



## EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE

### REPORT TO THE EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION

DATE: 2018 Nov 02

SUBJECT: People in Crisis Calls for Service on the High Level Bridge

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#### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That this report be received for information.

#### INTRODUCTION:

This report will provide information and update the EPC on People in Crisis Calls for Service on the High Level Bridge. Executive Office Tracking Sheet 10992 requested information on two related areas:

1. Updated statistics in relation to People in Crisis Calls for Service on the High Level Bridge.
2. Update on SARA Project associated to People in Crisis Calls for Service on the High Level Bridge.

#### BACKGROUND:

Both the EPS and City of Edmonton have undertaken several initiatives to reduce the calls for service for persons in crisis on the high level bridge.

#### COMMENTS / DISCUSSION:

##### Calls for Service:

1. The following are the EPS calls for service related to persons in crisis on the High Level Bridge.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Year to date	105	90	104	84	383
Year total	121	104	114		

2. A secondary request was to provide an update on a recent SARA Project undertaken by Cst. Molson of Downtown Division regarding calls for service on the High Level Bridge. The following information was identified.

- a. EPS members and other emergency services respond to a high volume of mental health, check on the welfare and sick persons calls for service at this location.
- b. The High Level Bridge was identified as an iconic landmark within the City of Edmonton with easy public access. This makes it alluring for those in crisis but does not allow for easy rescue access for emergency responders.
- c. This location is also identified as an end point location for calls for service that are generated/reported from other locations.
- d. The statistical data consisted of a range of occurrence types.

3. The following recommendations were made:

- a. Install CCTV to monitor activity on the bridge.  
**Outcome:** CCTV was not installed for the following reasons:
  - i. Establishing proper privacy and FOIPP requirements.
  - ii. Establishing who would be responsible for monitoring.
- b. Install a lock box on the bridge to house a key to allow emergency responders access to secure areas to assist/rescue or locate persons in crisis.  
**Outcome:** A lock box was installed and a key is now available to allow members access to secure areas of the bridge
- c. Update EPS records management location information so that members would be aware of how to access the bridge for response to persons in crisis occurrences.
  - a. **Outcome:** A '*Location of Interest*' Alert was created to inform members of the lock box containing the key to access secure areas on the bridge.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Submitted for information

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED:**

- Attachment 1 – Calls for Service High Level Bridge – 2015 to Present

**Written By:** Insp. Warren Driechel  
Intelligence Operations and Production Branch

**Reviewed By:** Dave Elanik – Executive Director  
Intelligence Division

*D. Elanik*

**Approved By:** Deputy Chief Greg Preston  
Intelligence and Investigations Bureau

*G. Preston*

**Chief of Police:**  **Kevin Brezinski**  
**Chief of Police** *[Signature]*

**Date:** 2018 NOV 05

## High Level Bridge Occurrences 2015-2018 Details

R18-396 - Calls for Service - High Level Bridge - Warren Driechel

Report Run on 2018 Oct 31 and data as of 2018 Oct 30

Filters on the data:

CAD Cancelled Calls removed

Removed Call Types that likely DO NOT involve a person in crisis (eg. Property Collisions and Traffic Tickets)

Date Range: Jan 1, 2015 - Oct 30, 2018

**\*Not a Full Year**

### 2015-2018 Inclusive

Final Event Type or Occurrence Description	2015	2016	2017	2018*	Total
Mental Health Act	38	18	26	24	106
125 CHECK ON WELFARE	13	13	10	12	48
Sick Persons	5	13	21	4	43
113 TROUBLE WITH PERSON	6	13	9	9	37
127 SUICIDE ATTEMPT	9	9	10	7	35
Trouble Not Known	9	10	7	1	27
Check On Welfare	8	5	7	3	23
Trouble With Person	9	7	3	4	23
129 SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	2	4	5	7	18
113 TROUBLE WITH INTOXICATED PERSONS	3	1	6	4	14
129 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	3	5	2		10
121 MENTAL HEALTH ACT COMPLAINTS	2	2	1		5
107 ASSIST EMS	3		1		4
107 ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	4				4
133 TRESPASSING		1	1	2	4
Sudden Death			2	2	4
113 DISTURBANCE		2	1		3
Assist Other Agency	2			1	3
Suspicious Persons	2			1	3
Eloped Mental Patient	1			1	2
Family Disputes	1		1		2
Intoxications			1	1	2
107 ASSIST FIRE DEPARTMENT	1				1
114 FAMILY DISPUTES INTIMATE PARTNER				1	1
114 FAMILY RELATED OCCURRENCE		1			1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>423</b>

