North Clarington and South Scugog. This seasonal deployment was part of a phased response to the prolific nature of individuals and groups who are engaging in the use of private trails and lands on ATV's and other off-road vehicles. 4 officers were assigned to ATV patrol on various weekdays and weekends and the focus of their work was to enforce the various Trespass to Property Act, Off-Road Vehicle and Highway Traffic Act laws. Officers spent over 100 hours of conducting trail patrol, initiating traffic stops and advancing investigations in the area of Boundary Road and Cochrane Road in Clarington. Numerous complaints from community members regarding illegal dumping, illegal fires, trespassers on ATV's and other public nuisances were addressed.

Foot Patrol

In 2020 East Division uniform members routinely engaged in proactive foot patrol in the downtown spaces, specifically in Bowmanville, Newcastle and Orono. The purpose was to enhance police visibility, public trust and reduce the fear of crime. Hundreds of hours of time have been spent on foot patrol and residents, members of council and the local Business Improvement Associations have commented on the positive impact of this program.

CENTRAL EAST DIVISION

2020 Community Safety Plan Highlights

Community and Youth Engagement

In 2020, Central East Division officers which were comprised of members from Platoon, Community Response Unit (CRU), School Liaison Officer (SLO) and Administrative Staff attended multiple community events. These events include but are not limited to Oshawa Folk Arts Council, BIA meetings,

various community events that support youth activities. Due to Covid19 many community events have been cancelled.

The Central East Division SLO program has a staffing compliment of four officers that work in both a proactive as well as, reactive capacity. The SLO supported various programs that specifically reached diverse youth and vulnerable people. These programs reached out to hundreds of people in the areas of risk intervention and social development. One of the challenges faced by the SLO's is to address calls for service in a reactive capacity across the 31 schools of Central East Division. In 2020, the SLO's attended 1513 calls for service completing 251 follow ups in relation to school/youth related incidents that would otherwise require a general patrol uniformed response.

In 2020, Central East Division established a Community Safety Advisory Council. Council members were identified through contacts at Oshawa Council to represent each ward and provide insight to Divisional Leadership on service and program delivery. Council members were provided with a high level overview of crime and disorder related statistics across all of Oshawa. Once again, although the pandemic presented challenges for in person attendance, meetings continued in a virtual capacity.

Monthly meetings with Mayor Carter have assisted with our communication efforts. Monthly meetings with the BIA have assisted in an exchange of information.

Vulnerable Sector

Central East Division SLO continued their involvement working towards a Seniors Christmas. Recognizing the challenges around the pandemic, SLO redesigned the application of a Seniors Christmas to be virtual. Working closely with Rogers Television, a DRPS Senior's Christmas with Rogers TV was established. Spearheaded by P.C. Stefanie Puckrin, a 90-minute television program was completed to provide seniors and all community members with some Christmas Cheer. In total, 18 schools across the Region participated by singing and telling Christmas stories. Numerous units across the service also participated. Working closely with PADAN, the Central East SLO also provided enough gifts for each senior in a Durham Region LTC home to receive a gift bag.

Youth Programs

The Central East Division SLO continued to provide youth related programming. Unfortunately, due the pandemic, a large number of the scheduled events were cancelled. However, ProAction Cooking with Kids, ProAction Yoga with Kids and the ProAction Dog Sled program continued in 2020.

Roadway Safety

Through the focus of the Community Safety Plan, Central-East Division Platoons undertook 5 major initiatives in an effort to address roadway safety.

As we navigated through a global pandemic, there was an impact to enforcement efforts. Throughout 2020, Central East Division officers issued 5607 Provincial Offence Notices versus 2019 when 6249 were issued. Comparatively 2019 to 2020, there was a reduction of 642 PON's.

Central East Division focused its roadway safety enforcement efforts specifically at identified high-collision intersections. 10 Major Intersections were targeted for directed enforcement at various points throughout the year.

In terms of collision reduction, motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) were examined using a time period of January – December 2019 vs 2020. Of the top 10 collision intersections, 8 of them saw a reduction in

motor vehicle collisions. Overall personal injury motor vehicle collisions decreased by comparatively from 2019 to 2020 within Central East Division. In 2019 there were 314 personal injury motor vehicle collisions compared to 2020 which had 236. Also in 2020, there was a reduction in fatal motor vehicle collisions. In 2019, 4 people lost their lives in motor vehicle collisions however; 2 people lost their lives in 2020 within Central East Division boundaries.