### 2015-2018 YTD

Final Event Type or Occurrence Description	2015*	2016*	2017*	2018*	Total
Mental Health Act	34	17	26	24	101
125 CHECK ON WELFARE	9	13	10	12	44
Sick Persons	4	11	20	4	39
113 TROUBLE WITH PERSON	6	10	8	9	33
127 SUICIDE ATTEMPT	8	7	7	7	29
Trouble Not Known	7	8	7	1	23
Check On Welfare	8	4	7	3	22
Trouble With Person	5	6	2	4	17
129 SUSPICIOUS PERSONS	2	3	4	7	16
113 TROUBLE WITH INTOXICATED PERSONS	3	1	4	4	12
129 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	3	4	1		8
121 MENTAL HEALTH ACT COMPLAINTS	2	2	1		5
107 ASSIST EMS	3		1		4
107 ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	4				4
133 TRESPASSING		1	1	2	4
Sudden Death			2	2	4
113 DISTURBANCE		2	1		3
Assist Other Agency	2			1	3
Suspicious Persons	2			1	3
Eloped Mental Patient	1			1	2
Family Disputes	1		1		2
Intoxications			1	1	2
107 ASSIST FIRE DEPARTMENT	1				1
114 FAMILY DISPUTES INTIMATE PARTNER				1	1
114 FAMILY RELATED OCCURRENCE		1			1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>383</b>


# S.A.R.A. (SCAN, ANALYZE, RESPOND, ASSESS)

## FINAL PRESENTATION


9201 109 Street @High Level Bridge



### Municipal Historic Resource "A City of Edmonton Heritage Preservation Initiative"



#### HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE



The High Level Bridge was designed by Phillips B. Motley, the Engineer of Bridges for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and was constructed between 1910 and 1913 at a cost of two million dollars. It was the first bridge in Canada to carry four different modes of traffic - rail, streetcar, automobile and pedestrian. The first passenger train, seven cars long and carrying 200 passengers, crossed the bridge from Strathcona to Edmonton on June 2, 1913.

The structure is approximately one-half mile long (0.8 kilometre) and stands 152 feet (46.3 metres) above the mean river level. The construction of the bridge was a significant engineering achievement for the time, and the High Level Bridge remains a distinctive city landmark.

EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD  
Photo courtesy of City of Edmonton Archives



## WHAT IS OCCURRING

- From 16JAN01 to 17JAN27 there was a total of 969 calls for service to this location.
- This added up to a total of 67,413.18 police man hours spent responding to calls just initiated at this location, this does not include calls initiated else where that end up at the High Level Bridge.
- For reference that is a dollar amount of approximately \$4,123,644.00
- This number is based off a 5<sup>th</sup> year constables earnings and does not include other factors such as vehicle's, fuel, Air 1 etc.



- Previous attempts to alleviate the problem resulted in fences being put on either ends of the bridge. As well higher fences being set up to stop people from climbing over the side of the bridge.



- Fencing located on the upper levels of the bridge. Intended to stop entrance.



- Preventive Fencing placed on lower levels.

- With these solutions, new problems have arisen.

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- People climbing behind the fences.

- Numerous Points of damage to the safety fencing. From people climbing on them,



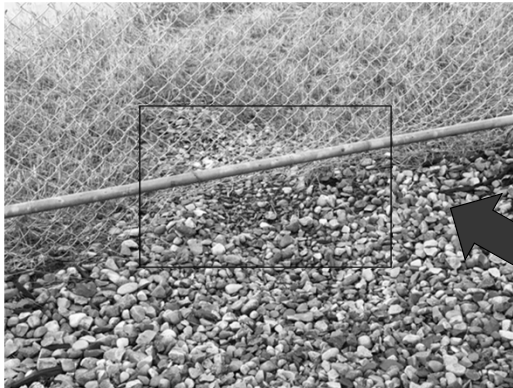
- Broken Barb Wiring

- Broken Fencing



- Holes cut into the Fence





- Holes From People crawling under



- This also has created additional problems for first responders.