Foot and Bike Patrols

Central East Division officers focused on increasing their visibility through the use of dedicated foot patrol and frequent bicycle patrols towards increasing safety in downtown Oshawa. During 2020, Central East Division had officers dedicated to conducting foot patrols, bicycle patrols, open area enforcement, property checks and crime trend response in the downtown.

Between September 7, 2020 and October 30, 2020, Central East Division officers conducted a downtown initiative to address the on-going crime and disorder issues. 1522 hours involving 280 officer deployments were conducted during this time period targeting problem areas in the downtown.

In the months following the downtown initiative (November and December 2020) crime related calls for service decreased by 16% and disorder related calls decreased by 32%.

In 2020, there were 455 crime related calls for service and 2180 disorder related calls for service within the downtown. In 2019, there were 515 crime related calls for service and 1648 disorder related calls for service. This represents an overall increase of 22%.

In totality, 8959 hours of dedicated proactive enforcement was conducted in 2020 versus 7843 hours in 2019.

Divisional leadership is working closely with the Oshawa Mayor to seek out opportunities to address the underlying issues impacting downtown Oshawa community safety. Divisional leadership continues to meet weekly with the crime analyst to discuss issues impacting the downtown as well as, all of Oshawa.

CENTRAL WEST DIVISION

2020 Community Safety Plan Highlights

Roadway Safety

Central West Division focused on the enforcement of the “Big Four Killers” on our roadways in their efforts to enhance roadway safety. These four are individually referred to as: Aggressive Driving; Distracted Driving; Seatbelt Use and Speeding enforcement. In the end, a total of 1511 traffic tickets were laid in 2020 and, the number of reported collisions in Central West decreased by 18% last year.

Central West also focused on impaired driving enforcement in 2020. These efforts resulted in a 9% increase in impaired driving arrests made by Central West officers in 2020 (233) compared to the arrest tally achieved the previous year (214).

Durham Connect

Durham Connect is a program initiated by the Durham Regional Police Service that identifies vulnerable members of our community with specific risk factors and, through a partnership made up of 43 interdisciplinary agencies that represent provincial, regional, local and community-based organizations, identifies the necessary resources to support these identified people.

In 2020, there were no reported incidents made by Central West Division front line officers to the Durham Connect table for review. The drop here was consistent with the unprecedented decline in the number of calls-for-service that took place in Central West; a decline initially triggered by the onset of the pandemic and that later extended beyond that with the provincially mandated lockdowns and other restrictive measures that followed in its wake back in March, 2020.

Decrease Crimes and Disorder Calls

Central West Division also focused on mitigating reported incidents of crime and disorder in the area of the downtown core (a decrease of 28%), Motel 6 (an increase of 6%) and the Simcoe & Britannia corridor of North Oshawa (an increase of 20%) compared to the previous year.

However, the overall reduction in calls-for-service in Central West Division is believed to be a function of both the efforts placed by police to reduce crime and disorder in the area and the suspected impact that the pandemic itself may have had this past year in changing individual behavior as a whole, including the actions of those persons who would otherwise have chosen to participate in criminal activity instead.

WEST DIVISION

2020 Community Safety Plan Highlights

Gun Violence and Violent Crime

Overall, the level of reported violent crime in West Division declined by 11% in 2020. Despite the decrease, there were 18 shootings in Ajax and Pickering last year, which represents an increase of 38% or 5 occurrences compared to the year prior. A total of 24 crime guns were seized in West Division in 2020, which is consistent with the number of seizures in 2019. These number of seizures, combined with the number of shootings, were alarming to both the community and the Service.

As a result of the noted violent incidents, West Division continues to operate a Gun Violence and Violent Crime Reduction Strategy committee. This committee met and established action items to be addressed in response to the increasing violence. The following initiatives were implemented as our response to the increase in violent crimes in Ajax and Pickering in 2020:

- Compliance Check Project (551 checks completed)
- Proactive targeted patrols
- Gun Violence and Violent Crime N.O.C.C. Initiative (Notification of Community Crime)
- Proactive use of the Community Response Team (28 investigations completed in 2020)

Property Crime

COVID-19 has altered the way that people live, work and play, and has also been associated with changes in the prevalence and distribution of property crime. As a whole, property crime declined by 20% in West Division in 2020, which was primarily driven by reductions in break and enters (-34%) and thefts from vehicles (-24%). Despite these declines, a significant increase was observed in vehicle thefts, which appears to be a part of a GTA-wide trend targeting newer model Toyota and Lexus vehicles.