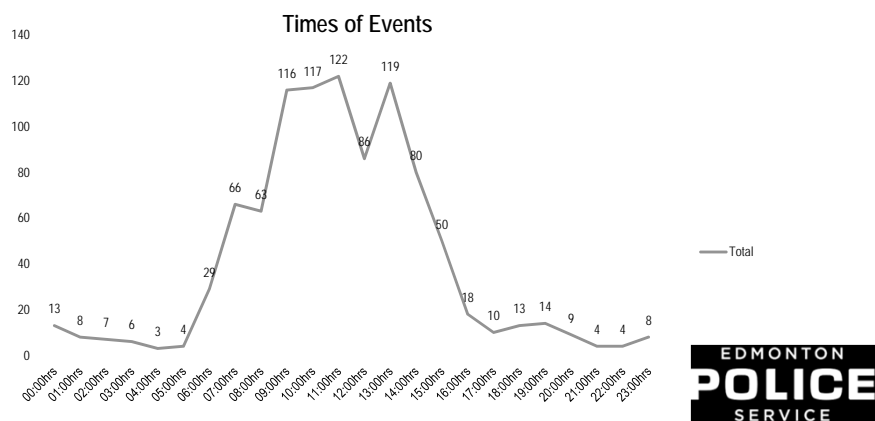
- Video :  
<http://epsnet/newsandevents/articles/2017/08/throwbackthursdayaug24.aspx>

## FURTHER

- Of the 969 calls, 101 of those calls are for Check On welfare, Mental Health Act, Sick Persons, Trouble Not known, and Trouble with Person.
- These calls generated a total of 42,117.6 man hours of the total 67,413.18 police man hours spent at this location.
- Or approximately \$2,583,072.41



- A majority of these calls are occurring between the hours of 0600-2200, coinciding with when the bridge sees the most public use. impacting the everyday use of Edmonton citizens.



## RESPONDERS.

- EMS – Unknown number of hours
- CRISIS - Unknown number of hours
- ICPACT/PACT
- EPS - 67,413.18 police hours spent totaling \$4,123,644.00
- EFD – Unknown number of hours
- Edmonton Railway Society



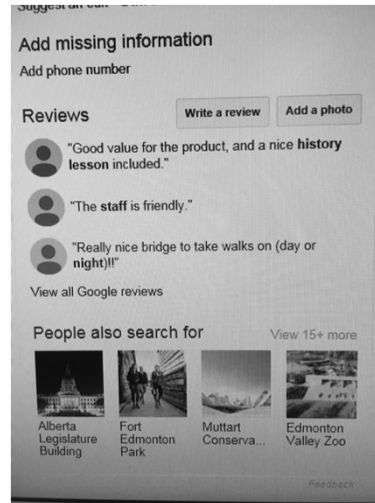
## SHAREHOLDERS AND THOSE EFFECTED.

- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Railway Society
- Edmonton Transit System
- The Edmonton General Public



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Upon Speaking with members of the community I received a relatively positive perception, with a few people being apprehensive at the idea of cameras in this location.
- In one instance of conversation two subjects discussed googles information gathering and what would the effect of cameras really be for them.



## LOCATION MANAGERS

The Upper Level	The Lower Level
Edmonton Railway Society	City of Edmonton
	Edmonton Transit Authority



## THE PROBLEM

- The excessively high amount of policing hours and emergency response hours being spent on this location.
- The victims of mental health who use this location.
- Risks associated to first responders attending this location
- The effects on the general public associated with first responders shutting down the bridge for extended periods of time.
- Officer safety at this location.