As a part of West Division's Property Crime Reduction Strategy, members implemented the following initiatives in Ajax and Pickering throughout 2020:

- Proactive patrols and investigative resources deployed in response to crime patterns
- Property Crime N.O.C.C. Initiative (Notification of Community Crime)

- Educate seniors and vulnerable persons on how to protect themselves from being the victim of a fraud or theft
- Engage in projects to address recurring issues of retail theft

Roadway Safety

In support of roadway safety, West Division officers continued to conduct initiatives at identified high collision intersections and reported problem areas throughout Ajax/ Pickering. There were a total of 14,663 PONs issued in West Division in 2020, which represents an increase of 9% when compared to the previous year. Thirteen percent (13%) of all enforcement was conducted within a 500-meter radius of one of the top 10 high collision intersections, and a total of 143 tickets were issued for Distracted Driving (cell phone use).

Proactive Divisional RIDE (Reduce Impaired Drivers Everywhere) was conducted throughout the year. There were 206 parties charged for impaired driving in 2020 and 9 impaired-related motor vehicle collisions, which represents an 18% reduction when compared to the year prior.

Community Engagement

Community engagement remained a divisional priority throughout the year in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of several planned programs and events. While officers continued to attend community events while wearing PPE and exercising physical distancing, they also adapted to the new reality by creating a virtual “Community Corner” that provides an online platform for officers to engage with community members and partners. In addition, West Division members routinely participated in drive-by parades showing support for health care workers and retirement/long-term care homes, as well as to celebrate birthdays, retirements and other significant events.

Throughout the year, West Division facilitated six meetings of the Community Safety Advisory Council, which was formed in 2019 to promote information sharing, positive relations and awareness of police related issues between the DRPS and the community. Topics of discussion during the meetings have included the pandemic, racism, community engagement and crime trends. The Advisory Council also contributed to West Division’s 2021 Community Safety Plan by providing feedback on our goals and objectives and making guiding recommendations.

KEEPING OUR ROADWAYS AND WATERWAYS SAFE

Roadway Safety

The number one concern from all of our communities has been and continues to be roadway safety. Each Division has dedicated Traffic Safety Officers who develop strategies to address the specific needs or concerns of the community. The strategies differ from each Division; North & East Division have a greater focus on the demand to the growing commercial motor vehicle traffic in their communities while Central East, Central West & West focus on strategies around high collision intersections. Working with our partners such as the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Municipal by-law and Planning Departments, the Region of Durham, Road Watch and our many community volunteers, all of which share a similar goal of a safer Region to commute in by developing lasting solutions beyond strict enforcement.

Traffic Services Branch (TSB)

Traffic Services continued the strategy of intelligence led enforcement focusing on measurable statistics to target collision reduction. Even with COVID protocol restrictions, and the reduction of vehicular traffic due to the pandemic, the TSB issued 5084 Provincial Offence Notices in 2020 for an increase of 2.7% compared to 2019 (4946 PONs). Of note the open roads caused by the pandemic led to a 25% increase in speeding infractions, stunt driving increased by 68%, and drug impaired driving increased by 57% (Cannabis was involved in 30% of cases that charges were laid, which is an increase from 18% in 2019).

2020 Festive RIDE statistics (2019 RIDE stats in brackets)

Total vehicles stopped by RIDE	8464 (19624)
People given roadside Breath Tests	175 (787)
People received "3/7/30 Day Suspensions" for registering a "WARN"	21 (86)
Novice Driver received a "3 Day Licence Suspension"	4 (21)
People charged with Drinking and Driving Offences	51 (104)
Criminal Code Offences	29 (12)
Charged with various Highway Traffic Act Offences	489 (379)
Charged with Drug Offences	3 (4)
Charged with Cannabis Act Offences	1 (7)

The numbers of vehicles stopped by the RIDE team was significantly decreased in 2020 this is due to the COVID protocols in place to minimize exposure risk to both the public and officers.

Air Support (ASU)

In 2020, the ASU participated in 764 calls for service. This represents a decrease from 2019 of 26.3% (1037 calls for service). Of the calls that the aircraft was dispatched to, it was the first unit to arrive on scene 227 times. This is a decrease of 53.38% from 2019 (487 times). The decreases are directly correlated to the service COVID protocol which was adopted. This protocol outlined that the ASU in an effort to promote social distancing would no longer conduct general patrol flights, and would only respond to emergent calls for service. As the aircraft was grounded awaiting a call for service rather than airborne, this increased response time negatively.

The aircrew was called back to service outside of normal scheduled hours on 8 occasions in 2020. This is a 37% increase over 2019 (5 recalls). The ASU assisted in 95 arrests in 2020, down 6.8% when compared to assists in 2019 (102 arrests). Alternatively, the unit was successful in locating 150 targets during calls for service in 2020. This represents a decrease of 33.9 % when compared to targets located in 2019 (227 locates).

Marine Unit

In 2020 the Marine Unit conducted 348 vessel checks which is consistent with numbers achieved in 2019 (349), issued 99 PONs for various violations which is a 28% increase from 2019 (71 PONs). These infractions included marine related safety violations, and liquor, drug and HTA violations. Although the Marine Unit patrols of the Durham Region waterways were considerably reduced due to both the David J. Edwards, and Zodiac vessels being out of commission for extended periods of times for repair, the calls for service/call outs increased significantly showing a 500% variance. Members of the unit attended 12 calls for service in 2019 and 60 in 2020. This also can be attributed to the pandemic as numerous citizens purchased or rented pleasure crafts without the knowledge or experience to boat safely.

Collision Reporting Centre (CRC)

The Police Service continues to partner with Accident Support Services International (ASSIL) to provide an alternative accident reporting process. Community members involved in minor motor vehicle collisions in our Region can report the incident at one central location as their schedule permits, instead of waiting for a police response, which could be substantial depending on call volume.

The 2020 statistical analysis of the number of reported collisions in comparison to years previous since the CRC inception in 2014, have been summarized and presented to the Board in the 2020 CRC Board Report.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement

Durham Region has a large variety of CMV traffic, from light duty pick-up trucks to dual 53-foot tractor trailer combinations and everything in between. Durham has a very large aggregate hauling network which has greatly increased due to the expansion of the 407. There were 5 callouts for Traffic Services Collision Investigators involving CMV in 2020 out of 36 requests for assistance. This is slightly down from 7 CMV callouts in 2019. Four of the CMV callouts were fatal MVCs and one of the operators were charged for major mechanical defects related to the truck. CMVs were involved in 14% of MVCs in 2020, showing a 5% decrease from 2019.

In 2020, there were 4 planned CMV Inspection initiatives, which is 50% less than in 2019 (8). This is a result of only one officer in the service being qualified for inspections as opposed to two officers in previous years. The results of these initiatives are as follows;

Date/ Location	# of Inspections	Out of Service Vehicles	# of Charges
June 11, 2020. Pickering, West Durham	9	6	23
June 24, 2020. Port Perry, North Durham	6	5	14
June 25, 2020. Oshawa, Central East Durham	8	6	23
October 7, 2020. Halton Hills	6	1	6
TOTALS	29	18	66

SUPPORTING OUR VULNERABLE PERSONS

Mental Health Support Unit (MHSU)

In 2020, the DRPS Mental Health Support Unit continued its partnership with the Central East Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) and Lakeridge Health. We continue to deploy two teams, each consisting of an officer and a mental health nurse. However, at the beginning of the pandemic, Lakeridge Health did recall the two nurses. From mid-March until June, the officers worked alone. During much of 2020, the MHSU was forced to conduct as many follow ups and check on the well-being calls as possible over the phone to limit in person contact. In 2020, there were 554 calls for service, 964 reports completed and 14 Community events and presentations done.

Durham Connect

Durham Connect is a partnership made up of 40 plus inter-disciplinary agencies that represent Provincial, Regional, local and community-based organizations. Each of the agencies have a proven ability and mandate to serve and support vulnerable individuals within Durham Region.