## HOW I BECAME AWARE OF THE PROBLEM

- Calls for service that I have responded to as well as well as calls for service that have included the High Level Bridge.
- Cst. Rhonda Daub of ICPACT
- Cst. Eric Hamel of Squad 8 Downtown Division



## INTENDED RESPONSE

- To install cameras to help expedite and relieve resources spent on the investigative side of Calls to service in this location.
- To acquire and install/implement any additional resource's to help alleviate the heavy resource burden from this location.



## THE PLAN

- To talk with and coordinate the installation of lock boxes on the Upper levels to give emergency response members access to the railway without climbing the fences and or the bridge.
- To liaise with the city of Edmonton in order to have cameras installed on the bridge.

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## PROGRESS.

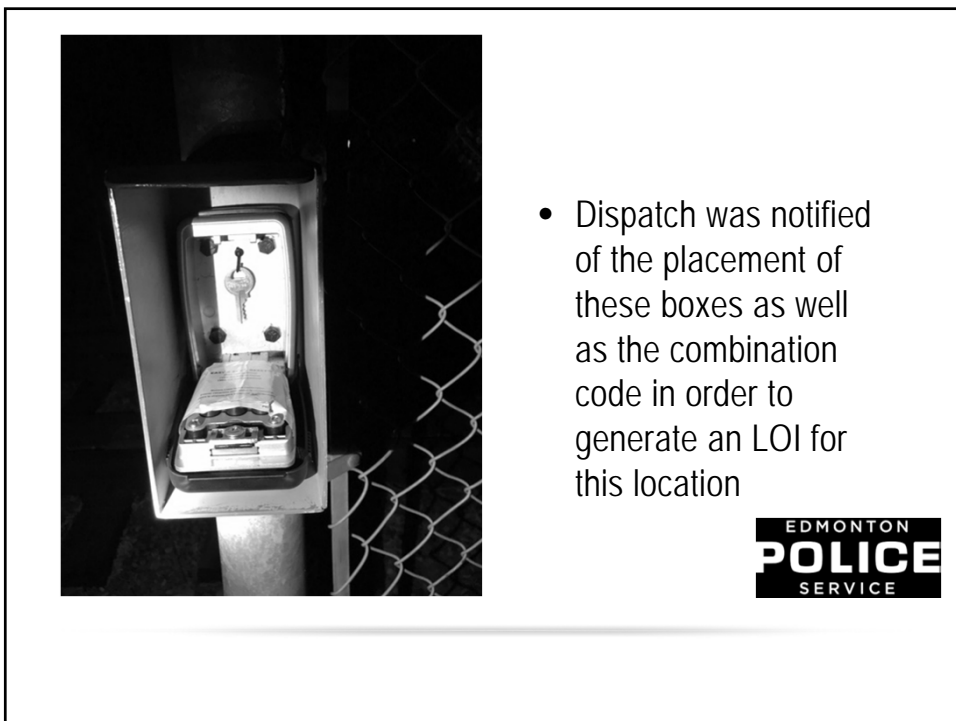
- Initially positive response from both the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Police Service.
  - Rhonda Daub – EPS ICPACT
  - Jenna Pilot – City of Edmonton Community Safety Liaison
  - Previous CCTV in 2003-2004 set up along Whyte Avenue.
- During the course of my investigations on this matter it was brought to my attention that this project might be contravening FOIP
  - Upon discussing this further with Karen Agnihotri of the EPS legal advisors section I was made aware that it was in contravention of FOIP.



## ACCESS TO THE UPPER LEVELS

- Upon discussion with the Edmonton Railway society they agreed to install Lockboxes to give access to Police Dispatched to this location.
  - On the North side.
  - On the South side.
  - Maintain them!





- Dispatch was notified of the placement of these boxes as well as the combination code in order to generate an LOI for this location

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## EXIT STRATEGY

- To leave the maintenance of the lock boxes to the Edmonton Rail Society.



## IN SUMMARY

- Due to the legal constraints imposed upon this by FOIP, I was not able to complete my original intended project
- Using the recourses and connections created during my investigations I was able to identify the problem of access and have Lockboxes installed to give us access
- I am still working with the volunteer stakeholders and members of the community to rectify the existing problem of the fencing disrepair.





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•QUESTIONS

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