In 2020, a total of 13 cases were Tabled. COVID presented a challenging obstacle for the Table and many of its members struggled internally to determine just how they were going to continue with their services. As a result, the Table itself was closed down for many months. This greatly affected the numbers. However, in turn this helped push a newer proactive approach. When the Table resumed operations, it did so virtually and a positive outcome was realized immediately. The attendance at the weekly meetings rose substantially compared to pre-pandemic numbers as it was easier for all agencies to participate at the weekly meeting.

In addition to the acutely elevated cases, Durham Connect has also worked over this past year in trying to prevent cases, which exhibit risk at a lower level from escalating to this critical level. By working with the individual/family and the appropriate agency (or agencies) at the Table, we are able to bring services earlier therefore reducing the amount of cases needing this rapid response.

In 2020, there were 214 incidents flagged by officers for Durham Connect's consideration and/or assistance. Of those cases 110 of them were proactively diverted to service providers before potentially becoming acutely elevated. The remaining number of cases referred to Durham Connect were either for informational purposes, or they were more suited to be dealt with by another unit, such as the Mental Health Support Unit or Senior Support Unit.

The following is a breakdown by Division for the 214 cases referred by officers:

- North Division- 12
- East Division- 32
- Central East Division- 68
- Central West Division- 34
- West Division- 45

The remaining 23 cases came from Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence unit and the Durham Connect Liaison officer.

Another exciting addition to Durham Regional Police's contribution to Durham Connect is the addition of 16 officers trained as a Durham Connect Resource officer for their platoon. DRPS now has 25 trained

officers working the frontlines, bringing almost 100% platoon representation Region wide. These officers are the “eyes and ears” for their shifts and provide ongoing education and feedback to their fellow officers in terms of referring cases for Durham Connect’s consideration. This is expected to increase the referral numbers, which will hopefully result in more help getting to our vulnerable sector in the community. For example, referral numbers from January and February 2021, compared to the same time frame in 2020 increased 58% in numbers.

Senior Support Unit (SSU)

In 2020, the Senior Support Unit liaised with the numerous nursing homes and Senior’s residences throughout the Region and performed thousands of phone calls and email interactions. The SSU’s ability to provide educational seminars to Seniors was greatly impacted by COVID 19. Due to this inability to get information out to seniors, discussions with the Durham Region COVID-19 Seniors and Isolated Populations Services and Supports Table (S&IPSSST) resulted in the implementation of a new monthly Rogers television show: **COVID 19 and Seniors with DRPS**; which first aired in September 2020. Four shows were completed in 2020. This show runs along with the original **Seniors Talk with DRPS** which is now hosted by Cst. Darryl RICE of the Crime Prevention Unit. Eleven shows were recorded in 2020.

Public Safety Unit (PSU)

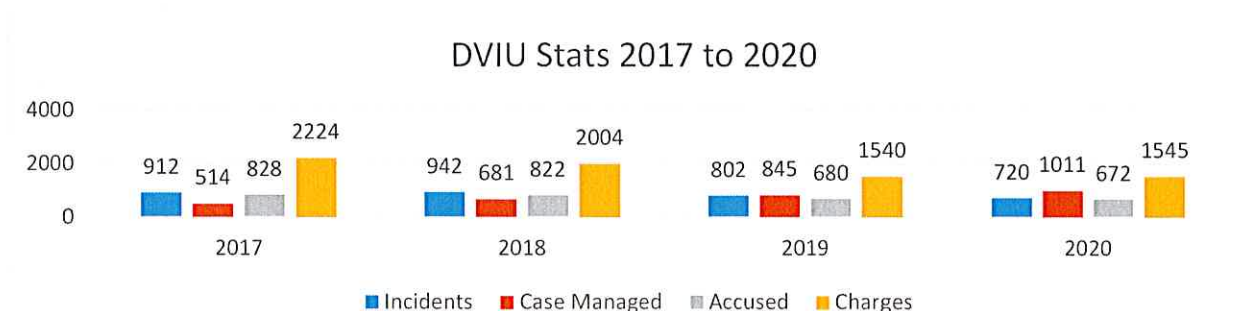
Due to the ongoing pandemic, most of the community events and presentations where the PSU typically engages in discussions around lost & missing persons were cancelled in 2020. The Public Safety Unit team was called out on 7 occasions in 2020 to conduct missing person searches for vulnerable people (elderly, very young, suicidal, dementia, etc). On 36 other occasions, a search manager and/or on duty PSU members were consulted or deployed by the Patrol Sergeant or Duty Inspector for guidance related to a missing persons call.

SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

Domestic Violence Investigative Unit (DVIU)

DVIU was formed in 2016 and since then has played a key role in supporting those members in our community who are victims of domestic violence.

In 2020, DVIU managed a total of 720 cases with 672 accused parties laying over 1545 criminal charges. Further, the DVIU supports Patrol Operations with case managing all Criminal Harassment and Breach of Court Order cases that were generated from calls for service. In 2020, the DVIU case managed 1011 of these occurrences.



Investigative Services

Investigative Services is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB), Financial Crimes Unit (FCU), Robbery Unit and Human Trafficking Unit (HTU). CIB had a busy 2020, handling over 8000 investigations from missing persons, sudden deaths, shootings, serious assaults, arson and fraud cases. CIB conducted several long-term projects and supported our Homicide Unit with major investigations. Our FCU revamped their case intake procedure resulting in increased clearance rates and improved customer service vastly reducing the time between case intake and contact with complainants. One FCU-led investigation, Project Navigator, addressed the growing problem of vehicle and equipment finance and rental fraud. The investigation ran throughout the Fall of 2020 and concluded in early 2021 with the arrest of 14 people, recovery of stolen property, counterfeit identification manufacturing devices and the laying of over 400 criminal charges.

CIB continuously uses evidence and intelligence-led policing to align and prioritize resources and investigations. Two identified areas of concern and a risk to our community were fatal opioid drug overdoses and increasing gun violence. Investigators were busy with shooting investigations this year as the Region had 46 firearm discharge events in 2020, which is the most recorded and a 39% increase over 2019. Focused Intelligence-Led enforcement initiatives proved to be successful. In one case, previous community engagement with a south Oshawa neighbourhood led to vital evidence brought forward to solve a targeted shooting. Our CIB investigators have also had some success investigating opioid overdose deaths, employing various investigative techniques, working backward and identifying the person responsible for trafficking drugs to the deceased.

Human Trafficking Unit (HTU)

This year the Human Trafficking Unit increased its staffing from six members to ten. The increased capacity is a result of the implementation of a Provincial funding prototype for an additional supervisor and three investigators. The DRPS is one of only two police services in the Province to obtain this funding, which gives the Unit the capacity and specific mandate to focus more time and resources on the protection of marginalized young people in our community victimized in the sex trafficking trade. Human Trafficking is a growing concern in communities along the 401 corridor. In most cases, human trafficking is a clandestine, transient business, making it difficult for investigators to identify and monitor. The Human Trafficking Unit has engaged in several community partnerships, with the main network identified as the Human Trafficking Coalition. The Coalition is an organization consisting in excess of 25 local community groups, including the Children's Aid Society, Victim Services, VWAP, Safe Hope Home and the Rape Crisis Centre.

In 2020 HTU partnered with Victim Services Durham Region in applying for a Proceeds of Crime Grant – Helping Alliances Law Enforcement (HALT). This Provincial Grant allowed for a second Human Trafficking Crisis Intervention Counsellor to work with the team as well as funding for yearly youth symposiums for the next three years. DRPS/VSDR just completed the first symposium with over 1300 youth attendees from across the Region.

In 2020, there were 137 human trafficking cases being investigated in Durham Region, which was up 14% from 2019 (120). Human Trafficking Investigators identified 146 persons of interest, with 40 of these individuals being an accused party and 6 being a repeat accused. The Human Trafficking Unit laid 221 charges and saved 131 victims, with 41% being under 18 years of age (54).

Lastly, our HTU was the subject of a CBC – ‘National’ news segment highlighting the successes of the collaboration between DRPS and Victim Services, especially the use of a ‘survivor’ to connect with potential sex-trafficking victims.

Threat Assessment Unit (TAU)

Threat Assessment is best explained as criminal profiling for violence. The Durham Regional Police Service, Threat Assessment Unit (TAU) consists of a Detective who has experience in the investigation of violent crime, has received specialized training in the field of Threat Assessment and Risk Management and is a Certified Trainer for the Violence Risk Threat Assessment Protocol (VTRA).

In 2020, the TAU Coordinator engaged in 209 consultations (down slightly from 279 in 2019) with local school boards. In addition, and in partnership with the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), delivered training to community partners on two separate 2-day sessions. Approximately 100 community partner members were trained in 2020 in Threat and Risk Assessment and Intervention in addition to Crisis and Trauma Response.

Criminal Intelligence Branch

The Criminal Intelligence Branch is an integral part of the Serious and Organized Crime Section and underpins many investigations across the organization. Additionally, the Criminal Intelligence Branch manages information which is collected, assessed and disseminated, in order to effectively design investigative strategies and tactical response to investigative challenges. Focused Intelligence-led enforcement initiatives based on Threat Assessment/Evidence Based intelligence information have proven to be successful in contributing to community safety. In 2020 the Criminal Intelligence Branch continued to focus on the threats to our communities caused by both Gun & Gang violence and the drug trafficking networks feeding the region with dangerous synthetic opioids such as Fentanyl and Carfentanyl. Combining resources, sharing of financial costs and engaging public and private sector stakeholders has contributed to the overall impact that the Criminal Intelligence Branch has on enhancing community safety and achieving identified Strategic Goals.

Intelligence Operations Section (IOS)

The IOS remains the conduit for the collection, analysis and dissemination of intelligence internally, as well as externally, to partner law enforcement agencies. The IOS has maintained excellent working relationships with a wide range of agencies throughout Ontario and across Canada. As a respected member of CISO, IOS members work closely with both policing and non-policing members, on a regular basis. IOS utilizes these positive interactions, in order to advance investigations and support intelligence gathering. This exchange of intelligence and networking is essential to the success of disrupting and dismantling serious and organized crime throughout Canada.

As a member agency of the provincial HCEIT (Hate Crime Extremism Investigative Team) group of investigators, IOS has forged positive relationships with community stakeholders and regularly engage these members in determining cooperative solutions to hate crime and hate motivated incidents. IOS also enlists the assistance of the equity and inclusivity unit for problem solving strategies through community engagement.

In addition to the mandated responsibilities of the IOS, the unit was also tasked with creating and implementing an organizational response to manage the volume of public and private sector complaints generated as a result of the provincially EMCPA, enacted in response to the Covid19 pandemic. IOS leveraged the expertise of both internal and external stakeholders to address and track community

complaints, direct enforcement, coordinate EMCPA education and training and ensure accurate statistical reporting. By working collaboratively with the municipal Bylaw agencies, the Health Department and other community stakeholders, the response framework established by IOS effectively concluded thousands of EMCPA complaints within months of the onset of the pandemic.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

IOS continued to advance and expand the Countering Violent Extremism Strategy (CVE), initially designed in 2017 with the focus to enhance education both internally to the DRPS membership and externally to the community and community partners. Given that the 2020 pandemic training was impacted severely, the CVE working group worked to expand the training capacity to include virtual learning. Working in conjunction with the RCMP, IOS has committed to accrediting more facilitators of the program in 2021 along with further delivery of the First Responder Terrorism Awareness Program (FR-TAP). The DRPS CVE program continues to enhance relationships between DRPS and the community.

Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU)

Opioid Strategy

The Criminal Intelligence Branch continued to focus on traffickers and criminal networks responsible for the distribution and importation of these deadly drugs. The Criminal Intelligence Branch collaborated with external law enforcement and health care sector partners, to support our area of responsibility within the four pillar strategy (Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction and Enforcement) of the Durham Region Opioid Response Plan.

The Intelligence Branch has been tracking the overdose/sudden death rates relating to opioid abuse including illicit fentanyl and heroin since 2014. Partners in this practice include the Drug Enforcement Unit, Investigative Services and the Forensic Identification Services. These statistics have been used in a number of educational and awareness presentations to inform our health care officials, emergency services personnel, the judiciary and the general public on the status of the opioid health crisis and the dangers of fentanyl.

According to the Durham Region Opioid Information System (DROIS), in 2020 the average number of suspected opioid overdose calls for service that DRPS responded to increased almost 23% from 2019.

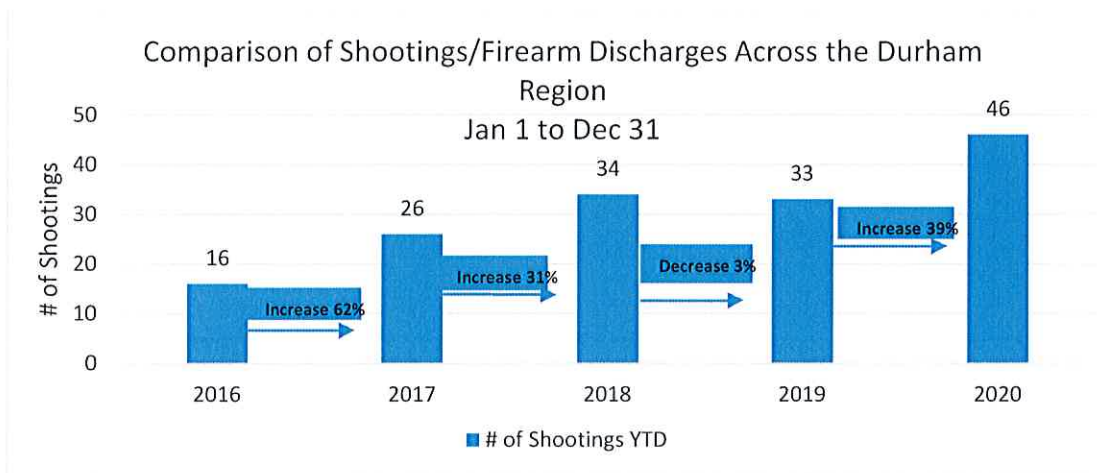
In 2020 DRPS responded to and investigated 117 potential overdose related deaths; 57 opioid drug related, 13 non-opioid drug related, 17 non-drug related (natural causes) and 30 cases remain unconfirmed.

Illicit Cannabis Production

In response to the volume of complaints from the municipalities and the public, the DEU coordinated an enforcement and eradication project during the summer and early fall of 2020. The DEU worked closely with the many municipal partners and outside agencies in a multi-layered approach to combat the illicit production and trafficking of Cannabis. Municipal By-law, Fire Services, Hydro One, Ministry of the Environment, CLOCA, Ministry of Labour are all examples of the collaborative efforts and relationship leveraged. The DEU executed 18 Cannabis Act search warrants with 70 individuals arrested and charged for various offences related to the unauthorized production of cannabis. Over 40,000 Cannabis Marijuana plants were seized and destroyed with an estimated street value of \$51 million dollars.

Gun and Gang Unit (G&G)

The DRPS's strategy to combat gang activity, shootings and illegal firearm possession continued to utilize a combination of intelligence-led investigative strategies. These strategies targeted criminal gangs, drug traffickers, human traffickers, organized crime groups and individuals unlawfully trafficking and/or in possession of firearms. In 2020, firearm discharge incidents increased 39% over the previous year. Non-fatal injuries from shootings increased 114% from 7 to 15. Although there was a decrease in homicide incidents from shootings (4 to 3) in 2020, the number of homicide victims as a result of the fatal incidents increased in 2020 from 4 to 6 (multiple homicide victims in one incident).



A strong focus has been placed on providing continued education to our front line officers. Members of the Criminal Intelligence Branch are committed to assisting uniform patrol with drug and firearm investigations. This education and support will provide a strong commitment to community safety, increasing the knowledge front line officers possess, thereby improving the service they provide to our communities. The Gun and Gang Unit works tirelessly with our community partners within the Crown Attorney Office, Probation & Parole Services and with other stakeholders to ensure successful prosecutions, appropriate custodial sentences upon conviction, and managing rehabilitation and prevention efforts.

Due to Covid19 restrictions, our partnerships with external agencies have remained static, however we continue to work with Durham Family Court Clinic, Murray McKinnon Foundation, Durham Children's Aid Society, Boys and Girls Club of Durham, Community Justice Alternatives, Durham Mental Health, Probation and Parole and both Durham School Boards.

CONCLUSION

The activities and lessons learned from our decades of community policing experience are inventoried and maintained in order to inform future initiatives and to develop our newest leaders. Furthermore, the support of our Strategic, Research and Organization Performance Unit ensures that we use evidence-based approaches in our decision-making and in the evaluation of our results.

The DRPS is exceptionally proud of our community policing results and appreciates the strong engagement of the communities we serve as a result.